



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 8th September 2025
Term 3 Week 8

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 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 SZP

Trivia Night in school gym
Doors open at 6.30pm

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

Last day of term 3

Classes finish at 2.20pm

Term 4 (11 weeks)

Mon 6th Oct – Fri 19th Dec

Monday 6th October

First day of term 4 for
students

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

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Are you coming to our Trivia Night this Friday? It promises to be a fantastic evening of fun, laughter and friendly competition as families come together to support our school.

Each year, our Parents & Friends Committee organises a range of social and fundraising events. These provide wonderful opportunities for parents to connect, celebrate and strengthen our community, while also contributing to the financial support of our school.

You may be wondering: *why do we need fundraising when families already pay school fees?* It's a fair question.

Every child in Australia receives government funding for their education, as schooling is compulsory. However, funding is not distributed equally across all systems. Students in Catholic schools receive about two-thirds of the government allocation, and the remaining one-third must be covered locally. This "local contribution factor" comes from school fees, levies, and fundraising.

Thanks to the generous support of our families, we not only meet our core costs but also provide valuable extras that enhance your child's school experience. For example, last year's fundraising efforts allowed us to completely replace the adventure playground and install new shade sails—wonderful improvements that benefit every student.

Our Parents & Friends Committee works tirelessly throughout the year, with meetings that are full of energy, ideas and commitment. All parents are warmly welcome to attend—there is always room at the table.

Our community is strong and vibrant because of the dedication and generosity of our families. Thank you for everything you do. And if you can join us at the Trivia Night, we'd love to see you there!

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



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 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

A Prayer for Fathers & Father Figures

Heavenly Father,

We come before You today with hearts full of gratitude and praise for the fathers and father figures You have blessed us with.

We thank You for their strength, their wisdom, and their unwavering love. Thank you for their sacrifices, their prayers, and the silent burdens they carry for their families.

We pray that You would bless them and give them great joy and peace. Guide their steps, give them renewed strength when they are weary, and fill their hearts with Your love.

Amen.



Fathers & Special Friends Gathering

Thank you to all fathers and special friends who were able to attend our gathering on Friday. It was great to see so many people visiting our school. How fortunate we are to have such a supporting community!

News from our school choir



Mai Fali Eh! –

Boite Schools Chorus 2025

The SFX Choir was proud to join with other local schools in this year's Boite Schools Chorus, a statewide choral project that celebrates culture and community through song. Each year, the Chorus highlights a different cultural theme, and in 2025 the focus was on Timor-Leste, marking 50 years since the first Timorese refugees arrived in Australia.

Through *Mai Fali Eh!* (which means "Come Back Home"), students and the audience shared in the rich stories, language, and traditions of Timor-Leste. Songs were performed in both English and Tetum, the official language of Timor-Leste, including the song, '*The Boy and the Crocodile*' - a foundation myth about kindness and the creation of East Timor.

The performance at Mt Clear Secondary College brought together choirs from across Ballarat under the direction of Stella Savvy and accompanied by the incredible talents of Paulo Almeida, Gil Santos, and José Mesquite from the *Mystic Trio*. Our SFX students performed with confidence and energy, captivating the audience with their singing and stage presence. A heartfelt thank you to Hattie Frdelja and Dan West for preparing and guiding our students so well for this special event.

Events like the Boite Schools Chorus remind us of the power of music to celebrate diversity, build understanding, and strengthen community connections.



End of Term – Start of Term

Classes cease for the end of third term on Friday 19 September at 2.20pm. Classes resume for fourth term on Monday 6 October. At this stage we have not been notified of any changes to the public bus services for the last day of term.

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.

YEAR 6 MARKET DAY!

Date: Tuesday, 16th September

Time: 1:45pm - 3:15pm

Location: SFX Lower Oval



THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday September 7, 2025 **Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)**

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33 Once when large crowds of people were going along with Jesus, he turned and said to them, “Those who come to me cannot be my disciples unless they love me more than they love father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and themselves as well. Those who do not carry their own cross and come after me cannot be my disciples.

“If one of you is planning to build a tower, you sit down first and work out what it will cost, to see if you have enough money to finish the job. If you don’t you will not be able to finish the tower after laying the foundation; and all who see what happened will laugh at you. ‘This man began to build but can’t finish the job!’ they will say.

