



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 16th June 2025
Term 2 Week 9

P.O. Box 2027
Ballarat East VIC 3354
Phone: 5331 6311

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 2 (11 weeks)

Mon 21st Apr – Fri 4th Jul

Wednesday 18th June

Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

Webinar: Digital Media
Literacy & Safety (Part II)
7.30pm-8.30pm

Thursday 19th June

Last day for Book Club
Issue 4 orders

Friday 20th June

2.40pm Assembly led by
1EM

GWR Netball @ Selkirk
Stadium

Interscholar Sport (Yr 6)
at SFX

Sat 21st/Sun 22nd June

Year 4 Sacrament of
Eucharist

Tuesday 24th June

Year 6 Travel Expo

Wednesday 25th June

Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

GWR Football at C.E. Brown
Reserve, Wendouree

Friday 27th June

2.40pm Assembly
led by FGJ

Tuesday 1st July

School Music Showcase
6pm in school gym
FGJ, 1GT, 2RR, 3GD, 4LK,
5CC and 6PB

Wednesday 2nd July

Yr 2 & 5 Swimming Lessons

School Music Showcase
6pm in school gym
FTW, 1EM, 2MH, 3JT, 4KB,
5QM and 6MM

Thursday 3rd July

School Music Showcase
6pm in school gym
FLP, FBO, 1JS, 2TS, 3LL, 4JS,
5ZP and 6ZA

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Education has been a prominent topic in the media recently, with a renewed focus on “back-to-basics” teaching, structured learning programs, and classroom standards making headlines. In light of this, I thought it timely to share a little about our current learning and teaching approach at Saint Francis Xavier.

At our school, we prioritise direct and explicit instruction as a foundation for student success. Our mornings are dedicated to core learning—literacy, numeracy, and religious education—making the most of students' prime concentration time. In the afternoons, we shift to inquiry-based learning, where students explore and apply their knowledge in a more open-ended approach. When we add to this our specialist programs including, the Arts, Physical Education, Technology, Science and Auslan, our children certainly approach learning in many creative ways.

We make every minute of the school day count and maintain high expectations for every student. These expectations are not just about academic performance, but also about effort, behaviour, and personal growth. By closely monitoring student progress, we are able to provide timely support when it's needed—challenging work but deeply rewarding for our educators.

You might wonder, *how can I support this learning at home?* The answer is simpler than you might think:

- **Support homework routines.** Encourage your child to complete tasks promptly and take pride in their efforts.
- **Talk about learning.** Show interest in what your child is learning. Ask open-ended questions, celebrate their progress, and focus on the positives of their day.
- **Punctuality matters.** Having your child at school by 8:45am gives them time to settle in and prepare for a smooth start to the day. By 9:00am, we're ready to dive into learning without delay.



We are incredibly proud of the dedicated staff who bring their passion and professionalism to our classrooms every day. Our students continue to impress us with their enthusiasm, curiosity, and achievements. When it comes to learning and teaching at Saint Francis Xavier, we are truly kicking goals.

St. Francis Xavier Primary School is a Child Safe School called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition. Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.

Friday 4th July

No Assembly

Last day of term 2

3.15pm finish

(to be confirmed)

Term 3 (9 weeks)

Mon 21st Jul – Fri 19th Sep

Friday 25th July

Start of Term Mass

Friday 1st August

2.40pm Assembly led by FLP

Friday 8th August

2.40pm Assembly led by

1GT

Friday 15th August

2.40pm Assembly led by

2MH

Catholic Primary Schools

Athletics at Llanberris

(selected students from

Yr 3/4/5/6)

Mon 18th – Fri 22nd Aug

Book Week

Friday 22nd August

2.40pm Assembly led by 3LL

Division Basketball at Selkirk

Stadium (selected students

from Yr 5 & 6)

Friday 29th August

2.40pm Assembly led by 4JS

Interschool Sport (Yr 5/6) -

venue to be confirmed

Friday 5th September

Fathers' Day/Special

Friends' Liturgy

Thursday 11th September

Division Athletics at

Llanberris (qualified

students from Yr 3/4/5/6

from event in Week 4)

