



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 18th August 2025
Term 3 Week 5

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

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 3 (9 weeks)

Mon 21st Jul – Fri 19th Sep

Monday 18th August

4pm Bookings for Student
Led Conferences open on
PAM

Friday 22nd August

2.40pm Assembly led by 3LL

Division Basketball at Selkirk
Stadium (selected Yr 5/6
students)

Friday 29th 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

Wednesday 3rd September

7.30pm Free online
webinar: Digital Safety (Part
III) – see Wellbeing section
for registration details

Thursday 4th September

School Disco
Gold coin entry

Foundation & Year 1:
4.15pm – 5.00pm

Year 2 & Year 3:
5.00pm – 5.45pm

Year 4 & Year 5:
5.45pm – 6.30pm

Year 6:
6.30pm – 7.30pm

Friday 5th September

2pm 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

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Did you celebrate Book Week when you were at school?

What do you remember most — the colourful parade, hearing new and exciting stories, meeting an author, or perhaps even becoming one yourself? Whatever your memories, Book Week is a date well worth marking on the school calendar for all the right reasons.

One of the most powerful ways to build a child's reading skills is simple: read with them. Research consistently shows that children who are read to regularly are more likely to choose reading for learning, relaxation, and enjoyment throughout their lives. Yet, as parents, we can sometimes underestimate just how impactful those shared reading moments can be.

Recent research from the Department of Education & Training and the University of Melbourne (Reading to Children: A Head-start in Life) highlights the **Big 6 Benefits** of parents reading with their children:

- **Enhanced Language and Literacy Skills** – Reading aloud introduces children to new vocabulary, sentence structures, and storytelling styles, building their comprehension and expression.
- **Improved Reading Fluency and Understanding** – Even for children who can read independently, hearing stories helps develop fluency and deepens comprehension.
- **Stronger Parent–Child Connection** – Shared reading time is a chance to connect, communicate, and strengthen your relationship.
- **Cognitive Development** – Reading stimulates the brain, boosts memory, and nurtures skills such as critical thinking and problem-solving.
- **Increased Reading Enjoyment** – Parents who model a love of reading often inspire lifelong readers.
- **Better Academic Outcomes** – Children who are read to regularly tend to perform better across a range of subjects.

The good news? Just **10–15 minutes of shared reading each day** can make a lasting difference.

Let's use Book Week 2025 as the perfect opportunity to spark — or reignite — great reading habits at home. Together, we can help our children discover that reading is not just a skill... it's a lifelong joy.



Trivia Night in school gym
Doors open at 6.30pm

Tuesday 16th September
6pm Confirmation at
Damascus College, Mt Clear

Friday 19th 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 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

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

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

Friday 28th November
Casual Dress Day - *Gold coin
donation for St Vinnies*

Friday 5th December
9.30am End of Year Mass

Tuesday 16th December
5.30pm Yr 6 Graduation
Liturgy

Thursday 18th December
Final 2025 day for students

God bless,



Mark Hogbin



Milkshake Mondays!

Our Parents & Friends committee would like to offer Milkshake Mondays as an alternative to Hot Chocolates for the remainder of this term. Flavoured milkshakes will replace Hot Chocolates as a trial for the next four weeks. YUM!



Religious Education News



The Feast Of The Assumption- August 15th

Gospel: Luke 1:39-56 Soon afterwards Mary got ready and hurried off to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby moved within her. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said in a loud voice, "You are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the child you will bear! Why should this great thing happen to me, that my Lord's mother comes to visit me? For as soon as I heard your greeting, the baby within me jumped with gladness. How happy you are to believe that the Lord's message to you will come true!" Mary stayed about three months with Elizabeth and then went back home.

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)

Our Challenge: Today's gospel offers the story of the young pregnant Mary travelling "in haste" from her home town of Nazareth to a town in the hill country of Judaea, some 130 kilometres to the south, to be with her cousin Elizabeth who is also pregnant. The details of that long and demanding journey are left to our imagination. Though pregnant, Mary was prepared to do "the hard yards" to be with an older cousin in need. Celebrating this feast might mean doing the hard yards by "being there" for someone in need despite the personal cost. (Adapted from [Veronica Lawson Gospel Commentary](#))

Fullness of Life for All Relationships and Sexuality Education Program.

St. Francis Xavier Primary School is committed to working in partnership with families and caregivers in all facets of your child's education. This week you will be receiving information emailed to you regarding the *Fullness of Life for All Relationships and Sexuality Education Program*.

