



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 1st September 2025
Term 3 Week 7

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

Tuesday 2nd September

During first break:
Father's Day Stall for
Foundation, Yr 1 and Yr 2

Wednesday 3rd September

During first break:
Father's Day Stall for
Years 3 & 4

7.30pm Free online
webinar: Digital Safety (Part
III) for those registered

Thursday 4th September

Last Book Club 6 order day

During first break:
Father's Day Stall for
Years 5 & 6

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

During first break: Final
chance Father's Day Stall

Fathers/Special Friends Day
2pm Snacks in Gym
2.30pm Liturgy in Family
Groups

Tuesday 9th September

3.30pm – 7.30pm
Student Led Conferences

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

Trivia Night in school gym
Doors open at 6.30pm

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full.

These words from the Gospel of Saint John were written more than 2000 years ago. Spoken by Jesus in troubled times, they remain words of hope and freedom. They challenge us to live in ways that are just, truthful, and deeply Christian anchored in the peace of Christ.

But what does this have to do with school? And why raise it in our newsletter this week? Good questions—read on!

Each year, we set aside time within our busy learning and teaching program to engage students in the Fullness of Life program, a gift to us from Bishop Paul Bird. His vision is that every child is formed in faith while learning about human development, growth, and life itself. Through this program, we aim to nurture a deep awareness that each child is precious, unique, and wonderfully made. It is a time for students to explore what it means to be human—how we grow, change, and come to understand the gift of our bodies.

You may find your children talking about the Fullness of Life program at home. If so, that's wonderful! These conversations provide an opportunity for rich, meaningful discussions about growth and development within the safety of your family context. The program is designed to encourage curiosity and reflection. By creating the right context for learning, we open the way for honest dialogue—and that's where true learning happens.



God bless,

Mark Hogbin



School Disco

It's time to polish off those dancing shoes and get in the groove! We will celebrate the annual school Disco this Thursday at school and all are welcome! Please read the information from our Parent Club attached to this newsletter for more details.

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.

Tuesday 16th September

1.45pm-3.15pm

Year 6 Market Day

on lower oval

6pm Confirmation at

Damascus College, Mt Clear

Wednesday 17th September

3.30pm – 7.30pm

Student Led Conferences

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

Regional Athletics @

Llanberris (Yr 4-6 qualifiers

from Division Athletics)

Friday 17th October

2.40pm Assembly led by FTW

Friday 24th October

Division Golf Tournament at

Mt Xavier Golf Course

(selected Yr 4-6 students)

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

Wednesday 5th November

Eureka Division Cricket

at Alfredton Reserve

(selected Yr 5 & 6 students)

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 NovemberCasual Dress Day - *Gold coin**donation for St Vinnies***Foundation 2026 Interviews**

We are busy interviewing our Foundation 2026 students at school at the moment. These interviews are designed to assist us as we begin to prepare for our classes next year. It is wonderful to meet and chat with our new Foundation students and we look forward to welcoming them to full time school next year.

**Father's Day & Special Friends Liturgy**

All fathers and special friends are warmly invited to join us on Friday at 2.00pm for a gathering and liturgy to celebrate Father's Day. This is a great opportunity to see our school in action and everyone is welcome. We would love to see you there.

Father's Day Stalls

Our traditional Father's Day stalls will be running this week. Children are welcome to bring along some pocket money to spend at the stalls on the following days:

Tuesday 2nd September

During first break for Foundation, Yr 1 and Yr 2

Wednesday 3rd September

During first break for Years 3 & 4

Thursday 4th September

During first break for Years 5 & 6

Friday 5th September

During first break: Final chance Father's Day Stall

Gifts priced from \$2 - \$7. Maximum spend per child is \$7.

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Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.

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



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THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday August 31, 2025 Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.' (Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)

Gospel Reflection: Jesus basically is telling the people, "Why do you care about getting first place to prove that you are important? You are chasing what you already have. God already likes and loves and honours and respects you. God already thinks you are important!" Jesus is teaching the people about respecting others- he said if we treat people with respect, then others would treat us with respect.

Our Challenge: We are all deserving of respect. What are some ways you can show respect this week at school, work and in our community?





A Big Thank-You!

