



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2025  
Term 3 Week 3

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

Email: [principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au)

### Term 3 (9 weeks)

Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Jul – Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Sep

**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> July – Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Aug**  
Silver Coin Challenge

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August**  
100 Days of School for  
Foundation students -  
*wear your brightest colours*

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 1GT  
Last Book Club Order Day

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August**  
Years 3 & 4 Auslan incursion

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 2MH  
Catholic Primary Schools  
Athletics at Llanberris  
(selected students from  
Yr 3/4/5/6)

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August**  
9am Book Week Assembly  
and Dress Up Parade

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 3LL  
Division Basketball at Selkirk  
Stadium (selected Yr 5/6  
students)

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August**  
Casual Dress Day  
*Gold coin donation to  
support the SoupBus*  
2.40pm Assembly led by 4JS

Interscholar Sport (Yr 5/6)

**First week in September**  
Father's Day Stall

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September**  
School Disco

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September**  
Fathers' Day/Special  
Friends' Liturgy

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September**  
Division Athletics at  
Llanberris (qualified  
students from Yr 3/4/5/6  
from event in Week 4)

### In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

There's no denying that unrest seems to dominate the headlines these days. Like many, I've become more selective about what I watch or listen to in the evening news. Global conflict has escalated to levels that once felt unimaginable. In our classrooms, children pray for peace—but for some parts of the world, that peace feels heartbreakingly far away.

So how do we teach our children to be people of peace when the world they see often feels so broken? It's a fair and important question—one that deserves our reflection.

What gives me hope is the resilience of young children. Each school day offers fresh opportunities to grow, connect, and heal. Old hurts are often set aside as children come together in the schoolyard, where so much learning takes place. Playtime is rich with life lessons. Problem-solving, negotiation, compromise—these are the building blocks of friendship and community. Teachers often observe rather than intervene, stepping in only when needed, so children can learn to work through challenges with empathy and patience.

These are powerful skills for life—and ones the wider world could certainly use more of.

It's worth reflecting: how do we approach conflict at home? Do we encourage our children to solve problems through dialogue and compromise? Or do we step in quickly with ready-made solutions? If peace is one of the foundations of wellbeing, then fostering it—both in word and in action—starts with us.

Perhaps one day, these same children will grow into leaders, peacemakers, and global citizens, shaped by the values we nurture now. In a world that longs for hope, they may become living examples of the teachings of Christ, bringing light where it's most needed.

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 5ZP

Trivia Night in school gym  
Doors open at 6.30pm

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September**  
6pm Confirmation at  
Damascus College, Mt Clear

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September**  
Footy Colours Casual Dress  
Day - *Gold coin donation to  
support Fight Cancer  
Foundation*

12.40pm Assembly led by  
FBOK

#### **Term 4 (11 weeks)**

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Dec

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October**  
Start of Term/Mercy Day Mass

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October**  
2.40pm Assembly led by FTW

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October**  
2.40pm Assembly led by 6MM

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October**  
Junior Sports Day for all  
Foundation-Year 2 students  
Casual Dress Day - *Gold coin  
donation for MercyWorks*

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**  
Pupil free day

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November**  
Melbourne Cup Public  
Holiday - Pupil free day

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November**  
No Assembly

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November**  
No Assembly

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November**  
No Assembly

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup> – Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
Year 5 Camp

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November**  
Casual Dress Day - *Gold coin  
donation for St Vinnies*

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December**  
9.30am End of Year Mass

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
5.30pm Yr 6 Graduation  
Liturgy

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December**  
Final 2025 day for students



## **Some Very Special Visitors**

We were visited by some very special people last week when our staff gathered for morning tea with some wonderful show & tell. It was delightful to welcome the newest members of our SFX community for a play and a chat together.

## **Parking Near Staff Car Park**

Please note that we have experienced damage to the water pipes near the entrance to the staff car park. For this reason, we ask that parents do not park on the grass around this area.