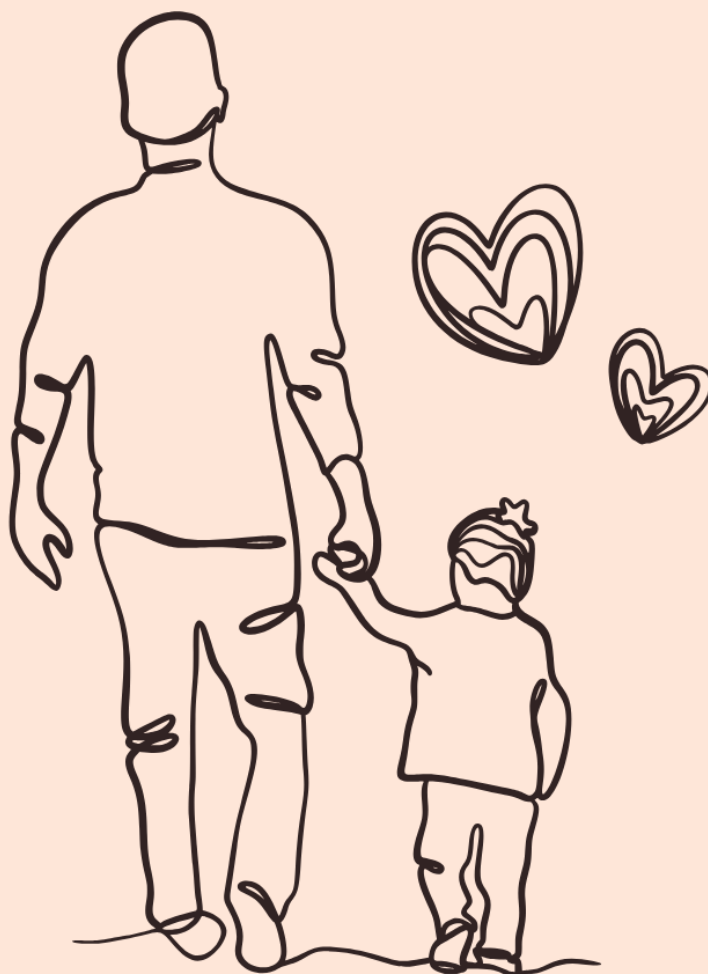
Comprehensive relationship and sexuality education provides accurate information about the body, relationships, consent and safety. It promotes inclusion, reduces stigma, and empowers students with knowledge they may not receive elsewhere. Parents and caregivers play a key role by reinforcing their family values, answering questions and building trust. Ongoing conversations at home help young people feel supported, confident and open to asking for help when needed. By combining the *Fullness of Life for All Program* with open family dialogue, we endeavour to create a consistent, respectful and empowering foundation for our children's health and well-being.

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.

Should you wish to view the full lesson scope and sequence; or if you have any questions regarding the *Fullness of Life for All Program* please don't hesitate to contact me on cmeneely@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au or by calling the school on 03 5331 6311.

SAVE THE DATE!

***Father's and Special Friends Liturgy
Friday September 5th from 2pm***



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





Book Week 2025

What a great way to start the week with our annual Book Week parade. Many thanks to all the family members who were able to attend this fun filled, exciting event. Here at SFX we really value the importance of reading regularly no matter what stage and age we are.

Here are some interesting facts about the importance of reading.