Because of your generosity, we have been able to donate vital funds to support those experiencing homelessness in our community. Our Free Dress Day last Friday raised an amazing \$467.75 for the SOUPBUS.

As a Catholic school community, we know that every dollar raised is helping provide not only shelter and meals, but also the dignity and hope that every person deserves.



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

Curriculum News

Book Week IncurSION – *Treasure Hunt*

As part of Book Week 2025, Years Foundation, One and Two children will have a special performance of *Treasure Hunt* presented by **Perform! Education**, the official in-school partner of the Children's Book Council of Australia. This lively and interactive show draws on this year's CBCA shortlisted books, celebrating the joy of reading while exploring themes of imagination, sustainability, and empathy. Designed to engage and inspire, *Treasure Hunt* brings stories to life in a fun and memorable way for all students.



Student Led Conferences

Week 8 & 9 of this term your child(ren) will be showcasing their school work 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.

At SFX, Student-Led Conferences place the focus on Student Voice. Highly effective Catholic primary schools recognise the importance of empowering students to take an active role in their learning, and these conferences are a powerful way to nurture this. Current research into *Assessment as Learning* also highlights the benefits of students sharing their progress, reflecting on their learning, and setting future goals.

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

Bookings for Student Led Conferences are open on PAM please book if you haven't already done so.

Enjoy your week.



Jane Clark, **Deputy Principal/Learning Enhancement**

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Year 3 Book Cover Competition

Our Year 3 students were buzzing with creativity after watching the launch of Andy Griffiths' latest book *You & Me and the Peanut Butter Beast*. Inspired by his imaginative storytelling, they set out to design their very own book covers, each exploring what might be found at the bottom of a mysterious hole.

We are excited to announce the winners of the *Best Book Cover* competition:

Freddy Dreher (3LL)

Imogen Sordello (3JT)

Sahesi Kariyawasam (3DGS)

Each winner received a copy of Andy Griffiths' new release. Congratulations to our budding Year 3 authors and illustrators – we can't wait to see where your imaginations take you next!





PRIME MINISTER'S SPELLING BEE



Congratulation to all the students who competed in the Prime Minister's Spelling Bee this year, and what an impressive display of spelling talent it was! Students from Years 3–6 took to on this challenge with confidence, tackling tricky words under pressure.

We are proud to announce our Class winners:

3LL Banjo Nicholson	4KB James Cyples	5CC Grace Hocking	6PB Amelia Sordello
3JT Judd Boyd	4LK Thomas Hiscock	5ZP Ella Uljanic	6MM Leni Brown
3DGS Freddie Brown	4JS Ted Nunn	5QM Finya Hinko-Najera	6ZA Angus Burbidge