Friday 12th September

2.40pm Assembly led by 5ZP

Friday 19th September

12.40pm Assembly led by

FBOK

Term 4 (11 weeks)

Mon 6th Oct – Fri 19th Dec

Friday 10th October

Start of Term/Mercy Day

Mass

Friday 17th October

2.40pm Assembly led by

FTW

Friday 24th October

2.40pm Assembly led by

6MM

God bless,



Mark Hogbin



Senior School Camps



Our Year 4 and Year 6 students have enjoyed action packed camps this week. From hiking and canoeing to visiting the MCG and Melbourne Markets, they really have had a busy time. Thank you to our staff who worked so hard to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students. Thank you to all Parents and Carers who entrusted us with your children over an extended time, and of course, thank you to our students who participated so willingly in all planned events. Well done!

Sacrament of First Eucharist

We wish our Year 4 students well as they prepare to receive the sacrament of First Eucharist next weekend. You have been preparing for this very special time and you are now ready to come to the table of the Lord. Well done children!

AUSLAN

As part of the St Francis Xavier semester reports, families will receive an update on their child's learning in Auslan.

Within the Auslan report, families can expect to receive;

- an overview of semester one learning. This will be in the form of a short paragraph, explaining the elements of Auslan that were the learning focus for semester one.
- A statement that reflects your child's level of achievement. This will be in the form of a five point scale,
 - Starting to work towards level
 - Working towards level
 - Working at level
 - Working above level
 - Working well above level

Alongside the semester reports, your child also shares their learning in Auslan twice yearly at student led conferences, via seesaw (where applicable).

The delivery of Auslan at St Francis Xavier follows a 'Teachers as Co-learners' model. As the title suggests, our teachers are also learners and are supported by our Language Assistant and Auslan expert, Chantelle Stacey. Chantelle works alongside both teachers and students through the Teachers as Co-Learners program, ensuring the Auslan curriculum is delivered accurately and in a culturally appropriate way.

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Friday 31st October

Junior Sports Day
All Foundation-Year 2
students

Monday 3rd November

Pupil free day

Tuesday 4th November

Melbourne Cup Public
Holiday
Pupil free day

Friday 7th November

No Assembly

Friday 14th November

No Assembly

Friday 21st November

No Assembly

Mon 24th – Wed 26th Nov

Year 5 Camp

Thursday 18th December

Final 2025 day for students

SFX MUSIC SHOWCASE

Throughout this term, our students have been working with incredible focus and enthusiasm during their music sessions—learning songs, reading music, composing, playing instruments, and coming together as class ensembles. We're very excited to share our learning with you!

SFX MUSIC SHOWCASE

SCHOOL GYM JULY 1, 2 & 3 6PM

TUES JULY 1	WED JULY 2	THUR JULY 3
FGJ	FTW	FLP & FBOK
1GT	1EM	1JS
2RR	2MH	2TS
3DG	3JT	3LL
4LK	4KB	4JS
5CC	5QMc	5ZP
6PB	6MM	6ZA

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL
BALLARAT EAST

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DANCING — WITH — OUR STARS



BALLARAT
FOUNDATION

Scan here
to show your
support.

GEMMA SNIBSON

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL



★Support Gemma in 'Dancing With Our Stars'!★

We are incredibly proud to share again that our very own Miss Johnson has bravely stepped up to take part in this year's '**Dancing With Our Stars**' - a wonderful fundraising event run by the **Ballarat Foundation**.

This community initiative raises vital funds to support those experiencing hardship across our region. Every dollar raised goes toward creating brighter futures through local food programs, education support, mental health services and more.

To help Gemma reach her fundraising goal, she's running an exciting **Raffle** - and she'd love your help!