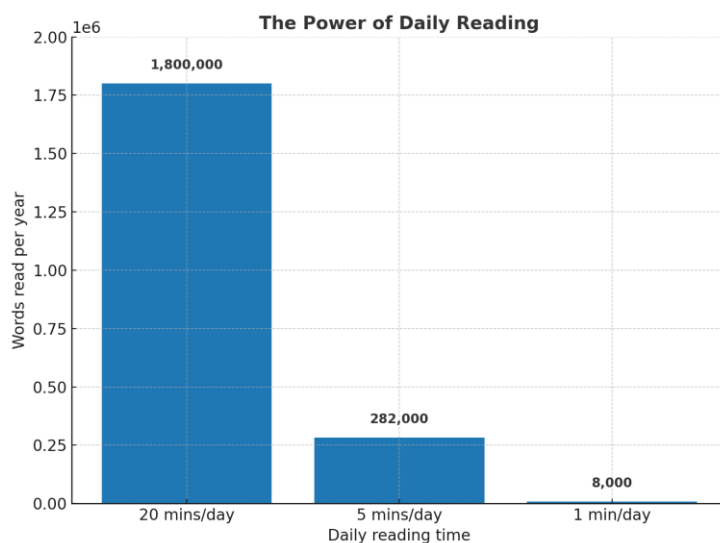
Why Reading Matters

- **Builds brain power** – Daily reading helps children develop strong vocabulary, comprehension, and thinking skills.
- **Boosts success in all subjects** – Reading regularly improves achievement not just in English, but also in maths, science, and problem solving.
- **Strengthens focus and imagination** – Books transport children to new places, helping them grow creativity and develop concentration.
- **Encourages empathy** – Stories allow children to “walk in someone else’s shoes,” building kindness and understanding.
- **Supports wellbeing** – Reading together can be calming and creates a positive routine.
- **Family connection** – Sharing a book or hearing a story read aloud is a special way to bond at home.

AND wait there's more!

- **If a child reads for 20 minutes every day** – they will have read about **1.8 million words a year**, giving them a huge advantage in vocabulary, comprehension, and academic success.
- **If a child reads for 5 minutes a day** – they will have read about **282,000 words a year**.
- **If a child reads for 1 minute a day** – they will have read only about **8,000 words a year**.

Over the course of their schooling, this difference adds up to **thousands of hours of practice** – which is why children who read daily are more confident, successful, and engaged learners.





Student - Led Conferences at SFX:

Week 8 & 9 of this term your child(ren) will be showcasing their schoolwork and discussing learning goals with you through their Student-Led Conferences. During Student – Led Conferences, your child will lead the discussion with you about their school work, while teachers will help direct conversation.

Each Student-Led Conference will run for 13 minutes, and **we strongly encourage all families to attend**. Please note that **children are required to be present** at these sessions.

Our goals for using this format are:

- **For parents/carers** – to see your child’s learning first-hand
- **For students** – to take greater responsibility for their learning and confidently share what they can do.
- **For teachers** – to engage in more meaningful and impactful conversations with families, strengthening Home–School partnerships.
- **For everyone** – to make the most of the time together and build strong connections which support student success.

We have chosen to hold **Student-Led Conferences** rather than 3-Way Conferences, as they place the focus on **Student Voice**. Highly effective Catholic Primary Schools recognise the importance of Student Voice, and Student-Led Conferences are a powerful way of developing this. Current research into *Assessment as Learning* also highlights the value of students taking an active role in sharing their progress and goals.

If parents or carers wish to discuss matters privately with the teacher (without the child present), this can be arranged at a separate time. Please contact your child’s teacher directly to organise an alternative meeting if required.

We look forward to **positive and meaningful Student-Led Conferences** that highlight and celebrate each child’s achievements.

Bookings for Student Led Conferences are open on PAM today from 4:00pm.

Enjoy your week.



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

Child Safe Standard 8: Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.

This week we celebrate Book Week - a time to immerse ourselves in the joy of reading!

Sharing stories is not only wonderful for imagination and learning, but it also plays a surprising role in wellbeing. Reading together before bed is one of the most effective ways to help children wind down, reduce screen time and prepare for a good night's sleep - which research shows is a key ingredient for happiness and emotional health.

I would like to share an article from SchoolTV with you all exploring why sleep is so important for our kids and how simple habits like a bedtime book can make a big difference.

Here is the link to the article: <https://sfxballarat.catholic.schooltv.me/content/blog/kids-sleep-key-indicator-wellbeing>

FREE Webinar 3 September 2025 - Digital Media Literacy & Safety (Part III)

Due to St Francis Xavier's ongoing commitment to supporting youth wellbeing through its partnership with SchoolTV, they would like to invite parents, carers, grandparents, educators and school leaders to attend an exclusive webinar supporting primary and secondary students.

This exclusive, one-off event is fast approaching and they'd love to see our families benefit from the insights of two of Australia's leading experts, **Susan McLean** and **Dr Michael Carr-Gregg**.

They will share invaluable insights on how to empower young people to navigate the online world safely and responsibly.

WEBINAR: Digital Media Literacy & Safety (Part III)

DATE: Wednesday, 3 September 2025

TIME: 7:30pm

Topics in this webinar include:

- **New Social Media Regulations**
- **Digital Footprint and Reputation**
- **Screen Time and Brain Development**
- **Parental Controls**

Please note, this webinar will not be available to replay later.