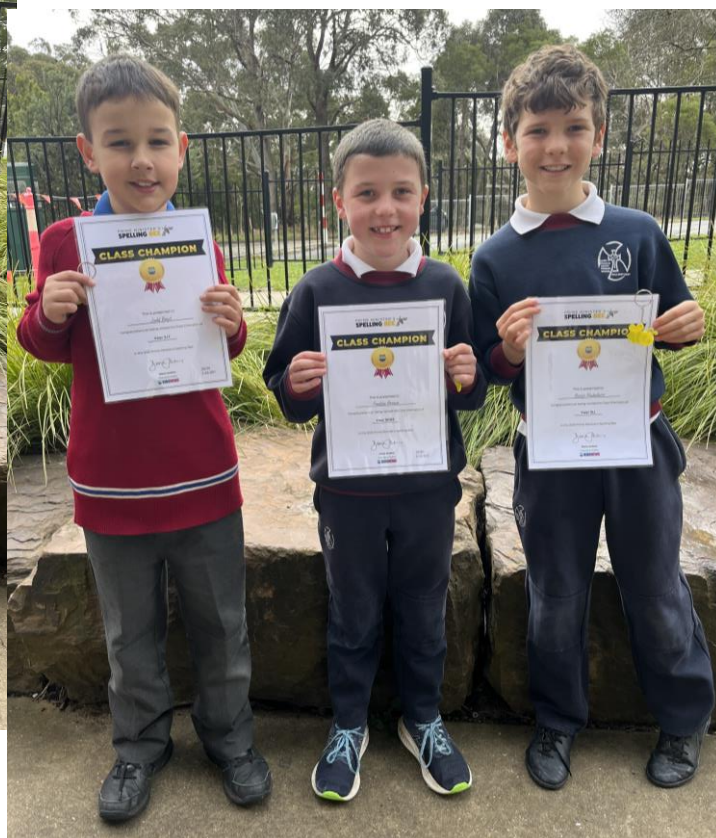
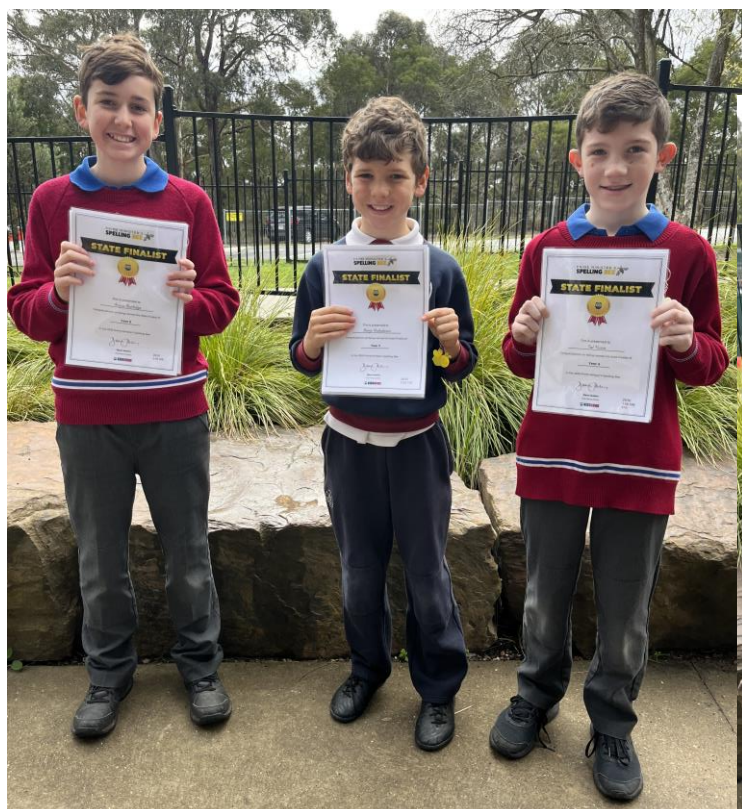
This year, three students made it into the State Finals:

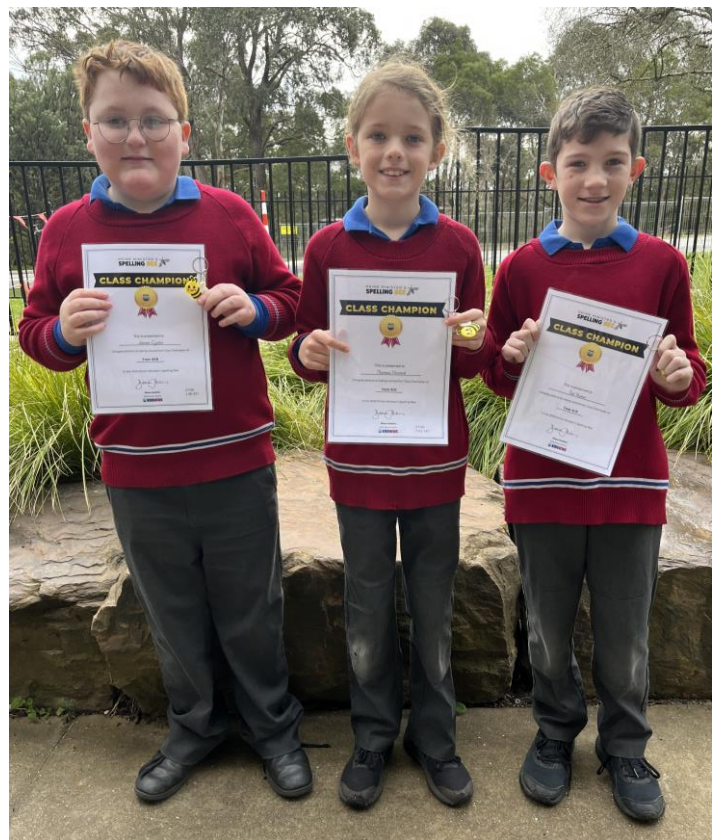
Banjo Nicholson - Year 3LL
Ted Nunn - Year 4JS (47th)
Angus Burbidge - Year 6ZA

Congratulations to all participants for their hard work, determination, and love of words – you are all spelling stars!