Tickets are just \$5 each or 3 for \$10

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First Prize: 6 premium tickets in a Superbox to a spectacular live ice performance at Rod Laver Arena on **Sunday, 20th July at 2:00 PM** (please note: food and drinks are not included)

Second Prize: 4 premium tickets in a Superbox to a spectacular live ice performance at Rod Laver Arena on **Sunday, 20th July at 2:00 PM** (please note: food and drinks are not included)

Third Prize: A \$200 voucher for Jericho Road Clothing

This is a fantastic opportunity to support a great cause and go in the running to win some incredible prizes.

Scan the QR code on our posters around the school or visit the link below to purchase your tickets today!

<https://rafflelink.com.au/dwos-gemma>

Let's rally behind Miss Johnson as she takes to the stage and helps make a lasting difference in our community.

Thank you for your generous support!

**DANCING
— WITH —
OUR STARS**

**1ST PRIZE -
6
SUPERBOX
TICKETS
TO DISNEY
ON ICE**

**2ND PRIZE -
4
SUPERBOX
TICKETS
TO DISNEY
ON ICE**

**3RD PRIZE - \$200
JERICHO ROAD
CLOTHING
VOUCHER**

**GEMMA'S
RAFFLE**

**SUPPORT THE
BALLARAT
FOUNDATION**

**TICKETS: \$5 EACH
OR 3 FOR \$10**

SCAN QR CODE TO PURCHASE





GEMMA SNIBSON
ST FRANCIS XAVIER
PRIMARY SCHOOL



THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday June 15, 2025 The Most Holy Trinity (Year C)

Gospel: John 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have much more to tell you, but now it would be too much for you to bear. When, however, the Spirit comes, who reveals the truth about God, he will lead you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own authority, but he will speak of what he hears and will tell you of things to come. He will give me glory, because he will take what I say and tell it to you. All that my Father has is mine; that is why I said that the Spirit will take what I give him and tell it to you." *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

Gospel reflection

This story is part of Jesus' farewell conversation to the disciples before he dies on the cross. Jesus tells the disciples that after he has gone, the Holy Spirit will guide them. The Holy Spirit will show the disciples what they must do and what they must say in Jesus' name.

Who teaches you and guides you? Teachers, parents, friends and family all teach us and guide us. There is only one God, but Catholic Christians believe God is made up of three parts: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is what we call the Trinity. Trinity means three- we are reminded of the Trinity every time we pray when we make *the Sign of the Cross*.

This relationship of the Father, Son and Spirit is a relationship where all are together but each is also different. This is a bit like our families – we might have parents, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, cousins and grandparents. Whatever the size of our family, we know there are different people in our family who have different relationships and jobs, but we are still only one family with them. We are all connected through our family bond. We are also part of one big global family that includes everyone in the world. We are all God's children. We are all special, and even though we are all different, we are all equally important. We are all called to care for one another and for the earth that we live in. We believe that Jesus' promise to the disciples – that the Holy Spirit would be with them and guide them – is still true for all of us today and for all people after us. The Holy Spirit can guide us to do what is right and to use our talents in the best way to help others.

Our Challenge: Let us all do our best this week to listen to and love God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and try to live as God asks us to. *(Adapted from CAFOD Website)*



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader

Wellbeing News

[Child Safe Standard 9: Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.](#)

"In a world where you can be anything, be kind!" What an amazing quote we have access to.

Kindness must be an intentional act and we must build opportunities for our students here at St. Francis Xavier Primary School to engage in acts of kindness. We also must make sure that they also know what it is like to have someone treat them in a kind way as well. This is so they understand what behaviours to copy and why being kind is so significant in people's lives.

This means that as adults, whether that be a parent or teacher, we are in charge of modelling that kindness first. Some examples could include: giving a genuine compliment to someone, letting someone with only a few items at the supermarket go ahead in the check-out line (time permitting of course) or helping someone carry something when you see they are truly struggling. This also could mean reassuring your child that they will be better in themselves if they invite their whole class to their birthday party, instead of choosing a select few (cost permitting of course).

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In the past I have listened to a Podcast titled 'A Call Across the Pond; Transforming Relationships at School, at Home and Beyond'. Tara and Vicky had one episode named 'The Simplicity of Kindness' and I highly recommend you have a listen! The ladies discuss how we can create a space for children to communicate with kindness. They also ask the question, How do we lay a foundation for them to have kind, meaningful and productive interactions which develop character and contribute to healthy relationships?

