



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Newsletter

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025  
Term 3 Week 4

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

#### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August

Years 3 & 4 Auslan incursion

Uniform Shop Open  
3pm – 3.45pm

#### 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

Interschool 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)

#### 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

### In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Have you seen our new play spaces yet? If you haven't heard about them from your children yet, you might spot them yourself—look across the paddocks as you drive along Fortune Street toward the school. On a clear day, the football and soccer goalposts stand proudly in the distance, marking our newest play areas, affectionately known as *the paddocks*.

The name fits perfectly—after an extremely dry summer forced us to close the top oval, we needed a fresh space for the children to play. By opening up the paddocks, we've gained two soccer fields, a football oval, and even a section of bushland along the running track. This natural area has quickly become a hub for exploration, construction, and creative play.

While the playing fields aren't yet perfectly level or neatly marked, they're already buzzing with activity. We're embracing this evolving space together, enjoying the beauty of our environment while encouraging imagination and active play. Over the coming months, our Parents & Friends Committee hopes to add cubbies to further spark creative and imaginative adventures.

It's a far cry from the playgrounds of the past. I still remember queueing for a turn on the hot metal slide and sharing one football with the entire school. How wonderful that our children now have the freedom and variety to play, explore, and create in spaces as open and exciting as *the paddocks*.

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



### Parking Near Staff Carpark

We kindly ask any parents who are parking along Fortune Street near the staff carpark to not do so. The water pipes along the road are very close to the surface and can break easily. Parents may recall that we had to close the school in the past due to broken water pipes in this area. We really don't want to do that again.

### Insight SRC Parent Surveys

*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 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

As part of our ongoing commitment to school improvement, a random sampling of parents have been asked to complete a school improvement survey for us. If you were sent a link you might like to complete it as soon as possible. We draw heavily on your responses to guide future directions for our school and we would really appreciate your assistance as we plan for future growth and development at our great school. Jump online today and assist us if you can.

### Silver Coin Challenge

Congratulations to our Parents & Friends Committee who coordinated our silver coin challenge for us. It would appear that this year we set a new record by raising a combined total of \$6952.45 for our school community! Our dear friends at Carboni's will be delivering pizza lunches to the following classes in the weeks ahead: Foundation LP, Yr.1JS, Yr.2TS, Yr.3DGS, Yr.4JS, Yr.5ZP, and Yr6PB. Well done everyone!

### Green Team

Would you like to assist us with the EE area? We would love a regular team to support the staff with our veggie gardens. Our students are keen gardeners but sometimes we need some adults to help us along. If you could spare an hour or so a fortnight, please let the office staff know. We would love to hear from you.



### Introduction and Opportunity to Connect



**Dear Parents and Carers,**

My name is Helen Christensen, and I am the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Officer working alongside your school. I am reaching out to introduce myself and to say how much I look forward to connecting with you and your family.

I am a proud Tiwi and Central Desert woman, a wife, mother of five adult children, and grandmother to six. I live on beautiful Wadawurrung Country, where I have been for the past 35 years. Over that time, I have worked in many areas — including Catholic education, Aboriginal community organisations, and justice — but my heart and purpose have always stayed the same: supporting our kids to feel strong in who they are and walking alongside families and schools to make that happen.

There are many parts to my role, but nothing is more important than ensuring our children feel culturally safe, respected, and confident — not just in the classroom, but in who they are. Working in partnership with families, school staff, and community is vital to this.

Whether it's through a yarn, a school visit, or a quick phone call, I would like the opportunity to get to know you and hear about what matters most to your family and your child's journey.

Please feel welcome to contact me via mobile 0467 415 768 or email [hchristensen@dobcel.catholic.edu.au](mailto:hchristensen@dobcel.catholic.edu.au), or let your school know if you'd like to arrange a time to chat.