Lindy Harty, **Literacy Leader**





Child Safe Standard 10: Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.

As we approach Father's Day, it's a wonderful opportunity to recognise the positive influence fathers and father figures have on the wellbeing and resilience of young people. The following SchoolTV special report explores the many ways dads and special friends contribute to their children's growth - from play and learning, to emotional support and role modelling.

Here is the link to the article: https://sfxballarat.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/celebrating-fathers-day

Sending cheers your way,

Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**



Sport/Physical Education News

Congratulations and good luck to all of the students and staff that have been/will be participating in various finals for netball, football and basketball across the weekend.

Congratulations to the following Year 3 & 4 students Pippa G, Isla P, Maya S, Imogen S, Ella W, Damilare B, Leo D & Charlie I for being selected in the Under 12 Ballarat Miners basketball squads for the 25/26 season.

Congratulations to Ameila S, Minti T, Chloe W & Eli J who have been selected to participate in the 2025 U12 Vic Country basketball Jamboree in Echuca during the upcoming school holidays. We know that you will enjoy the experience, learn new skills and showcase your talents.

2025 SFX SPORTS DATES

Term 3:

- Week 8 - Thursday September 11 - Division Athletics @ Llanberris (Qualified students from Yr 4/5/6 - from event in Wk 4)

Term 4:

- Week 1 - Friday Oct 10th - Regional Athletics @ Llanberris (Qualifiers from Division Aths - Yr 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 3 - Friday Oct 24th - Division Golf Tournament @ Mt Xavier Golf Course (selected students from Yr 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 4 - Friday Oct 31st - SFX Junior Sports Day - (all students in F-2)
- Week 5 - Wednesday Nov 5th - Eureka Division Cricket @ Alfredton Reserve (selected students from Yr 5/6)

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**



- **Father's Day Stall**

The P&F will be running a Father's Day Stall this week at first break – Gifts priced from \$2 - \$7
 Tuesday 2nd September – Foundation, Year 1 & Year 2
 Wednesday 3rd September – Year 3 & Year 4
 Thursday 4th September – Year 5 & Year 6

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

Foundation & Year 1: 4.15pm – 5.00pm
 Year 2 & Year 3: 5.00pm – 5.45pm
 Year 3 & Year 5: 5.45pm – 6.30pm
 Year 6: 6.30pm – 7.30pm

- **Gold coin entry!**

- Lollies, popcorn, slushies & chips available to purchase
- 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!!! – DON'T MISS OUT – only a few tables left**

Friday 12th September 6.30pm – in the school gym
 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.
 Some great raffle & auction items – including some artworks done by each class! – don't miss out on the possibility of taking these great items home!

- **RYANS IGA COMMUNITY REWARDS Program**

For the months of September & October 2025 – St Francis Xavier Primary School has been selected to participate in the **Ryan's IGA Community Rewards program** at the **Northway store** – corner Doveton & Norman St
 If you are in the area, pop in and collect your groceries and put you tokens in our token box.

- **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)



FATHER'S DAY STALL



The P&F will once again be running a Father's Day Stall.

Gifts priced from \$2 to \$7
(Maximum spend of \$7 per child)

Children are welcome to purchase a gift on the following days at first break:

Tuesday 2/9: (Foundation, Year 1 & 2)

Wednesday 3/9: (Year 3 & 4)

Thursday 4/9: (Year 5 & 6)

Friday 5/9 : Final chance

We know how much the kids love picking something for their special person!