Genuine kindness is one of the most serious virtues in developing a good character in our students at SFX. Let's have a go at beginning a Kindness Revolution!

Sending cheers your way,



Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**

Sport/Physical Education News

Regional Netball

Good luck to our Girls A netball team made up of Sophie B, Margot C, Abbey D, Elly K, Audrey L, Evie S, Zara T, Asha T & Marli W who will be playing in the Greater Western Region Netball finals at Selkirk Stadium this Friday. We know that you will represent our school and yourselves with pride and continue to play with great energy and fun!

2025 SFX SPORTS DATES

Term 2:

- Week 9 - Friday June 20th - GWR Netball @ Selkirk Stadium
- Week 9 - Friday June 20th - Interschool Sport (Yr 6) @ SFX
- Week 10 - Wednesday June 25th - GWR Football @ C.E. Brown Reserve, Wendouree

Term 3:

- Week 4 - Friday August 15 - Catholic Primary Schools Athletics @ Llanberris (selected students from Yr 3/4/5/6)
- Week 5 - Friday August 22 - Division Basketball @ Selkirk Stadium (selected students from Yr 5 & 6)
- Week 6 - Friday August 29 - Interschool Sport (Yr 5/6) - TBC
- Week 8 - Thursday September 11 - Division Athletics @ Llanberris (Qualified students from Yr 3/4/5/6 - from event in Wk 4)

SFX Football Jumpers, Singlets & Netball dresses/bibs

If you have any SFX Football jumpers, singlets or netball dresses/bibs at home could you please return them to Mr Down or Mr Carroll or drop them into the office.

Have an awesome week.



Shaun Carroll, **SFX Sport Coordinator**

Hot Lunches

Please note, Flexischools have made an update when you order Hot Lunches, you can now select if your child has any allergies and it will print on your child's label, please ensure that you use this function when placing your child's lunch order.

Hot Chocolates

First break every Monday Term 2 & Term 3

\$1.50 for a Hot Chocolate & Marshmallow

Thank you to our Volunteers this week – Please sign up to volunteer if you are able – we rely on Volunteers to be able to run this for the children

Uniform Shop

Our Second Hand Uniform shop is always open, please see the office staff if you wish to have a look at any items in our Second Hand Uniform shop, or reach out to a member of our P&F to help you with any of your Uniform needs. Did you know that all items are \$5 with the exception of woollen jumpers, tunics, coats and bags which are \$10. We will be opening the second hand uniform shop up again on a regular basis coming soon!

Faith communities of Ballan, Ballarat East, Bungaree, Buninyong, Clarkes Hill, Dunnstown, Gordon and Springbank

Ministry District Newsletter

Priests Frs Justin Driscoll & Shaiju Mathew

Ballarat East Parish
Cathy Prunty and Natalie Gleeson
0437 505 517
ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Bungaree and Gordon Parishes
Aileen Toohey
0492 903 409
bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au
gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Tuesday – Thursday 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Our parishes are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults
Child Safety Officers: Ballarat East Parish – Emily Clarke; Bungaree & Gordon Parishes – Aileen Toohey

Trinity Sunday

15 June 2025 Year C



MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Tuesday June 17 th	9.30 am Note time change	St. Alipius Ballarat East	
Wednesday June 18 th	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday June 19 th	10.30 am	St. Brigid's Ballan	
Friday June 20 th	9.30 am	St Alipius Ballarat East	
Saturday June 21 st	9.30 am	St Alipius Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday June 21 st		Sunday June 22 nd	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Buninyong Gordon
6.30 pm	Clarkes Hill	10.30 am	Ballarat East Ballan

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Patricia Robertson, Mary Townsend

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Rosalie Barry, Len Bettles, Greg Dunn, Bill Murphy

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Troy Watson (Steenhuis family), Elaine Conlan,
Joan Egan, Evelyn Farrugia, Patricia (Patty) Gannon,
Michelle Hall, (baby) Mia Hanrahan, John Healy,
Sarah McLachlan, Thelma Keating, Carole Simmons,
Owen Widdison, Simon Murillo

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Ballarat East Parish:

Rose Consignado, Judith Glaubitz, Martin
McGettigan, Dianne McKeegan, Claire Stewart.