With respect

Helen Christensen  
 Education Officer: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education

**THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday August 10, 2025     Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)**

**Gospel:** Luke 12: 35-40 "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit, be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes, truly I tell you he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You must also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour"

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation®)*

**Gospel Reflection:**

This story Jesus told would have been very strange in his time as slavery was very common. Slaves were treated very poorly, so the disciples would have been puzzled by a story where the master of the house would be kind to slaves, sit them down and serve them a meal. Jesus was using this story to let the disciples know something extraordinary and surprising was taking place. He wanted them to be ready for the unexpected! God's way of being in the world is full of healing experiences and life-enhancing surprises. Jesus was trying to prepare the disciples that he too is among them as one who serves. He wanted them to know the kingdom of God is not about riches, power and thrones- it is about treating people fairly, with dignity and taking care of one another and our Earth.

*(Adapted from Veronica Lawson rsj)*

**Our Challenge:** Are we ready to live as Jesus did, treating each other and our Earth with dignity and respect? This week, what is one way we can show this?



At St Francis Xavier we want to create a school environment where everyone feels like they can be bold, be kind and speak up. There are many ways to build a sense of belonging.

During Bullying No Way Week, our SFXcelling and Wellbeing Teams have created daily messages, reminders, activities and videos on each of the five focus areas.

- 1 Be Bold:** You have the power to help
- 2 Be Kind:** Small actions make a big impact
- 3 Speak Up:** Speak up against bullying
- 4 Think before you post or speak**
- 5 Together, we can stop bullying**



Please find a great guide from Dr Justin Coulson to help support families and parents via this link. [When Your Child is Bullied- A Calm, Practical Guide for Parents](https://happyfamilies.com.au/articles/when-your-child-is-bullied-a-calm-practical-guide-for-parents)

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

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In Book Week's world, we laugh and cheer,  
Our favourite stories all appear.  
From dragons fierce to lands of snow,  
To secret doors where heroes go.

A pirate's hat, a wizard's wand,  
A rabbit from a field beyond.  
We dress as kings, as cats, as spies,  
With capes that almost touch the skies!

So grab a tale, both old and new,  
Adventure waits for me and you.  
For every page we choose to turn,  
Is full of magic we can learn.

Happy Book Week — hip hooray!  
Let's read and dream the day away!

### 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. Book week begins next Monday 18th August - Week 5. This year we'll be kicking off Book Week with our **dress up day on Monday 18th August. Everyone is welcome to our Assembly at 9:00 am in the school gym, which will include our parade.**

Each year Book Week carries a new theme. The theme for this year is "Book an Adventure!"



### NAPLAN 2025

Individual student reports from ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) have been sent home. It has been brought to our attention that in a few cases addresses may have been incorrect. If you haven't received your NAPLAN please make contact to the office ph: 53316311 ASAP.  
Sorry for this inconvenience.



**Week of August 3 - August 10 at St Francis Xavier Primary School - Ballarat East**



**382**  
New Student Posts



**246** Comments

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. Great numbers from last week.

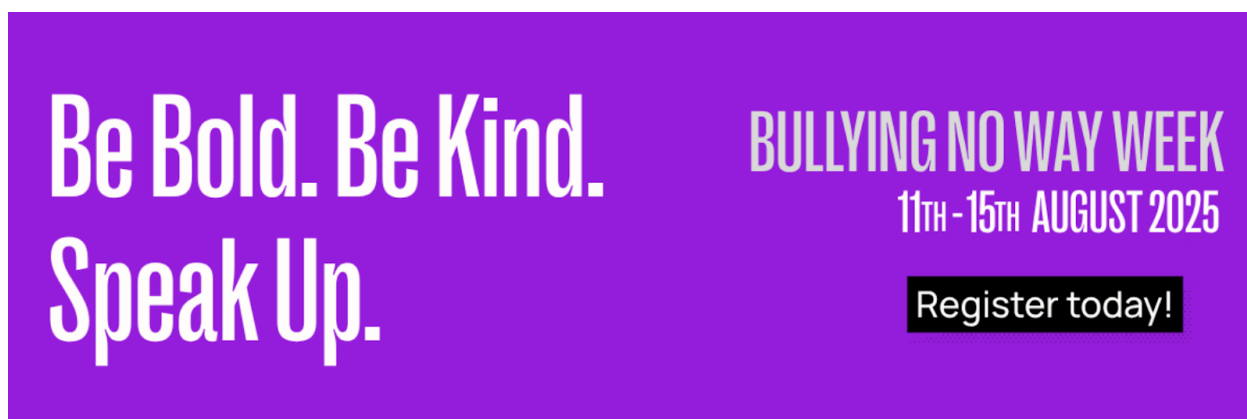
Enjoy your week.