if you are able to assist with the stall -
please use the sign up link





SFX SCHOOL DISCO

Thursday 4th September

Foundation & Year 1: 4.15pm - 5pm

Year 2 & Year 3: 5.00pm - 5.45pm

Year 4 & Year 5: 5.45pm - 6.30pm

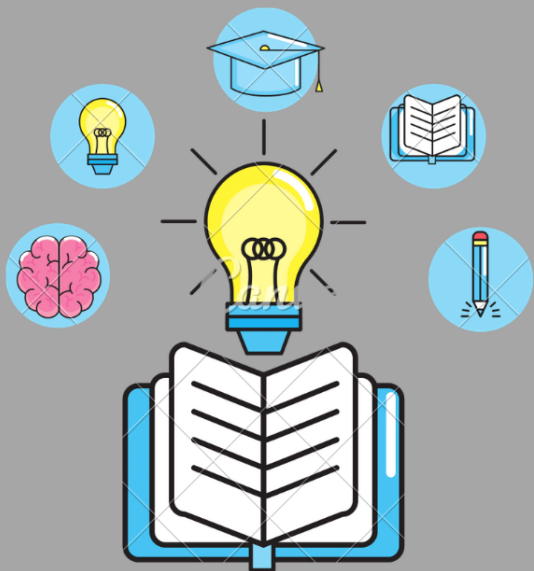
Year 6 : 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Gold coin entry!



Lollies, popcorn, slushies & chips available to purchase





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 & Shalju 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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C 31st August, 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Tuesday September 2 nd	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East	
Wednesday September 3 rd	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday September 4 th	10.30 am	St Patrick's Ballan	
Friday September 5 th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East	
Saturday September 6 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday September 6 th		Sunday September 7 th	
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

Patricia Reynolds, Margaret Brennan, Keith Bruhn

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Irene D'Arcy 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 Claubitz, 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

Have you booked your table for the Ministry District trivia night? Our trivia night will be held on Friday 5th September at St Alipius Parish Hall, Victoria St. Tables of 8 or single seats can be booked through the Ballarat East Hub 0437 505 517. 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.

COLLECTIONS

Below figures are for the last 2 weekends.

Supporting our priests:	\$1019
Supporting our parish:	\$358.80

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

BALLARAT CLERGY FUND

Collection for Retired Priests – next weekend. Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Seventeen retired priests are currently supported by this fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax deductible. Caring for those who cared for us – the church community's responsibility

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

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 further resources are also available from this webpage.

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.



CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will meet for a cuppa and a chat on Friday 5th September at 2.00pm in St Alipius Hall. All welcomed. Please bring a plate to share.

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.

SEASON OF CREATION

Each year from September 1 - October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for Creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth. We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it. This year, the theme for the season is "Peace with Creation." Resources to celebrate the Season of Creation are available at

<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

UPCOMING DATES

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

Percy Martin Fuller

Son of Kirk and Rowena Fuller

Wade Nathan Scott

Son of Nathan and Laura Scott

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

YOUTH PATHWAYS BOOKLET – STAYING CONNECTED IN FAITH

The diocese has distributed the Youth Pathways booklet to all Year 12 students in our diocesan Catholic secondary schools. To access the booklet, click or scan the QR code. Printed copies are also available from the Pastoral Ministry Office, pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au. This resource is designed to help young adults stay connected with their faith as they transition beyond school.



Redressing the Imbalances on our Planet

Reflection on the Gospel-22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time C
(Luke 14:1,7-14)
Veronica Lawson RSM

Since 2013, Catholics have joined with other Christians across the globe in celebrating the Season of Creation, a celebration of creation launched in 1989 by the Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople and accepted progressively by other Christian communities. The Season of Creation begins with the World Day of Prayer for Creation on September 1 and concludes on October 4, Feast of St Francis of Assisi. During this period, we might visit the Vatican website and reflect on *Seeds of Peace and Hope*, Pope Leo's message of June 30 written to mark the tenth anniversary of this celebration. We might also reflect on what is happening to our planet and pay particular attention to the eighth work of mercy, "care of our common home". As a spiritual work, care of our common home calls us to "grateful contemplation of God's world". As a corporal work, it calls us to "simple daily gestures" that create a more sustainable and equitable world.

Today's gospel calls us to redress imbalances in the human community, imbalances that ultimately affect the earth itself. Jesus is under scrutiny as he dines in the home of a leading Pharisee. In Luke's gospel, the Pharisees are generally depicted as hostile to Jesus. This portrait reflects the situation at the time the gospels are being written, after Pharisaic Judaism and Christian Judaism had parted ways. In Jesus' lifetime, the Pharisees were a minority group of well-respected experts in the Law.