Bungaree Parish:

Damian Ryan & Chris Frawley (Bungaree), Barry
Sheehan & Dianne Reynolds (Dunnstown), Dom
Prendergast, Maurice Mahar & Marty Forbes
(Clarkes Hill).

Gordon Parish:

Sue Daly & Brendan Maher (Springbank), Joan
Bourke & Shane Carey (Gordon), Mark Conlan &
Jim Leahy (Ballan).

COLLECTIONS

Supporting our priests: \$1051
Supporting our parish: \$463.20

Thank you to all parishioners who contribute to our parish. Your generosity is appreciated.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

New envelopes are available for collection from this weekend. Please note due to our system upgrade the majority of envelope numbers have changed. Please take your envelopes and remind others to do the same as this saves postage.

ST ALIPIUS MASS TIMES

Tuesdays

Following consultation amongst those attending Masses on Tuesdays at St Alipius Church, the Mass time will be 9.30am until at least the commencement of daylight saving in late September. Thank you to those who are able to attend one or more of the Masses during the week across the Ministry district that includes Wednesday's at Mercy Place, Thursday's at Ballarat as well as one of the Aged Care facilities in Ballarat East/Canadian/Mt Clear, Friday's at Bungaree and Ballarat East and Saturday's at Ballarat East.

Saturday Evening Vigil Mass time

Those attending the 6.00pm Vigil Mass on Saturday will be invited to offer their preference for the Mass time for the remainder of the months ahead until the resumption of daylight saving. They will be invited to express their preference for the time of Mass commencing 5.00 pm, 5.30 pm or 6.00 pm. Each person gets one opportunity to express their preference as well as any commentary they'd like to offer in support of their Mass time preference. Don't forget to put your name to your Mass time preference!

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Thank you to those who participate in one of the many liturgical ministries at Masses in Ballarat East or Buninyong. We invite everyone to consider how they could participate in one of these ministries, aware that there are variety of gifts and all sorts of service to be done! During the last weekend in June, all parishioners are invited to consider offering themselves for one of the liturgical ministries at one of our Masses at Ballarat East or Buninyong. Look for the posters which will appear in church foyers for more information. We invite you to consider how you might be able to participate in the 'full, conscious and active participation' of all in our Sunday Masses.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PPC Meeting
Thursday 26th June 6:30 pm

FIRST EUCHARIST

At Masses at St Alipius this weekend, children and their families will gather with the parish community to celebrate children receiving the Eucharist for their first time following weeks of preparation and the sacraments of baptism and confirmation.

At the 6pm Vigil Mass we will welcome the following children to sharing fully in the Eucharist: Mitchell, Levi, Indie, Pippa, Aubrey, Sam, Ailbe, Sophie, Maddison, Macie, Tara, Harry, Frederick, Maggie, Archie, Charli, Chloe, Arlo, Jett, Brooklyn, Lenny, Ella and Jack.

At the 10.30am Mass on Sunday at Buninyong we will welcome:

Elliot, William, Eva, Ivy, Isaac, Klara, Lulu, Molly, Xavier, Maggie, Jake, Sofia, Emmeline, Zoe, Mahli, Hudson, Lily, Elliott, Miranda and Hunter.