"If a king goes out with 10,000 men to fight another king who comes against him with 20,000 men, he will sit down first and decide if he is strong enough to face that other king. If he isn't, he will send messengers to meet the other king, to ask for terms of peace while he is still a long way off. In the same way," concluded Jesus, "none of you can be my disciple unless you give up everything you have." (*Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation*)

Gospel reflection

Jesus tells the crowds two short stories to explain what being a disciple means, and to show us that if we want to follow him we must be committed. We must also “carry our cross” which means accepting the things we find difficult in our lives and asking for God’s help in these difficult things.

Both stories tell us about how important it is not to rush straight into something without thinking about it first. We need to prepare so that we can see our project through to the finish. It needs to be done properly. Jesus is telling us that following him and being a disciple is something that we have to see through to the finish. This isn't always easy—often we can be distracted by other people or by thinking about what we want rather than about what Jesus wants for us. Throughout our lives as followers of Jesus, we might have to choose to do what Jesus wants even if it means not always being popular. It is hard but God is with us all the way to help and guide us.

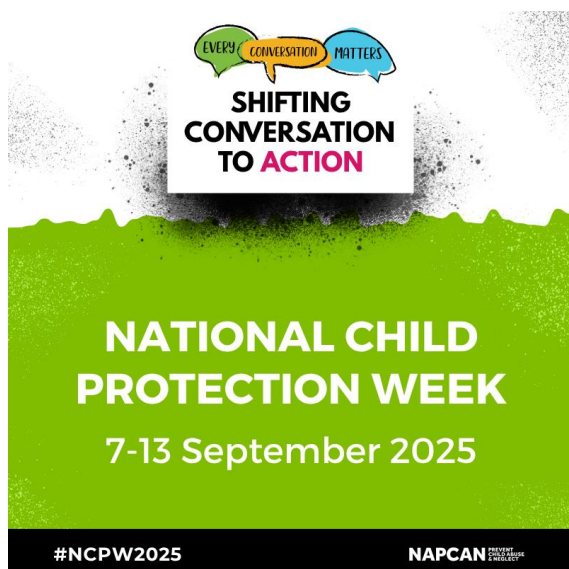
Our Challenge: How will you follow Jesus this week at home or in school? See if you can try to do one thing to show that you follow him, and finish it, even if it is difficult. What will that be? (Adapted from CAFOD website)



It was wonderful to see so many Fathers and Special Friends joining us last Friday for our afternoon tea and liturgy. The children were very excited to join with their family groups; and I thank our amazing teachers for inviting and welcoming everyone to celebrate in their learning space.

What wonderful adventures we had showing our Dads and Special Friends around our school - the smiles on everyone's faces said it all!