Despite the hostility from his host, Jesus is not deterred from expressing his opinion and as usual he does so in the form of a story that comes from the experience of his hearers. He first addresses the guests and then the host. The guests are clearly not from the lower echelons of society. They are people who receive invitations to banquets where places of honour are reserved for the most distinguished guests. Jesus appeals to their normal fear of being shamed before others. He also reminds them of the principle of reversal that operates in God's kin-dom where those who seek the first places are last and the last are first.

Jesus' advice for his host is more removed from first century Palestinian experience than is his advice for the guests: do not invite friends, family and wealthy neighbours; invite the destitute and those with disabilities. In other words, invite those considered unclean by observant Jews rather than those who have the capacity to return your hospitality. This was a confronting suggestion in that culture. It embodied the inclusive values of the kin-dom vision that Jesus had preached from the outset. It is confronting for us in our times. It is easy to welcome like-minded people into our land and our homes. It is not so easy to be open to those who see the world differently from us. We are invited to look on them with love rather than hostility and to secure a place for them in our hearts and in our common home.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29
Hebrews: 12:18-19, 22-24
Gospel: 14:1, 7-14

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 9:13-18
Philemon: 10-17, 12-17
Luke: 14:25-33



BALLARAT DIOCESAN SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Social Justice Statement 2025-2026



The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission invite
all members of the diocese
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 homeless people with mental ill-health

Tuesday, September 9: 7.00pm - 8.15pm

Please register at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/>

The webinar will include an overview from Bishop Paul Bird 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.

If you have any questions please call the Pastoral Ministry Office on 53 377 179

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 29th August Hosted by 4JS Theme: Compassion

We treat others the way we would like to be treated.
Compassion means to feel the suffering of others and to help ease that suffering.
We show compassion to others because Jesus teaches us how to care.

FLP	Harly Gemmola Ellyse Slater	4JS	Jack Quinlan and Lenny Owins
FGJ	Finn Tongs, Maeve Williams and Atlas Moscaritolo for a few weeks ago!	4LK	Ben Walshe & Hamish Nicholls
FBO'K	Lyla Quick and Daphne Reus	4KB	Kade Swayn & Edie Waldron
FTW	Rupert Howard and Levi Heinrich	5CC	Minti Toohey and Nellie Cheeseman
1JS	Ella Finley & Max Banwell	5ZP	Sam Norris & Jackson Roberts
1EM	Ava Segrott and Imogen Curtain	5QM	Sienna Block & Gabriel Dunne
1GT	Flossie Bourke and Harper Fedke	6PB	Maeve Waldron and Zach Cooper
2RR	Indi Nestor and Jasper Rolfe	6ZA	Elizabeth Baruwa & Harry Hatt
2MH	Oscar Johnson and Marco Pietrantuono	6MM	Cruize Van Langevelde and Leni Brown
2TS	Odie Brooks & Ruby Plover	EE	3LL
3LL	River Fedke & Tex Brown	PA	Theo McAdam, Sam White, Lachy White
3JT	Darcie Richardson and Edward Giblett	VA	Ned Kersley & Archie Gerditz (4LK) Wilson Quinlan (3DG)
3DG	Violet Toohey and Louie Evans	PE	Tara Lloyd & Alora Warren (4KB)
		Tch	
Principal's Award: Elly Kane for always demonstrating the Villa Way to other students at school.			

Community News

*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.*



FREE School Holiday Program

Ballarat Primary School Students

Build confidence, connection and capability - this school holiday.





Since 2022, Paw Pals has partnered with local Ballarat schools to support student wellbeing through therapy dog-assisted learning.

We're excited to bring our school holiday program to Ballarat! Our free program builds on the foundation of Paw Pals with fun, engaging activities designed to strengthen peer connection, boost self-confidence, and foster independence.

“

thankyou so much for
making me happy and
making me enjoy my time ☺

July Intake Student

-  **Free to Attend**
-  **Grades 4-6**
-  **September 22, 23, 24, 10AM -2PM**
-  **Lucas Community Hub,
17 Coltman Plaza, Lucas**

Activities are based on the Paw Pals Curriculum, which aligns with the general capabilities in the Victorian Curriculum.