Jane Clark, **Deputy Principal/Teaching and Learning**



Child Safe Standard 6: People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.



This week at St Francis Xavier we are acknowledging 'Bullying No Way' week. This year's theme is 'Be Bold. Be Kind. Speak Up.' Bullying No Way week is an opportunity to promote the importance of peer, school, parent and community connections - where every child feels safe, supported and respected.

At SFX we believe that bullying is never ok. In fact, our message is clear: Bullying? No Way!

To help the children at SFX think deeply about this, our amazing Student Wellbeing Leaders, Aria, Edward and Lois, with the help of Sophie, have been working really hard behind the scenes on a project to bring this message to life.

They acted out three short scenarios that show different types of bullying that can happen at primary schools, in the classroom, in the playground and even online. The videos show our students how we can respond in the right way, by speaking up and not being a bystander.

The SFX community is really proud of the efforts of these four wonderful role models and hoped the videos shared at assembly this morning got everyone thinking, talking and taking action to help make SFX the kind of place where everyone feels safe, happy and supported.

Check out these videos soon via the St Francis Xavier Facebook page.

Sending cheers your way,

Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**



**District Athletics** Good luck to the students that have been selected to represent our school at the District (Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools) Athletics this Friday. SFX will be represented by a strong squad of 46 students at Llanberris Athletics Reserve and have been selected based on the results from our school Aths day earlier in the year and what Mr Down has seen in event specific practice during PE classes. All information for the selected students 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** – Wow what an amazing result – in total \$6,952.45! Thank you to all the children for participating. With the overwhelming amount of money raised, we will be donating \$1,000 to St Vincent De Paul (Ballarat East).

We are also pleased to say we are well on the way to being able to purchase another piece of play equipment for the school – we will be purchasing a Rope structure climbing frame to add to our existing playground.

Please find a below a list of the classes who will be receiving a Carboni's Pizza Lunch in a few weeks' time

FLP 1JS 2TS 3DGS 4JS 5ZP 6PB



• **Trivia Night – TICKETS NOW ON SALE!!! – TABLES FILLING FAST – DON'T MISS OUT!!!**

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!

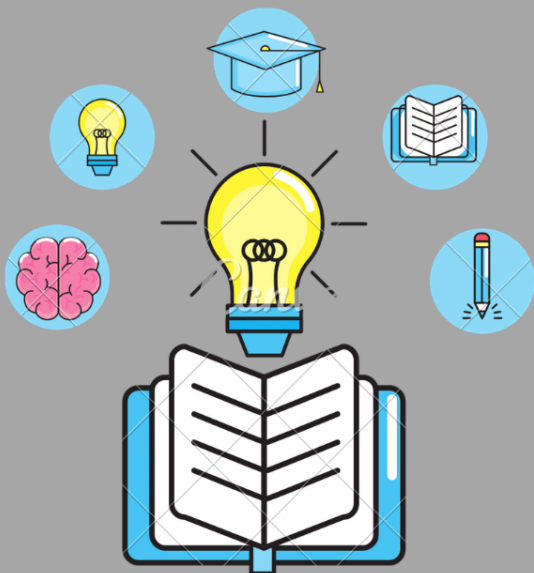
**Hot Chocolates**

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!