A FREE WEBINAR

Digital media literacy & safety

PART III

Supporting Primary & Secondary students

This webinar is **Part III of a series**.
In this session, topics include:

- New Social Media Regulations
- Digital Footprint and Reputation
- Screen Time and Brain Development
- Parental Controls



Online, Wednesday
3 September, 2025
7.30 - 8.30 pm



Dr Michael Carr-Gregg

Renowned child and adolescent psychologist, Michael has years of experience working with young people and families and was Chair for the Cybersafety Committee.



Susan McLean

As Australia's foremost cybersafety expert and founder of Cyber Safety Solutions, Susan will offer proactive strategies to help keep young people safe.

**Don't miss out.
FREE event.
Scan to register.**



Please note: Participants MUST REGISTER PRIOR to the commencement of the webinar to gain access.

Here is the link to register: <https://sfxballarat.catholic.schooltv.me/webinar/east-coast-digital-media-literacy-safety-part-III>

SchoolTV looks forward to having you join them for this insightful and engaging session.

Sending cheers your way,

Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**



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District Athletics

An enormous well done to all of the students that represented our school at the District (Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools) Athletics at Llanberris Athletics Reserve last Friday. In difficult and challenging conditions all of the students did their absolute best and achieved many inspiring results. All students thoroughly enjoyed the day and their team spirit was on full display as they cheered and encouraged each other throughout the event. A huge shout out to the families that came along to support and to Ms Stahl and Nicole for your amazing efforts in helping out and even conducting some of the events. I will announce those that make it through to the next level shortly when I receive the final results.



Division Basketball

This Friday we have four strong teams participating in the Eureka Division Basketball tournament at Selkirk Stadium. Congratulations to Alex P, Riley P, Hamish L, Nic G, Billy C, Eli J, Noah I, Harley B, Chris M, Noah S, Archie W, Alfie S, Jed H, Cruize V, Amelia S, Sophie B, Margot C, Elizabeth B, Chloe W, Elly K, Ava V, Minti T, Aria T, Evie T, Leni B, Lucy B & Evie S who have been selected to represent us in this event. We wish all players and coaches the very best for the day.

2025 SFX SPORTS DATES

Term 3:

- 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



- **Silver Coin Challenge – Pizza winners**

Please find below dates of Carboni's Pizza lunch for the winning classes

Tuesday 26th August

FLP

1JS

2TS

Wednesday 27th August

3DGS

4JS

Thursday 28th August

5ZP

6PB

- **SFX School Disco – Thursday 4th September**

Foundation & Year 1: 4.15pm – 5.00pm

Year 2 & Year 3: 5.00pm – 5.45pm

Year 4 & Year 5: 5.45pm – 6.30pm

Year 6: 6.30pm – 7.30pm

- Gold coin entry!
- Lollies, popcorn, slushies & chips available to purchase
- Volunteers will be needed on the night
- Please note, entry is via the top gate, children will dance and then eat and drink once dancing time is finished (No food/drink will be allowed in the gym & no children are allowed to leave the gym until their session is over)

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

Friday 12th 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!

- **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!

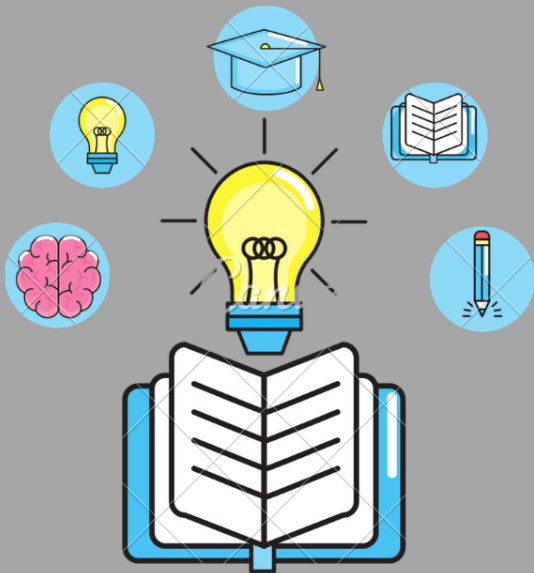
- **Milkshake Monday**

First break very Monday for the remainder of Term 3

\$1.50 for a Milkshake & Freckle

2 flavours each week

Please sign up to volunteer if you are able (please note you are welcome to bring smaller children with you)