Child Protection Week at St Francis Xavier

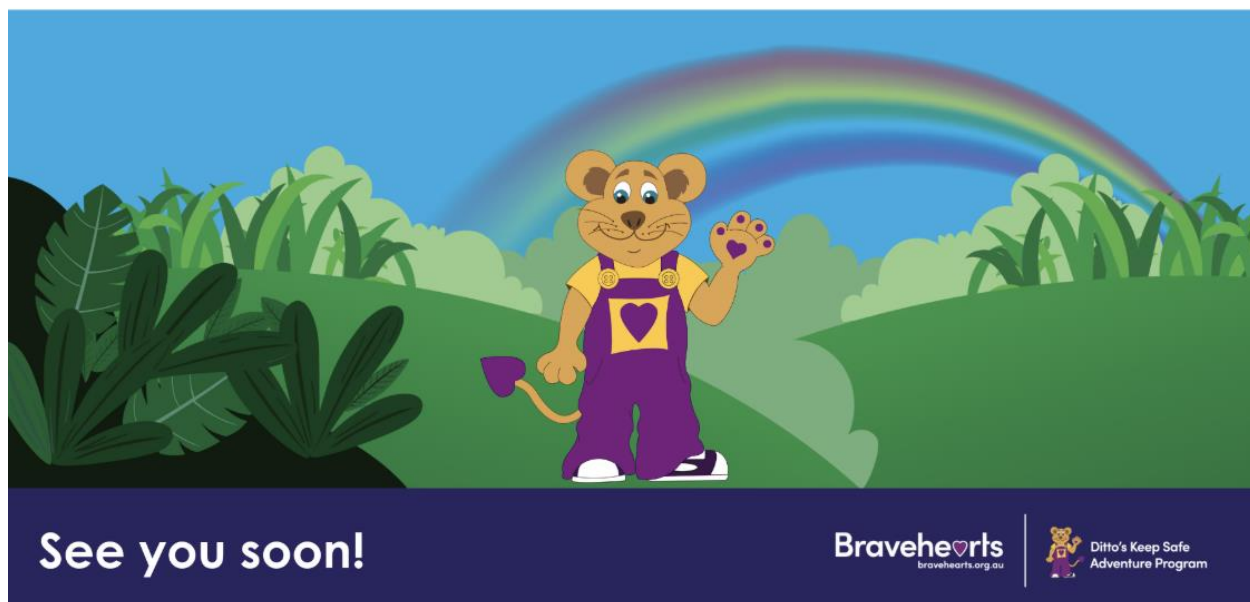


This year's National Child Protection Week theme, *'Every conversation matters: Shifting Conversation to Action,'* reminds us that while dialogue is essential when it comes to raising awareness, challenging harmful norms, and sparking new ideas, real change is only possible when we turn those conversations into meaningful action.

Our school is committed to moving beyond talk, focusing on concrete steps that prevent harm to children. Through strengthening prevention and advocacy initiatives, we're empowering our whole school community to actively protect every child, ensuring they not only feel heard but truly experience safety, care, and protection.



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Bravehearts Visit

On **Tuesday September 9th**, the children in Foundation, Year One and Year Two have the opportunity to experience Bravehearts' personal safety education program Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show. The Ditto show is a live, interactive 40 minute performance starring Bravehearts' mascot 'Ditto'. It includes song, dance, and easy-to-remember messages about personal safety.

The show is underpinned by the following six principles of personal safety:

- Differentiating 'yes' and 'no' feelings
- Recognising the bodies 'warning signs'
- Identifying 'private parts' and 'privacy'
- Helping children identify language and feelings associated with secrets
- Reinforcing that there is no secret that children cannot tell someone

Parents and carers are WELCOME to attend! We would LOVE you to join us! Sessions are at 11.40am (Foundation) and 12.30pm (Year One and Two)

If you would like to learn more about how to talk to your child about personal safety, download Bravehearts' FREE PERSONAL SAFETY PARENTS AND CARERS GUIDE from the Bravehearts website. Just go to: bravehearts.org.au/personalsafety.

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





Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Student Led Conferences begin this week **Tuesday 9th September** and continue next week on **Wednesday 17th September**. Your child has been working hard in preparation and is eager to share their learning journey, reflect on progress, and present their goals.

These conferences are an important part of our learning program, fostering student ownership and confidence.

If you haven't yet signed up, please do so as soon as possible to ensure your family has a time booked. We don't want anyone to miss this wonderful opportunity to celebrate your child's growth and success.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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



Wellbeing News

Child Safe Standard 11: Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.



Special Report: R U OK?Day

Understanding the growing challenges related to mental health among young people is an important consideration. Anxiety, depression and self-harm - are all causes for concern. Factors like academic pressure, social media, family dynamics and social expectations, are contributing to these issues. It's therefore crucial for parents and caregivers to take action early, remove the stigma around discussing mental health, and offer accessible support to address these issues and the wellbeing of their children.

R U OK?Day is an initiative that focuses on preventing suicide by encouraging meaningful personal connections and helping informal support networks to help recognise the signs of distress. We urge all families to take part, emphasising the value of genuine human relationships and reminding everyone to ask the important question, "Are you OK?"

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Engaging in R U OK?Day activities go beyond the classroom; it's a commitment to our students' overall development. By talking openly about mental health, schools create safe spaces where students feel understood, valued, and supported. As parents and caregivers, you can contribute by fostering open conversations, normalising feelings and breaking down mental health stigmas. Participating in R U OK?Day promotes compassion and shows our dedication to the wellbeing of the entire school community, reaffirming that together, we can truly make a difference.

This Special Report provides guidance on how to talk to your child about mental health and engage in meaningful discussions.

Here is the link to our Special Report: https://sfxballarat.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-r-u-ok-day

Sending cheers your way,

Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**



Sport/Physical Education News

SFX will have a very strong presence at this Thursday's Eureka Division Athletics at Llanberris. We wish the following students all the very best for their event/s: Lawrence W, Isla P, Edith B, Charlize S, Nellie C, Alexis T, Chloe W, Sam N, Jackson R, Audrey L, Alex P, Sidney P, Zara T, Tom K, Will M, Amelia S, Abbey D & Jed H.