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

## 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Monday August 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	St Brigid's Ballan	
Tuesday August 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St Alipius Ballarat East	
Wednesday August 13 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday August 14 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Mecwacare Canadian	
	5.30 pm	Buninyong & Dunnstown (Assumption)	
Friday August 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Ballarat East and Ballan (Assumption)	
Saturday August 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday August 16 <sup>th</sup>		Sunday August 17 <sup>th</sup>	
5.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Ballarat East Gordon
6.30 pm	Dunnstown	10.30 am	Buninyong Ballan

### WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

#### THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Elizabeth (Marie) Wright

#### THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Tess & Bill Maguire

#### 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 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).

*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. Doors open at 6.30pm for 7pm start.

### CARITAS AUSTRALIA



Caritas Australia invites us to pray for the people of Gaza. If you are able to support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, please donate online at [www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza) or phone 1800 024 413. Caritas Australia invites us to light a candle and pray for the people of Gaza. God of light, You meet us in the darkest places. Every year, when we light our Easter candle, we pray 'may the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our minds and hearts.' We pray today that all people may work with you to dispel the darkness of violence and war. May this fragile light be a sign of our hope for the people of Gaza. May they find healing and lasting peace. Amen.

### 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.

### 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.

### OFFICE HOURS

Please note that our parish office will be closed on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August.

### BAPTISMS

**Amelia Catherine Cooray**  
Daughter of Rishan and Jacqueline Cooray

### PARISH CENSUS

Thank you to all those parishioners who took the time to complete a census card at Masses last weekend. If you were not in the parish last weekend, you will have another opportunity this weekend, where cards will once again be available. Please take time to complete this census and return it. If you are new to the parish, this is an excellent opportunity for you to share your details with us. Please note that all personal information collected through the census is for parish use only. The parish will not release information shared by you to anyone. There will be two options for people allowing them to complete the census using IT or pen and paper. The parish Privacy Policy is available if you have any concerns about the use of your personal information. If you would like to use the QR code below to complete the census, that is another option for 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.

## COLLECTIONS

Supporting our priests:	\$1263
Supporting our parish:	\$ 853.20

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

## 'THE POPE'S ASTRONOMER'

Recently Jesuit Br Guy Consolmagno SJ, director of the Vatican Observatory, one of the oldest astronomical institutions in the world gave a talk at ACU Melbourne, asking, 'What can a Jesuit say about the stars?' Fr Justin referred to address given by Br Guy in his homily last weekend. An article on the event can be found here

Seeing God at play: a Jesuit looks at the stars | Melbourne Catholic

## JUBILEE YEAR 2025 – PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025, centred on the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope." A Jubilee is a special year of grace and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years, or during other years as called for by the Pope. Through a series of concrete rituals, acts and commitments, the goal of a Jubilee year is to inspire and encourage holiness of life among the faithful and therefore to strengthen the Church's witness to God's loving mercy in and for the world.

## 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

#### Little Feet Big Footprints (LFBF)

Year 6 rural Catholic Primary Schools day  
Monday August 11<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Mass @ Ballan  
We will welcome students from the Catholic Primary Schools in Ballan, Clarks Hill, Creswick, Gordon and Daylesford.

#### 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 Life-Enhancing Surprises of God's Kin-dom***

**Reflection on the Gospel-19<sup>th</sup> Sunday on Ordinary Time C  
(Luke 12:32-48, 12:35-40)**

**Veronica M. Lawson RSM**

The longer form of today's gospel brings together a number of loosely connected sayings of Jesus about trust and vigilance. Jesus addresses his disciples affectionately as "little flock". He tells them not to be afraid. He is warning them against the paralysing effects of fear. God, their "father", has delighted in giving them the kin-dom and they are to be generous in their turn. They are to sell their material possessions and give "alms" or, in a more accurate translation of the Greek original, they are to use their resources for "works of mercy" (*eleēmosunē*).