BAPTISMS

Indi Sue Harvey
Child of Joshua Harvey and Sarah Camilleri

Charlotte Eliza Neville
Child of Kirby and Oliva Neville

Scarlett Louise Houlihan
Child of Sean and Olivia Houlihan

OUR NEW PARISH HUB

We have a new home at 86 Victoria St. Ballarat East on the corner of King and Victoria streets. Our new Hub for the three parishes of Ballarat East, Bungaree and Gordon (and 8 church communities) has opened. With this beginning has come the closure of the former presbytery/parish office at 84 Victoria St. that will now become available for a commercial lease. Please note that along with the move we have a new phone number. From this weekend our new number will be 0437 505 517. Office hours will remain the same. You are welcome to call into the hub and say hello. We're planning a blessing and official opening of the Hub soon - it's where Cathy and Nat, Frs Justin and Shaiju as well as Jackie (finance) and soon Aileen (Bungaree and Gordon) will be working from for our Ministry District.

HOW DOES GOD WANT US TO LEAD AND GOVERN FOR A MISSIONARY SYNODAL CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF BALLARAT – STRUCTURES

For a synodal diocese, several key structures are required to foster a participatory, inclusive, and collaborative environment that reflects the shared responsibility of all members in the mission of the Church. These structures include:

A consultative structure at every level, where the bishop, laity, clergy and religious can offer input and participate in decision-making. These bodies facilitate dialogue, ensuring that decisions reflect the needs and perspectives of the whole community.

Decisions should be made at the appropriate level, by the people most affected by the decision. If in the case that someone else must make the decision, they have the responsibility to listen to everyone's voice and make decisions according to the good of the community.

Clear channels of communication: Effective communication channels are essential for a synodal diocese, ensuring that information, feedback and ideas flow freely between different groups. This includes both formal and informal structures, such as regular meetings, reports, and digital platforms.

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Leadership models: Leadership within a synodal Church must be collaborative rather than hierarchical. While the bishop, clergy and religious have their roles, leadership is shared with laypeople, including the participation of women and young people, who are empowered to contribute to decision-making processes and the governance of the diocese.

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL 2025

The theme of this year's appeal is "Homelessness is Never a Choice".

Over the past six months, SVdP Ballarat has given over \$253,000 in material assistance, including food, clothing and furniture, to families and households in need in Greater Ballarat. With the current homelessness crisis, the assistance we provide for people experiencing hardship this Winter will be needed more than ever. We are most grateful for the support we receive from our parish as it enables us to continue to assist those in need.

How To Donate

Envelopes are available at the end of each pew and at the piety stall. Envelopes can be placed on the collection plate. Please write your name and address if you require a receipt.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

REFUGEE WEEK

June 15-21 is Refugee Week. The theme this year is 'Finding Freedom: Diversity in Community'. There are several events being held in Ballarat during this week. Please see the posters in church foyers for more information or you can find the full program here:

<https://www.brnc.org.au/refugee-week-2025-finding-freedom-diversity-in-community-2/>



Each year on 20 June, the world celebrates World Refugee Day (WRD). WRD is designated by the United Nations to honour refugees who have been forced to flee their homes and to promote solidarity with them for a "world where refugees are welcomed." Pope Francis encourages us to welcome, promote, accompany, and integrate those who knock on our doors. The Pope invites us to pray with him that "states will strive to ensure humane conditions for refugees and to facilitate integration processes."

CLERGY LIFE AND MINISTRY

This coming week (Monday - Friday), Fr Justin will join other Diocesan Clergy Life and Ministry Directors at the National gathering at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney.

A DAY OF REFLECTION "EXAMEN-ING LIFE"

Come and look back at your life with God, to savour and heal it, and look forward with hope to what God has in store for you, using the Examen. The Examen is a reflective prayer popularised by St Ignatius of Loyola. It invites us to find God in all the people and events of our lives. Beneficial effects of reminiscence with God include a heightened sense of well-being, feelings of love, joy, peace, and ease in finding meaning and purpose in our lives. To be led by Dr Susie Hii, a geriatrician and spiritual director, a member of Christian Life Community and the World Community for Christian Meditation. Saturday, July 19th, 9:30 am – 4 pm Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Buninyong. Morning tea, and soup with rolls for lunch will be provided. Cost: \$25 or what you are able to afford. Please RSVP as soon as possible to: mary_wade@bigpond.com | 0408 468 583 (RSVP latest 12/7/25)