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**



- **Trivia Night – last chance to purchase tickets.....limited availability**

This 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 artworks done by each class! – don't miss out on the possibility of taking these great items home!

For anyone who is unable to attend our Trivia night, but would like to bid on any silent auction items, we will open the silent auction bidding up on Friday afternoon after the assembly in the gym. Feel free to come in and place your bids. Just because you are not attending doesn't mean you have to miss out.

- **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!

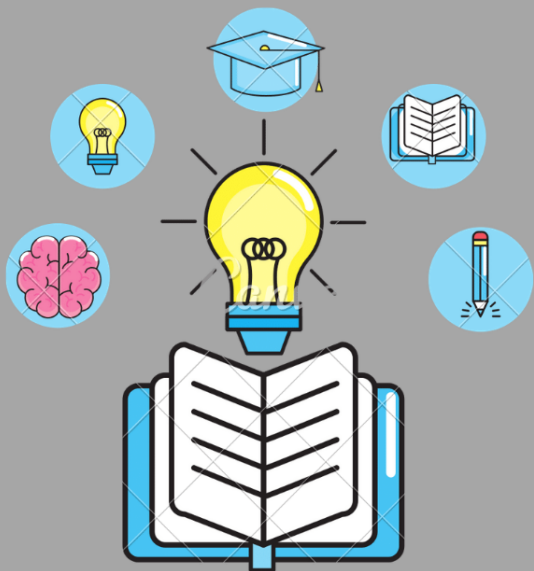
- **Milkshake Monday**

First break every 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, 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
bungaree@ballarat.catholic.org.au
gordon@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 AM – 12:00 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 – Cathy Prunty

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C 7th September, 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Tuesday September 9 th	9.00 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East	
Wednesday September 10 th	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Friday September 12 th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East	
Saturday September 13 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday September 13 th		Sunday September 14 th	
5.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Buninyong Bungaree
6.30 pm	Springbank	10.30 am	Ballarat East Ballan

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Kath Bruhn, Mary Warden

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Janette Pearse

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 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.

INSTALLATION OF BISHOP SHANE

On Thursday September 11th, Bishop Shane Mackinlay will be installed as the Archbishop of Brisbane. We pray for Bishop Shane and the Archdiocese as +Shane commences this ministry. Each of our Ministry District parishes have strong connections with +Shane and many will be present at St Stephen's Brisbane for the installation Mass. We ask them to take our prayers, good wishes and blessings for +Shane from his former parishioners, families and friends.

COLLECTIONS

Below figures are for the last 2 weekends.

Supporting our priests: \$927

Supporting our parish: \$ 244

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

BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

Collection for Retired Priests

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests who have spent a lifetime selflessly caring for others, and who deserve a happy and peaceful retirement. The Fund is currently supporting and caring for 17 retired priests. This annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our retired priests. Your generous support has enabled us to continue 'caring for those who cared for us'. Special envelopes are available for this collection, which will be taken up today. You may also return your envelope next week.

A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductable.

CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US – THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY

SUNDAY MORNING MASS TIMES

In recent weeks, parishioners who attend Sunday morning Masses in the parish were invited to have their say regarding Mass times. The overwhelming response from parishioners was that we remain with the status quo. Therefore we will continue with the alternating Mass times which currently exist. We thank all parishioners who took time to share their thoughts.

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.

FATHERS' DAY PRAYER

God our Father, we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; may they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for our own fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering; may they know that the God of Compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice. We remember fathers, grandfathers, great grandfathers and father figures who are no longer with us, but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen,

Taken from

<https://www.thecatholictelegraph.com/a-fathers-day-prayer-2/67183>

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.

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.

PARISH NEWSLETTERS

We welcome the opportunity to pray for those recently deceased and those whose anniversaries of death are occurring. These names will be included on the parish newsletter and in the prayers of the faithful. When sending in names to be included, please also include your name and a contact phone if any clarification is needed.