Spots are limited. Get in touch with us today to secure your place.

Contact: Kath Anderson



0417 461 161



kathleen.anderson@mackillop.org.au



mackillop.org.au/programs/paw-pals



This holiday program is
made possible thanks to
the generous support of



Mackillop Family Services acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and their Elders in each of the communities where we work.
Mackillop celebrates and draws strength from diversity and respects the dignity of all people. We value an inclusive culture where lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, gender diverse, intersex and asexual people (LGBTQIA+) have the right to be safe.





DEAN KITE FESTIVAL

Sunday September 7th 2025
12 Noon - 4pm

Kite Making Workshops \$10
Kite Demonstrations
Sausage Sizzle & Afternoon Tea

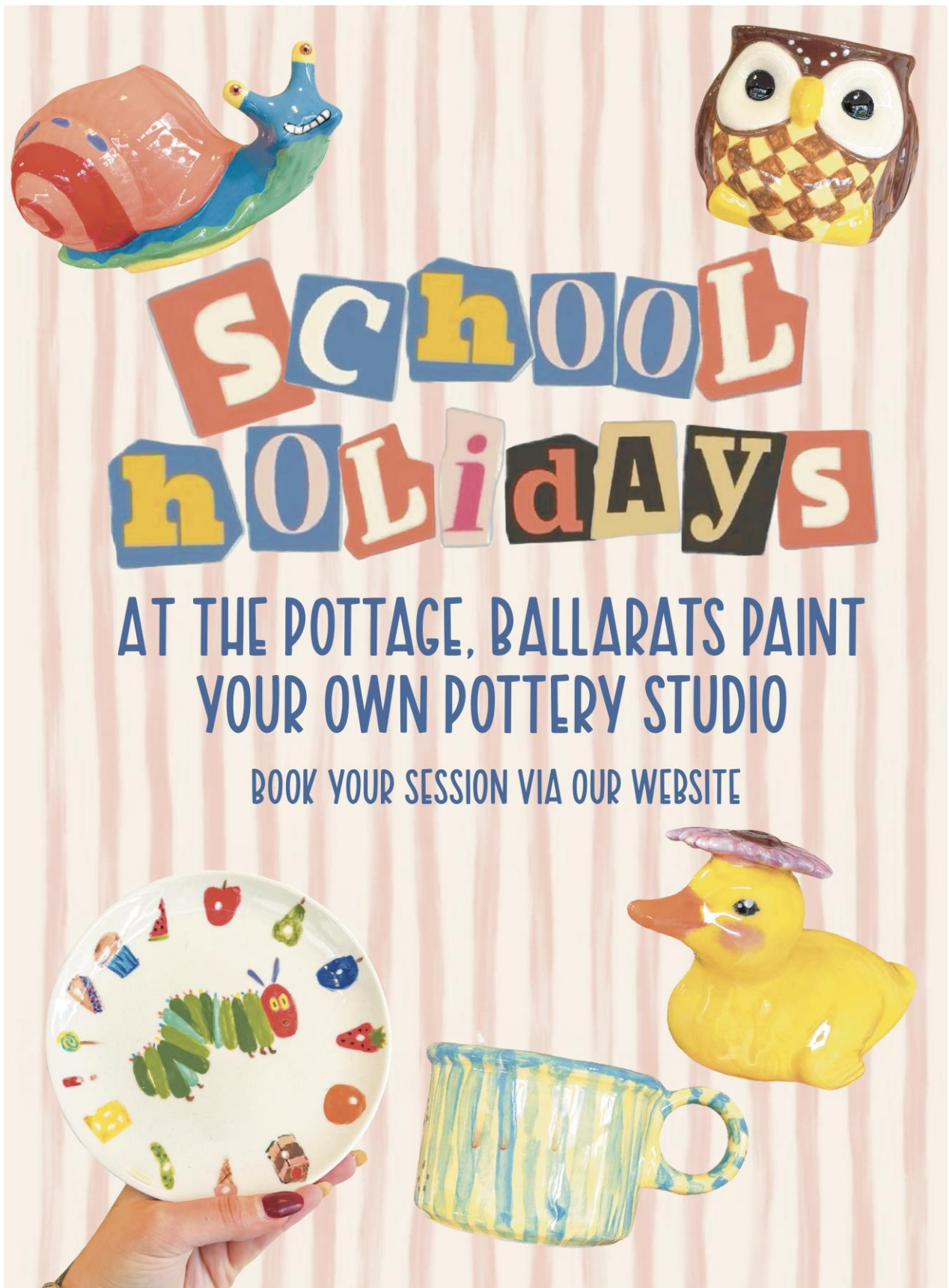
Dean Recreation Reserve
1370 Daylesford / Ballarat Road
Dean, Victoria