The Dynamism of Trinitarian Life

Reflection on the Gospel-Trinity Sunday Year C

(John 16:12-15)

Veronica M. Lawson RSM



The opening sentence of today's gospel touches something very deep in human experience. Jesus tells his disciples: "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now." In John's gospel, Jesus is depicted as sensitive to the anguish of his friends and to their limited capacity to absorb the enormity of what was happening to him and to them. There was only so much they could "bear" as the inevitability of Jesus' death dawned on them. They will come to understand who he is and what he has taught them, but only through the power of God's "Spirit of truth" who will guide them into "all the truth". This has a particular resonance at a time when "truth-telling" is so often compromised in political circles.

As we think back on our own lives and tell stories of the past, we realize how little we understood of what was happening in our world and in our own lives at the time of the events we recount. We become wiser with the knowledge of hindsight, even if we never fully understand. As Christians, we credit any insight and understanding we may have to the power of God's Spirit at work in our lives. We believe in the Triune God and, along with the whole Earth community, we are caught up into a wondrous dynamism of Trinitarian life.

No one image can capture the mystery of God's dynamic Trinitarian existence. Since God is neither male nor female, it is important to remember that the traditional male language of Father, Son and Spirit is one way of imaging the Trinity and is not to be absolutized or taken as a literal description of God who is three in one.

Perichoresis, a Greek term suggestive of both permeation and diversity in unity, is one of the earliest and probably one of the most striking metaphors used to explain this Trinitarian life of God. The life that is in God is three and yet one in a totally harmonious union of love. Another early metaphorical explanation was of three unified suns, with their three lights mingled into one light. The wonder is that we are invited into this mystery.

Trinity Sunday is the day that we set aside to celebrate who God is in Godself and who God is in relation to everything that exists. We celebrate the nearness of the Triune God who draws us as participants into the mystery of life and love. The Spirit of truth guides us "into all the truth". We continue to listen to the Spirit so that we might understand more fully the "things that are to come" and the relatedness we are called to live. The wonder of Trinitarian love casts out hatred and enmity and wanton destruction. It calls us to live in harmony with one another and with the whole of the Earth community and, inspired by the Spirit of Truth, to reclaim truth in public life.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Trinity Sunday
Proverbs 8:22-31
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
Genesis 14:18-20
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Luke 9:11-17

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 13th June Hosted by 2TS Theme: Excellence
We show our personal best.

FLP	Hudson Worn and Laila Jennings	4JS	Max Miller and Oliver Downes
FGJ	Finn Tongs & Kenzie Wilson	4LK	Thomas Hiscock and Charlize Simpson
FBO'K	Winston Broadbent and Hadley Bucknall	4KB	Jagger van Langevelde & Charlotte Porter
FTW	Maya Ryan and Evie Edgar	5CC	Grace Hocking and Logan Psimaris
1JS	Sophia Sammi & Tex Olszewski	5ZP	Emily Bone & Sophie McNeill
1EM	Scottie Toohey and Harper Gilbertson	5QM	Evie Speirs & Chloe Wilson
1GT	Hadley Cheesman and Jasper Govan	6PB	YEAR 6 @ CAMP NO AWARDS
2RR	Ruby Miles and Rupert Veal	6ZA	YEAR 6 @ CAMP NO AWARDS
2MH	Polly Meade and Elizabeth Kelly	6MM	YEAR 6 @ CAMP NO AWARDS
2TS	Elliot Fulcher & Polly O'Loughlin Hudson McKay (Week 7)	EE	Flossie Bourke and Charlie Johnson (Yr 1)
3LL	Banjo Nicholson Harper Gull	PA	Emily Bone and Sienna Morton for their excellence in their showcase preparation
3JT	Judd Boyd and Bryn Glab	VA	Violet Toohey and Lachie Purtell (3DG)
3DG	Edie Gilles and Patrick Robinson	PE	Charlie Ryan & Ada Mason
		Tch	Alina Osciak & Jack Hingston (1EM)
Principal's Award: Ivy Miller (FGJ) for displaying an excellent attitude towards dealing with a recent injury.			