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, Clarke's 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

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

17th August, 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Tuesday August 19 th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East	
Wednesday August 20 th	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday August 21 st	10.30 am	St Brigid's Ballan	
	11.00 am	Kirrilee Aged Care	
Friday August 22 nd	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East St. Michael's Bungaree	
Saturday August 23 rd	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday August 23 rd		Sunday August 24 th	
5.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Buninyong Gordon
6.30 pm	Clarke's Hill	10.30 am	Ballarat East Ballan

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Gerry Duck, Maura Duke, Felice Colasante, Tom Jeffrey

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Lawrence McCartin, Nicholas McGuigan

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Kathy Towns, Troy Watson (Steenhuis family), Elaine Conlan, 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 (Clarke's 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 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

Thanks to all those who took the opportunity to vote for Sunday morning Mass times last weekend. Those who missed out will be provided with another chance this weekend, so please find Cathy at Mass for a voting form. Options are 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.

We are grateful for your input into this review.

COLLECTIONS

There was no counting this week, both weekends will be reported on next week's bulletin.

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

THANK YOU

A big thank you to Michael Cullinan who has put his handyman skills to work at Buninyong recently. Michael solved a couple of ongoing issues at Buninyong and we are grateful for his help. Kevin McKeegan has been busy at Ballarat East with both the church and the parish hub, getting a variety of things done. Thank you Kevin. Parish volunteers make a huge difference, but are generally unseen. Thank you to all who help out in some way. Please know that you are appreciated.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's 2025-2026 Social Justice Statement has been released. The Statement titled "Signs of Hope on the Edge: Serving People Living in Homelessness and Mental Ill-Health" highlights the experience of people living with the challenges of homelessness and mental ill-health. Each year since 1940, the Conference has released a statement for reflection and discussion ahead of Social Justice Sunday on a key issue in Australian society. The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission invite all to a Webinar in celebration of the launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2025-2026, "Signs of Hope on the Edge: Serving People Living in Homelessness and Mental Ill-Health" on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 7.00pm – 8.15pm. The webinar will include an overview from Bishop Paul Bird CSsR and presentations from James Treloar, Senior Manager in Homelessness and Housing Support at CatholicCare Victoria, Michael Ryan, OAM, President of the Ballarat region of the St Vincent de Paul Society and Maria Noonan, CEO of St John of God Hospital Ballarat and Warrnambool. Please register via the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/service-and-agencies/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement-current/>. The Statement and more information can also be accessed <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au>

MASS OF THE OILS STARTING TIME

The Ballarat Catholic Diocesan Liturgical Commission is seeking feedback on the starting time for the annual Mass of the Oils, which is held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat. Click or scan the QR to indicate your preference.



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.

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.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Our RCIA cycle for 2025 - 26 is about to commence with many expressions of interest having been received from adults from across the communities of our Ministry District. This year the parishes of our Ministry District will work together for the RCIA and parishioners are invited to accompany our inquirers in their seeking, discerning, and growing in faith within the context of our Catholic communities. If you would like to join the RCIA team or would like to know more about what's involved please contact Dallas to register your interest 0412 532 507. The first team meeting is planned for Wednesday August 27th at 7.00pm.

UPCOMING DATES

Ballarat East Parish Pastoral Council meeting
Thursday August 21st 6.30 pm

RCIA Team Meeting
Wednesday August 27th 7 pm

Trivia Night
Friday 5th 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.

BAPTISMS

Mars and Goldie Rumbold
Children of Daniel and Jessie

Evie Ryan
Child of Joseph and Karen

*'You are precious in my sight
and I love you'*

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.

Struggling with Ambiguity

Reflection on the Gospel-20th Sunday in Ordinary Time C

(Luke 12:49-53)

Veronica Lawson RSM



There is a sense of urgency in today's gospel. Jesus feels constrained or under stress until the "fire" he has come to cast on the earth is kindled and the baptism of fire that John the Baptist foreshadowed earlier in this gospel takes effect. Elsewhere in Luke's writing, fire is associated with judgement (Luke 3:9, 17; 9:17; 17:29), and with the presence of the Holy Spirit (3:16), especially in the Lukan story of Pentecost (Acts 2:3) where "tongues as of fire" appear and rest on all those assembled in the upper room. Fire is a sign of the end times when the Spirit of prophecy will come upon all God's people (Acts 2:18-19). Those who have experienced fires in Australia and California, as well as those presently suffering the effect of fires in Western Europe, can appreciate the power of this image. The climate crisis is undoubtedly increasing the risk of destructive fires across the globe. Drier conditions wither plant life that then becomes fuel for the fires. Fire can take all before it. It can also bring the most astonishing new life in its wake. We have much to learn from First Nations peoples on this score.