## **SFX Green Team!**

Would you like to become involved in the outdoor life of our school? We are hoping to gather a small team of people who would like to assist with the management of our veggie garden areas in the school. The children love to be involved, and growing produce is an important part of our science (EE) program. With a dedicated group of volunteers who are prepared to meet weekly at a common time (perhaps 1.45-3.15 each Thursday) we are hoping that we can do some of the jobs that our little ones find a bit challenging. No skills required, just a willingness to lend a hand and help to build the community of Saint Francis Xavier School. Please let Brooke or Anita know at the office or Mrs. Haywood in EE if you would like to lend a hand. Let's get ready for spring!



## **Congratulations SFXcelling!**

Congratulations to Mrs. Haywood, Mr. Marshall and Mr. Ferguson who were successful in obtaining a \$2,500 Bank First grant for our school. A great effort!

The money will be used to purchase sound and filming equipment for SFXcelling so that they can produce podcasts. Thank you to Bank First for making this available for our students.

## School Improvement Survey Participation Invitation

As part of our ongoing commitment to growth and improvement, we invite staff, students, and parents to take part in our bi-annual School Improvement Survey. The survey is coordinated by an external company, which collects and compiles all responses on behalf of the school.

The survey explores key aspects of school life, based on the five DOBCEL domains: Catholic Identity, Learning & Teaching, Wellbeing, Community, and Stewardship & Leadership. The information gathered will support the development of our next School Improvement Plan, set to begin in 2026.

A random selection of parents has been invited to participate. If you have received an invitation, we warmly encourage you to complete the survey. Your feedback is important and greatly appreciated.

### Rising Stars!

Congratulations to Eli Jones, Minti Toohey, Chloe Wilson, Amelia Sordello and Elizabeth Baruwa who have been selected by Basketball Victoria to join the Under - 12 Country Jamboree in September. They will join 240 other boys and girls from across 10 regional centres to experience the Victorian High Performance pathway with a focus on fun, participation and skills development. Well done children, we are very proud of you!







**THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday August 2, 2025     Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)**

**Luke 12:13-21** A man in a crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to give me my share of what our father left us when he died." Jesus answered, "Who gave me the right to settle arguments between you and your brother?" Then he said to the crowd, "Don't be greedy! Owning a lot of things won't make your life safe." So Jesus told them this story: A rich man's farm produced a big crop, and he said to himself, "What can I do? I don't have a place large enough to store everything."

Later, he said, "Now I know what I'll do. I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I can store all my grain and other goods. Then I'll say to myself, 'You have stored up enough good things to last for years to come. Live it up! Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.' " But God said to him, "You fool! Tonight you will die. Then who will get what you have stored up?" "This is what happens to people who store up everything for themselves, but are poor in the sight of God."

**Gospel Reflection:**

When we look at today's Gospel story, we hear of a wealthy landowner who is totally focussed upon himself and unaware of the plight of the peasant farmers in his employ. He would not be enjoying such wealth if it were not for the peasant farmers who worked the land for a pittance. His self-focus blocks the reality of their poverty. He is totally unaware of his capacity to help them enjoy a better quality of life. He fails to dialogue with them, to get in touch with their emotions, to feel for them or care for them. His concern is solely for his own present and future well-being. Jesus tells that story to engage his listeners in their own humanity. He wants them to relate at a level below the surface, to become aware of the suffering in their own communities and to reach out where needed. Sharing of material resources is at the heart of this gospel message.

In our world today, we are called to attend to the plight of millions of hungry human beings deprived of access to life-giving grain. The war in Ukraine has highlighted the dependence of so many countries on the food and energy resources produced by Russia and Ukraine. Never before in my lifetime have we been so conscious of the interconnectedness of all life on the planet. We need to find ways of living in harmony so that the goods of the earth might be there for all and not simply for the few.

How do we avoid being overwhelmed by the enormity of the problems facing us? We need to understand that each one's contribution to global equity and peace can make a difference. The gospel calls us to think beyond our own needs and to build up communities all over the world who will challenge the rich and powerful to share the goods of the earth.