Security for the disciples resides in Jesus' assurance: "Where your treasure (or treasury) is, there your heart will be also." The parental and affectionate language of the opening verses is in sharp contrast with the violent imagery of the latter part of the gospel reading. Contrary to what some have argued in the past, the murderous slave master who cuts recalcitrant slaves into pieces can never be understood as a gospel image of God. In this problematic passage, the Lukan Jesus is engaging his hearers' experience of slavery in order to make a point about the need for attentiveness to the demands of the gospel. The vigilant slave is said to be "blessed" or "happy" or "privileged". From a contemporary perspective, it seems strange indeed to speak of a slave as fortunate. As the story unfolds, we realise that the slave enjoys a relative happiness in comparison with the fate of the other slaves.

The shorter form of the gospel in 12:35-40 presents a very strange teaching that would surely have been met with scepticism by its earliest hearers. The word picture that Luke paints is just not credible in a first century setting where slavery was taken for granted and where the respective roles of masters and slaves were characterised more by extreme violence than by mutuality of any sort. The disciples are told to be like slaves who keep vigil all night as they await the return of their master from a wedding banquet. Their role is to open the door when he knocks and, if they are alert enough to perform this function, there will be an extraordinary reversal of roles: the slaves will sit down at table while the master assumes the role of slave and serves their meal.

The disciples are being prepared for Jesus' announcement later in the narrative that he is among them as one who serves. They are invited to understand that something extraordinary is happening, even more extraordinary than the slave-master banquet scenario might suggest. God's way of being in the world is full of life-enhancing surprises. The final verses of the shorter reading shift to the image of the thief in the night. These verses are also about vigilance, being watchful and alert so as not to be taken by surprise in the final reckoning. Let us not close our eyes to the slavery in our world today.

## **THIS WEEK'S READINGS**

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom: 18: 6-9

Hebrews: 11: 1-2, 8-12

Luke: 12: 32-48

## **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah: 38: 4-6, 8-10

Hebrews: 12: 1-4

Luke 12: 49-53



**ASSEMBLY AWARDS 8<sup>th</sup> August Hosted by 1GT Theme: Respect**

Respect means considering the feelings and wishes of others, respecting myself and caring for all of creation. We show respect because Jesus shows us that everyone is important and because our world needs our care.

FLP	Harry Carter and Jacob Walker	4JS	Lyla Nestor and Ella Wilson
FGJ	Ivy Miller & Blake Morvell	4LK	Pippa Gleeson & Ned Kersley
FBO'K	Elsie A and Maddy Baxter	4KB	Mitchell Bone & Willow Prato
FTW	Chloe Allan and Johnny Faull	5CC	Anna Marson and Joe Trigg
1JS	Sophie Quinlan and Georgia Little	5ZP	Paddy Dwyer & Sibella Moore
1EM	Jack Hingston and Ada Mason	5QM	Cleo Roney and Eliza Hanrahan
1GT	Lucinda Bartlett and Kit Bromeley	6PB	Harley Bye and Tom Kierce
2RR	Annie Ludbrook and Lachy Hatt	6ZA	Sierra O'Reilly & Michelle Lunn
2MH	Aurorah Rivett and Mayo Baruwa	6MM	Sidney Porter and Ava Vallance
2TS	Amaiya Moore & Harry Toohey	EE	
3LL	Nathalia Abraham and Ivy Dorning	PA	Noah Osciak and Austin Roberts
3JT	Judd Boyd and Alfie Heywood	VA	Teddy Veal & Johnny Faull (FTW) Zara Thorp, Aria Treacy, Elly Kane (6MM)
3DG	Harrison Madigan and Winter James	PE	Ivy Miller (F GJ) & Zane Carter (F BOK)
		Tch	Matilda Bell & Judd Boyd
Principal's Award: Nehemiah Abraham for demonstrating the Villa Way by welcoming visitors into our school			



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