Hepburn
SHIRE COUNCIL

IGA CRESWICK

Fundraiser on day for
local charity

enquiries: Jon Rofe, p: 0428 340 596 e: rofej@bigpond.com



The Pottage is a paint your own pottery studio located in Ballarat!
We have just released our September School Holiday sessions!
The discount code is SCHOOL10 for 10% off tickets.
www.thepottage.com.au



BASKETBALL HOLIDAY CAMPS

WEEK ONE SESSIONS

SELKIRK STADIUM

MON 22 & TUES 23 SEPTEMBER • 9AM - 3PM

WEEK TWO SESSIONS

SELKIRK STADIUM

WED 1 & THUR 2 OCTOBER • 9AM - 3PM

BALLARATBASKETBALL.COM



Power FM Holiday Camps are the perfect opportunity for kids aged 4 to 14 of all genders and skill levels to develop their game in a fun and supportive environment. Whether you're picking up a basketball for the first time or wanting to refine your skills, our camps cater to everyone, from beginners to future stars!

Venue: Selkirk Stadium, 989 Norman St, Wendouree VIC 3355

Registrations Close: Friday 19 September at 11:59pm

- Train with your favourite Miners players
- Learn from expert coaches including Miners players and staff
 - Develop new skills, techniques, and training methods
- Enjoy a fun, inclusive atmosphere with games and prizes every camp
- Learn teamwork, leadership, and how to support others on and off the court
 - Make new friends and have an unforgettable basketball experience!

Register here: www.ballaratbasketball.com/holiday-camp

For any further details, please contact Zack Cummins at programs@ballaratbasketball.com or call (03) 5338 1220.

BALLARAT'S ANNUAL POP CULTURE CONVENTION

PopCon 2025

SUNDAY 28TH

SEPTEMBER

11 AM - 4 PM

**CIVIC HALL +
BALLARAT
LIBRARY**

**300 MAIR ST
BALLARAT**

**FREE
ENTRY!**



**FREE GAMES +
ACTIVITIES**

COSPLAY COMPETITION

**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO FIND OUT MORE**



**MARKET STALLS +
ARTISTS**

CHILL SPACE

AND MORE...

A Victorian Government initiative, all-ages event, drug, alcohol + smoke-free, safe and secure
The City of Ballarat is committed to being a child safe organisation and has zero tolerance for child abuse and harm

SUPPORTED BY:



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Friday 19th September

STURT NETBALL CLUB

JUNIOR SUMMER TRY-OUTS



The Winter Netball Season is finishing and what better way to keep active than to play Summer Netball. Sturt is an amazing family oriented club and are looking for junior netballers of all abilities.

Sturt will be holding team try-outs for our netballers on the dates below. Please wear appropriate clothing/shoes to play and also bring a drink and snacks (if required) as the canteen will not be open.

Try-outs will be held at the Ballarat Netball Association courts at Llanberris.

GRADING TIMES

9&11/under		5.10-5.30pm
13/under	A Grade - D Grade	5.45-6.15pm
15/under	A Grade - D Grade	6.30-7pm
17/under	A Grade - D Grade	7.15-7.45pm

Don't forget to register your intention to play on TeamApp (Sturt Netball Club).

Please note: These tryout are for grading purposes. We have a team for every player. Attendance is a must.

Bring friends or anyone you may know who is interested in playing netball.

Junior Netball Co-Ordinator: Tish 0434 260 134

Sturt Email: sturtnc@gmail.com

If anyone ladies over the age of 15 have the skills to play **Ladies A Grade Netball**, please contact **Bree on 0400 657 477**.

Comp will start Oct 7th for 5 rounds plus finals.