A childhood experience stays with me and I share it with you. When I was in Grade 4 at the Lake Gilleard State School No. 2290, a new boy named Geoffrey joined my class. He arrived on his first day without any lunch and sat with the rest of us whose parents had supplied us with sandwiches and fruit. The headmaster always made tea for us in a kerosene drum. At the end of the meal, Geoffrey got up, went over and ate the tea leaves in the bottom of the drum. We were stunned by the fact that his lunch consisted only of the tea leaves. We had not noticed that he had nothing else for lunch. On the next day, my cousin Carmel Ryan who was in Grade 7 organised the whole school community of some 20 students to share what we had brought. The headmaster became aware of Geoffrey's plight and found an ongoing solution. That event had a profound effect on my young being. I have never forgotten Geoffrey and I have never forgotten the lesson I needed to learn from my cousin.

Let us keep believing that we can influence one another in creating a better world.

**Homily St Aloysius' Parish, Redan- Written by the late Fr Barry T. Ryan**



### New Wellbeing Initiative

In the last few weeks, our amazing Wellbeing Leaders launched a new initiative in the school called *Feel Good Friday*. Student voice is so important at St Francis Xavier!

Edward, Aria and Lois emailed and met with Teachers and Leadership to discuss their ideas and how they could implement their vision to include more students with wellbeing support.

They have decided that each Friday, a small group of students from one year level will be invited to participate in *Feel Good Friday* sessions. The aim of *Feel Good Friday* is to provide a calm, welcoming space for students to reset, build positive social connections and practice emotional regulation strategies in a safe and supported environment.

Well done Edward, Aria and Lois and we look forward to hearing about the successes, challenges and future directions of *Feel Good Fridays*!

Here are a few pictures of the last sessions- the children involved looked like they had a great time together!



Christine Meneely, Religious Education Leader  
MHiPS Leader (Mental Health in Primary  
School Leader)



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# Seesaw

Keeps everyone in the learning loop

Our classes are once again sharing real-time learning on Seesaw. We'd love you to check in and leave a comment—students and teachers really value your feedback! It's a great way to stay connected and see what's happening in our classrooms. Thank you for your continued support. Below are our weekly details about posts/ visits/ comments.

## Week of July 27 - August 3 at St Francis Xavier Primary School - Ballarat East



**280**

New Student Posts



**65**

Comments

## Upcoming Event Book Week 2025



Book Week is held annually at St Francis Xavier to celebrate reading and engage children in literature and to bring stories to life through play and costume. It's a great time to encourage the joy of reading through dress ups. Please save the date and more information will follow soon. Book week begins Monday 18th August - Week 5. This year we'll be kicking off Book Week with our dress up day on Monday 18th August. Each year Book Week carries a new theme. The theme for this year is "Book an Adventure!" It's a special year, marking the 80th anniversary of Children's Book Week.

## NAPLAN 2025

Individual student reports from ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) have been sent home via post. Please let the office know if you haven't received your child's report.

## READING

At SFX, we strongly encourage all students to read daily and have their Reading Log or Diary signed by an adult. This supports home-school partnerships and reinforces the value we place on developing strong reading habits.

### Home Reading Facts for Families



#### Reading Matters for Older Children as well as Younger Children because...

1. **Reading regularly supports learning across all subjects**  
Strong readers do better in maths, science, and problem-solving too.
2. **Reading builds independence**  
It helps children develop critical thinking and the ability to learn on their own.
3. **Wide reading grows vocabulary and knowledge**  
Fiction, nonfiction, news articles, and graphic novels all expose children to new ideas and words.
4. **Reading builds empathy**  
Stories help children understand different perspectives, cultures, and experiences.
5. **Fluent readers read more—and achieve more**  
The more your child reads, the stronger their skills become.
6. **Talking about reading helps thinking**  
Discussing books, characters, and issues supports comprehension and deeper understanding.
7. **Choice is powerful**  
Let your child choose what they read—it fosters ownership and a love of reading.
8. **Reading is a lifelong skill**  
Strong reading habits now support success in secondary school and beyond.

Enjoy your week.