Linked with the image of fire is that of water: Jesus has a "baptism with which to be baptized". Once more, a sense of urgency is expressed as the power of water is evoked. Like fire, water has power to destroy and power to save. Fire and water become metaphors for the hard-won gospel path to peace. Jesus seems to be contradicting so much of what he has stood for to this point. At his birth, he is presented as the bringer of peace (Luke 1:79 and 2:14).

He tells the hospitable woman of 7:50 and the faith-filled woman of 8:48 to "go in peace". He instructs his disciples to bring peace to the families they visit (10:5-6). He refuses to be a divider (12:13-14). And now he declares that he has come not to bring peace but division. His hearers can expect members of families to be divided one against another. How can this be? The Lukan Jesus is almost certainly describing the status quo rather than prescribing what ought to prevail. In other words, by the time Luke is writing, it is clear that some have accepted the gospel way of peace and justice and compassion and others within the same families have not. Acceptance of the gospel and of Jesus as the Christ or Messiah would have involved a monumental shift for Jews on the one hand and for adherents of the diverse philosophies or faiths of the Roman world on the other. Today's families of mixed faith might be able to get inside this experience and to understand the suffering involved when a family member makes a life choice that other members of the family find hard to accept. This is not an easy text to understand or even to accept. We are invited to struggle with its ambiguity.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah: 38: 4-6, 8-10

Hebrews: 12: 1-4

Luke 12: 49-53

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 66:18-21

Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

Lk 13:22-30

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 15th August Hosted by 2MH Theme: Excellence

Excellence means being the best person we can be.

We always try our hardest, even when it's difficult, just like Jesus did.

FLP	Elliott Evans and Shirley Dorning	4JS	Charlie Quarrell and Isabella Carrick
FGJ	Hadley Mullane and Atlas Moscaritolo	4LK	Hudson Ryan & Paddy Ludbrook
FBO'K	Elsie O'Loughlin and George Ellis	4KB	Baxter Steinman & Isla Page
FTW	Harriet Maher and Lily Martin	5CC	Lucy Elliot and Maddie Purtell
1JS	Mille Ryan & Sophie Morvell	5ZP	Betsy Nicholson & Darci Prebble
1EM	Fergus Toohey and Maya Loader	5QM	Finley Rolfe and Isla Johnson
1GT	Hadley Cheeseman & Tommy Just	6PB	Henri Gleeson and Lyla Harney
2RR	Oscar Martin and Birdie Toohey	6ZA	James Hocking & Billy Cheeseman
2MH	Olive Anderson and Zaeli Page	6MM	Charlie Kersley and Audrey Lynch
2TS	Charlotte Carter and Emme Cavanagh	EE	Damilare Baruwa & Mila Quandt
3LL	Rome Davis, Angus Morley	PA	James Hocking & Billy Cheeseman
3JT	Ollie Geaghan and Milla Nicholson	VA	Elliott Evans & Harry Carter (FLP) Maya Skewes (4JS)
3DG	Tom Maher and Fletcher Hipke	PE	
		Tch	Noah McGregor & Matilda Bell (3LL)
Principal's Award: Banjo Nicholson - for taking on the Spirit of Mary McKillop by acknowledging others for "seeing a need and doing something about it".			



The program involves dance, story sharing, art, imaginary play and movements with music, curated for children.

TANZPRO is an evidence-based program that supports children developmentally with emotional regulation, empathy, relaxation, self esteem and increased skills in communication and confidence, in a fun and engaging way.

Children will develop an awareness of self-perception, growing their identity and developing their self-confidence. They will learn to express their potential, have courage to take risks through creativity, respect each other and feel cared for.

This course encourages pathways to developing empathy which is a fundamental skill to foster lifelong healthy relationships.

When and where

FREE COME & TRY sessions
Tuesday afternoons
26 August | 16 September

6-12 year olds: 4.00 pm - 5.30 pm
3-6 year olds: 1.30 pm - 2.30 pm

To register, please visit:
ballarateastnh.org.au/classes/tanzpro

or call: 0422 612 052

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