Jane Clark, Deputy Principal/Teaching and Learning

## Wellbeing News

### Child Safe Standard 5: Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.

#### Student Wellbeing Snapshot - What Parents Need to Know

The 2025 SchoolTV Wellbeing Barometer, based on over 3,000 responses from parents across Australia, offers vital insights into the emotional, social and digital wellbeing of primary and secondary school students. Here are the key findings relevant to our families here at St Francis Xavier Primary School:

- **Mental Health concerns are rising** - especially during the transition from primary to secondary school.
- Bullying and cyberbullying are still major concerns across both age groups.
- Digital engagement and screen time have increased, along with risks like online grooming and social media pressures.
- **Parent concern is high** - with around 75-78% of parents worried about their child's future.

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### For Primary School Students:

- 28.7% experience frequent anxiety, 9.9% feel sad or depressed often.
- Nearly 45% of primary students report being bullied at some point.
- **Digital Literacy is Crucial** - with 10% already experiencing cyberbullying.
- Most children maintain good exercise routines and academic motivation.
- Parents are highly supportive of schools offering mental health education and early intervention programs.

### What Schools are Encouraged to do:

- Introduce Wellbeing Programs early, focusing on Resilience, Stress Management and Emotional Literacy.
- Implement strong anti-bullying and digital safety strategies.
- **Engage Parents** - through workshops, resources and open communication.
- **Priorities Preventative Education** - around mental health and substance use (for secondary school students).

What are we doing at SFX to combat these worries?

### Early and Embedded Wellbeing/Mental Health Education ✓

- SFX implements the Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships curriculum, integrated from Foundation through to Year 6. It covers emotional literacy, stress management, problem-solving, help-seeking, identity, gender awareness and builds resilience and social skills.
- Seasons for Growth also provides structured support to students experiencing grief, transitions or personal challenges - promoting coping and belonging in a peer-supported environment.

### Anti-bullying, Digital Safety and Cyberbullying Prevention ✓

- SFX maintains a formal Bullying Prevention and Cyberbullying Policy, aligned with DOBCEL and Victorian standards, emphasising respectful technology use, clear reporting pathways and consequences for breaches.
- Through the eSmart Cybersafety program, students learn digital citizenship: safe, smart and responsible online habits. Parents are engaged via newsletters, online agreement forms and information sessions to reinforce consistent rules at home.

### Promoting Strong Supportive School Cultures and Community Engagement ✓

- SFX embraces the Child Safe Standards and fosters a supportive environment built on Gospel values - our school Mercy values are foundational.
- Policies such as Positive Behaviour Management and Pastoral Care actively promote inclusive, respectful and collaborative relationships across students, staff and families.

### Physical Wellbeing, Social Connection & Extracurricular Involvement ✓

- Specialist Physical Education classes and school-wide sport programs (including Kelly Sports multi-sport clinics, inter-school competitions, kilometre club and athletics days) support fitness, teamwork and confidence.
- Creative arts and language subjects (Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Auslan) enrich emotional expression and student identity, contributing to holistic wellbeing.
- Community-building activities such as the SFX Buddy Program, Assemblies focusing on our Villa Mercy Values and Parents and Friends events support belonging and connectedness.

SFX is committed to student wellbeing and putting parent-school partnerships at its heart.

Sending cheers your way,



Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**

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### **Regional AFL**

A huge well done to our boys AFL football team that competed in last Friday's Greater Western Region football competition at C.E. Brown Res. The team made it all the way to the Grand Final after an outstanding day of tough team footy. The team played with heart, skill, determination and sportspersonship throughout the day and finished just short in the final against a school from Warrnambool. A big thankyou to all of the families that came along to support the team and to Mr Marshall for his support and coaching.



### **District Athletics**

Congratulations to the students that have been selected to represent SFX at the upcoming District (Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools) Athletics in Week 4. All the information has been sent and available on PAM

### **2025 SFX SPORTS DATES**

#### **Term 3:**

- Week 4 - Friday August 15 - Catholic Primary Schools Athletics @ Llanberris (selected students from Yr 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 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 a great week.



Shaun Carroll, **SFX Sport Coordinator**

### **P&F News**

- **Silver Coin Challenge – BRING IN ALL YOUR SPARE CHANGE**

This is the last week

How Silver coin challenge works - each class are provided a container, children can bring in coins throughout the 2 week period, the class (1 from each year level) who collects the most amount of money will then have a pizza lunch as their prize at a date selected by the school – thanks to Carboni's

- **Uniform Shop – Open Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August 3pm – 3.45pm**

We will be opening the Second Hand Uniform shop next Monday from 3pm for anyone who needs any additional uniform – our Second Hand Uniform shop has a lot of good quality second hand uniforms at an affordable price. All items are \$5 with the exception of Woollen jumpers & Tunics which are \$10

- **Trivia Night – TICKETS NOW ON SALE!!!**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 6.30pm – in the school gym

Book your babysitter now, get your table together

Why should the kids get all the fun? TRIVIA NIGHT IS ON! Get some parents & friends together for a fun night of music & trivia!

Purchase a table of 10 for \$150 or single tickets \$17 (secure seats via the Trivia form in the office). This is a licensed event with drinks at bar prices (soft drink also available). BYO food for your tables.

This is a fundraiser for the P&F, we will be selling raffle tickets throughout the night and a silent auction with some great prizes up for grabs. Don't miss out it sold out fast last year!

If you would like to donate a prize/voucher that we can use for our Silent Auction, please contact Lisa on 0412 647 737 – or drop your donation into the office – we would really appreciate your support

### **Hot Lunches**

Please note, Flexischools have updated when you are placing your child's Lunch order, you are now able to select if your child has any allergies and it will print on your child's lunch bag label, we ask that you are selecting if they have any allergies as it makes it smoother process when it comes to packing lunch orders on a Friday. Also please note cut off for lunch orders is strictly 10am Thursday mornings.

Thank you to our Co-ordinators & Volunteers who come and pack all of the children's lunch orders on a Friday!

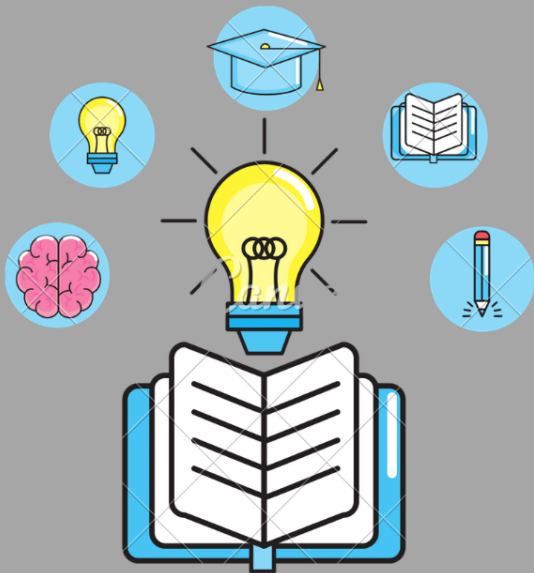
### **Hot Chocolates**

First break every Monday 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.





# P&F TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday  
12th September

at SFX Gymnasium  
Doors open at 6.30pm

\$17 per person  
or \$150 for a  
table of 10

## Tickets

secure your table via the form in the office

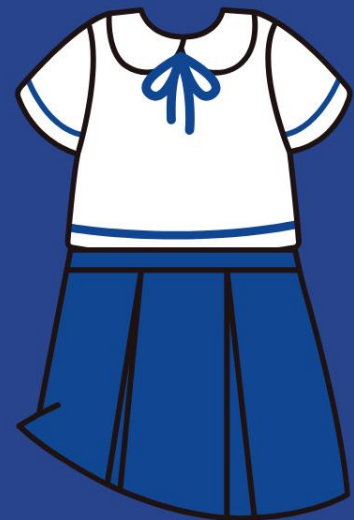
Drinks at Bar prices - BYO Food  
Silent Auction, Great Raffle Prizes & lots of fun to be had!



# SFX SecondHand Uniform Shop

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August  
3pm - 3.45pm

Nothing over \$10



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 – 12:00PM

**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**

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Year C  
3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Tuesday August 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St Alipius Ballarat East	
Wednesday August 6 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday August 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	St Brigid's Ballan	
Friday August 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St Alipius Ballarat East (Mary MacKillop Feast)	
Saturday August 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday August 9 <sup>th</sup>		Sunday August 10 <sup>th</sup>	
5.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Buninyong Bungaree
6.30 pm	Springbank	10.30 am	Ballarat East Ballan

## WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

### THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Pat McKee, Peter Mahoney (Colac), John Byrne, Kay Richards

### THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

### THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Kathy Towns, 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 Consignano, 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).

*We acknowledge this land's traditional owners and custodians and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.*



## TRIVIA NIGHT

Plans are in place for another trivia night in our parish. Please keep September 5 free so that you can join us and share your wealth of knowledge. If anyone has, or knows of someone who may be in a position to donate an item for a raffle to be held on the night, please contact the parish office. Tables of 8 can be booked through the parish office. Tickets are \$15 per person. BYO drinks and nibbles.

## WEBINAR SERIES



Yarra Theological Union, Catholic Theological College and Garratt Publishing present

### **Vatican II: Keeping the Windows Open Four-Part Webinar Series**

Join us as we explore *Vatican II* – 60 Years on.

Over four sessions, participants will gain a greater appreciation of the work of the Second Vatican Council and the windows it opened for the life and mission of the Church.

You will hear from leading Australian scholars from Yarra Theological College and Catholic Theological College. The panels will explore the connections between the groundbreaking work of the Second Vatican Council, current issues facing the Church, and the call to grow as a Synodal Church.

### **EVENT DETAILS**

**WHEN:** Tuesday 5 August 2025

**TIME:** 7:00 pm (AEST)\*

**WHERE:** Via Zoom

For more information go to:

[Vatican II: Keeping the Windows Open: Four-Part Webinar Series 5 – 26 August 2025 – Garratt Publishing](#)

## MASS FOR MARY GILMARTIN

Next Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup> the 9.30 am Mass will be said for Mary Gilmartin RIP. This is an opportunity to come together and celebrate Mary's life.

## PREPARING TO CELEBRATE CONFIRMATION

The Ballarat East and Buninyong communities welcome children to be presented at Masses this weekend in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. This year Confirmation will be celebrated at Damascus College on Tuesday September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6.00 pm. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers as they work together in preparation for the second of the sacraments in their journey to full initiation into the church.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prior to the school holidays we put out a call for people who would like to provide the opportunity for children to participate in a Liturgy of the Word program. A couple of parishioners have expressed some interest in this, but we would like more so that we can have the program on a regular basis. Please contact Cathy in the parish office if you would like more information. You would require a Working with Children Check and will need to complete the Safetrac module through the diocese in order to be involved, but we are happy to support you with this.

## WINDOW CLEANING

Recently Luke, from **Ronin Window Cleaning** spent time at Ss. Peter and Paul's in Buninyong where he worked hard to get the windows looking great. Today we want to say thank you to Luke for the wonderful job he did in this regard. It is not always easy to get trades people, but Luke was certainly great to work with.

## PARISH CENSUS

Please use the QR code below if you haven't had the chance to share your details with the parish during our census over the past two weekends. If you would prefer to use a card, please call in to the office during office hours. It is important that we have up to date details and we are grateful to all who have completed these forms so far. Thank you.



## 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.

### BAPTISMS

**Rylee May & Ryker Shane Soutter**  
Children of Bryson Soutter and Sheadi May

**Alexander West**  
Son of Lawrence and Lesley West

## COLLECTIONS

Supporting our priests:	\$1036
Supporting our parish:	\$ 378.20

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

## SUNDAY MASS TIMES SURVEY

For many years now the Mass times on Sunday mornings have alternated between Ballarat East and Buninyong, but at the recent Parish Council Meeting it was decided that it might be time to review this. For the next two weekends, August 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> those who attend Sunday morning Masses in the parish, will be provided with the opportunity to vote for the times which they would prefer. Options would be to 1. Leave times as they are currently, 2. 9 am St. Alipius and 10.30 Ss. Peter & Paul's every week or 3. 9 am Ss. Peter & Paul's and 10.30 am St. Alipius every week. You are encouraged to think about this throughout the week and take the opportunity to vote on it, on one of the next two weekends.

## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL (ACYF) – MELBOURNE 2025

ACYF will take place in Melbourne from Sunday, November 30 - Tuesday, December 2, 2025. This national event brings together young Catholics (Year 9–25 years) for three days of faith, fun, and community. The Festival includes prayer, Mass, talks, concerts, workshops, games, and more. Bishop Paul will be attending. If you're interested in going, contact your school or local parish office. Learn more at: [ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://ballarat.catholic.org.au).

### UPCOMING DATES

#### Baptism Preparation

Thursday August 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 am or 5.30 pm  
Mary Glowrey Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral

#### Little Feet Big Footprints (LFBF)

Year 6 rural Catholic Primary Schools day  
Monday August 11<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Mass @ Ballan

#### Gordon Parish Leadership meeting

Wednesday August 13<sup>th</sup> 7.00 pm (@ Ballan)

#### Ballarat East Finance Council meeting

Thursday August 14<sup>th</sup> 7.30 am

#### Masses for the Assumption of Mary Feast Day

Vigil Thursday August 14<sup>th</sup>  
5.30 pm Dunnstown & Buninyong  
Friday August 15<sup>th</sup>  
9.30 am Ballan & Ballarat East

#### Opening of Saints College Bungaree Campus

Friday August 15<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am

#### Ballarat East Parish Pastoral Council meeting

Thursday August 21<sup>st</sup> 6.30 pm

#### Trivia Night

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September Doors open 6:15pm for  
7.00pm start

## SAFEGUARDING

Did you know that the majority of volunteers in our parish are required to have Working with Children Checks and have completed an online learning module regarding child safety? This includes Communion Ministers, Welcomers, anyone with access codes to our churches, readers and members of parish committees. Please contact the parish office if you need to apply for or update your WWCC or complete the online module.

# ***The Futility of Hoarding for Personal Gain***

Reflection on the Gospel-18<sup>th</sup> Sunday on Ordinary Time C  
(Luke 12:13-21)

Veronica M. Lawson RSM

Our tradition tells us that “the earth and all that is in it belongs to God” (Psalm 24). That does not stop some people from arguing over possessions or even killing for them. It never has. It does not stop some world leaders from cutting back life-giving medical aid in order to line the pockets of the superrich. The invasion of Iraq back in 2003 and the protracted conflict that ensued should have been a lesson to the world. The supposed weapons of mass destruction did not exist. Much coveted oil seems to have been the covert justification for an invasion that cost countless lives. There seems to be something deep within the human psyche that continually seeks for more. Those who seek to be “rich toward God” find life. Those who seek to be rich in material possessions will simply be left, at life’s end, with a question: “To whom will this hoard belong?” The question is rhetorical and expects the answer of Psalm 24: “the earth and all that is in it belongs to God”.

Jesus is addressed as “teacher”, and is asked to force a decision in an inheritance debate. He demonstrates that he is “teacher” rather than “divider”. He tells a story. He knows that story-telling is more effective in bringing people to life-giving decisions than is any attempt to bring down a definitive ruling, especially for those who surely know the law. His story is about a landowner who is blessed by an abundant harvest. The estate manager as well as the peasant workers and their families might reasonably expect a share in the profits, even a remission of the debts they inevitably carry.



In this instance, the blessing of abundance turns the land-owner inwards rather than out towards others and so “toward God”. First person singular pronouns predominate: “What am I to do? I have no place...I will do this.... I will... I will.... I will ....” The futility or senselessness of stockpiling for personal gain is highlighted by the shift to second person singular, “You fool...”, and by the divine judgment on the landowner’s self-focus and greed. Greed appears in today’s reading from the letter to the Colossians. Here, greed is simply idolatry, worship of a false god (Col 3:5).

In these times of planetary vulnerability, there is some urgency about the call to place our trust in the goodness of a generous God, to reduce our ecological footprint and to acknowledge that the good things of the earth belong to God and to all of God’s people, not just to the privileged few. In refusing to “store up treasure” for our own selfish ends, we become forever “rich toward God”. This applies to nation-states as well as to individuals. We have some responsibility for what is done in our name, for the size and deployment of our foreign aid budget for instance. The command to “be on your guard, be ever vigilant” in this respect is a demand for gospel justice.

## **THIS WEEK’S READINGS**

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ecclesiastes: 1:2, 2:21-23

Colossians: 3:1-5, 9-11

Luke 12:13-21

## **NEXT WEEK’S READINGS**

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom: 18: 6-9

Hebrews: 11: 1-2, 8-12

Luke: 12: 32-48



**ASSEMBLY AWARDS 1<sup>st</sup> August Hosted by FLP Theme: Hospitality**

We welcome and include others. Hospitality means welcoming other people to a home, business or school.

We show hospitality because Jesus teaches us to include everyone and show them they are welcome.

FLP	Ellyse Slater and Spencer Belsar	4JS	Maya Skewes and Lenny Owins
FGJ	Marley Gull and Olli McGregor	4LK	Percy Veal & Daisy Howard
FBO'K	Dinvi Kariyawasam and Ollie Quinlan	4KB	Mitchell Cyples & Molly Lewis
FTW	Lenny Sullivan and Louie Kersley	5CC	Ella Crumpton and Olive Lenaghan
1JS	Toby Wilson & Will Nicholls	5ZP	Sienna Morton & Levi Crowe
1EM	Harlee Answer and Alina Osciak	5QM	Sienna Block and Nixon George
1GT	Georgie Dwyer and Nate Quinlan	6PB	Noah Chibnall and Margot Castles
2RR	Harriet Walshe and Connor Allen	6ZA	Angus Burbidge & Abbey Dwyer
2MH	Marli Wilson and Billy Toohey	6MM	Nic Hyland and Elly Kane
2TS	Evvy Faull and River Harney	EE	
3LL	Nicolas Taylor Jimmy Faull	PA	Will Allan and Meredith Bodnar
3JT	Sutton Answer and Eddy Heinrich	VA	Sofia Samii (1JS) & Harper Fedke (1GT) for Compassion last term
3DG	Jude Reus, Paddy Robinson	PE	
		Tch	Lilly Bye & Oscar Kersley

**Principal's Award:**

Flynn Warr for kindly loaning their umbrella to Mr. Hogbin when the tree fell over on the road last week.

Olive Lenaghan for reaching out to help a friend in need.

Zaeli Page for welcoming others to play with her and her friends.

Olive Anderson for welcoming others into her friendship group.



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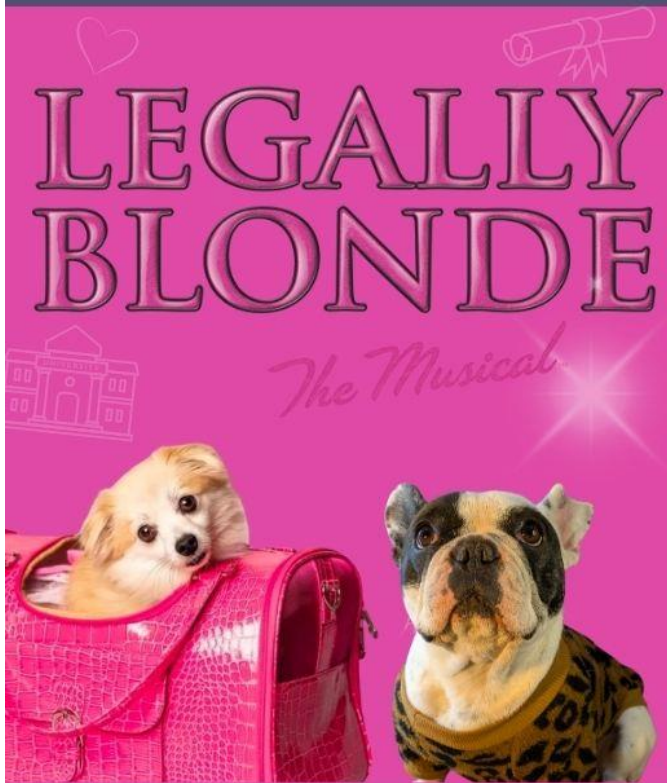
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