SEPTEMBER DATES

Gordon Parish Leadership Team
Wednesday September 12th
5.30pm Ballarat East Hub

Parishes Administration Day
Thursday September 11th @ Horsham

Installation of +Shane Mackinlay
St Stephen's Cathedral Brisbane
Thursday September 11th

Confirmation in the Ballarat East Parish
Tuesday September 16th 6.00pm @ Damascus

Damascus Day 30th Anniversary Mass
Wednesday September 17th 10.00am

Mecwacare Ballan Anointing Liturgy
Thursday September 18th 10.00am

St Brigid's School Mass Ballan
Thursday September 18th 11.30am

Ballarat East Liturgy meeting
Thursday September 18th 5.00pm

Ballarat East Parish Pastoral Council
Thursday September 18th 6.30pm

Damascus @ St Brendan's Dunnstown Mass
Friday September 19th 1.00pm

Mercy Day Mass @ Mercy Place
Wednesday September 24th 11.00am

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."

“Leaving Aside” for the Sake of True Peace

Reflection on the Gospel-23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time C
(Luke 14:25-33)

Veronica Lawson RSM



As we continue to join with Christians across the globe in celebrating the Season of Creation (September 1-October 4), we might attend to the 2025 theme, “Peace with Creation” and the symbol for this year, “Garden of Peace”. The theme is inspired by the words of the prophet Isaiah (32:14-18) who proclaims that justice brings peace: peace for God’s Earth, peace for God’s people. We might renew our commitment to the gospel call to care and to enact justice for all that constitutes our common home.

In today’s gospel reading, we are confronted with the pain involved in living a way of life that respects the rights of all created beings. On the long journey from Galilee through Samaritan territory to the city of Jerusalem, Jesus attracts a huge following and teaches relentlessly about the ways of God. By the time he reaches Jerusalem, the crowds have thinned considerably. Is this because it is too hard to persist with their initial impulse to follow the way of the gospel and the one who embodies its values? Implicit in Jesus’ teaching about carrying one’s cross is a reminder of the intense pain and sacrifice involved in being a disciple. It sometimes means going against what other family members want. It may even involve risking one’s life for the sake of life. In the context of the Roman Empire, criminals who were sentenced to die by crucifixion carried to the place of their execution the cross beam on which they would hang. The cross image is shocking for anyone. It is quite alienating for the faint hearted.

The term “hate” (*misein*) in this context seems harsh. The English translation fails to do justice, however, to the original Greek or to the Hebrew (*sohe*) that underlies this notion. To “hate” in biblical terms is to “leave aside”. Disciples are expected to love one another. There are times, however, when they have to “leave aside” the wishes of those they love most for the sake of a gospel call to justice, compassion, and right relationship. If we are attentive to the gender bias of this ancient text, we might note that married men are addressed while married women are not. Here as elsewhere, women have to read against the grain of the text in order to hear its message.

Finally, there is a call in this gospel passage to “leave aside” unnecessary possessions. In this time of planetary vulnerability and of growing division between the privileged and the marginalised of the Earth community, the teaching of the Lukan Jesus has a particular resonance. There is no place in a gospel way of life for self-indulgence, for exploitation of others or for self-centred appropriation of the goods of the earth. Hearing the voice of creation implies systemic change so that the needs of all the creatures of the earth might be met within the means of the earth to provide.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 9:13-18
Phileman: 1:9-10, 12-17
Luke: 14:25-33

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Numbers: 21:4-9
Philippians: 2:6-11
John: 3:13-17

Loreto College invites prospective families to come along to their upcoming Open Morning and Year 7 2027 Information Evening. Open Day is perfect for those families who **haven't** toured the College before. At the Year 7 2027 Information Evening, learn more about Loreto life, the future of learning at Loreto College and meet our College Leadership Team and key staff. This evening is for Year 7 2027 (Year 5 Students) prospective parents/carers and students. Please note that availability is limited for both events.

KEY DATES and links: Open Morning – Thursday 23 October 2025
Year 7 2027 Information Evening – Tuesday 28 October 2025
Year 7 2027 Application Closing Date – Friday 6 February 2026

For further information, please visit our enrolments page at <https://loreto.vic.edu.au/loreto-education/enrolment/>



I AM LORETO

EXPERIENCE LORETO UPCOMING EVENTS

OPEN MORNING
Thursday 23 October 2025 | 9am - 12pm
(Bookings essential)

**YEAR 7 2027 PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES
EVENING**
Tuesday 28 October 2025 | 5:30 pm
Loreto College Ballarat - Mary's Mount Centre
(Bookings essential)

IMPORTANT DATES
Year 7 2027 Enrolment and
Scholarship Applications close
Friday 6 February 2026

Register to attend and learn more by
scanning the QR code or visit
loreto.vic.edu.au



JUNIOR SUMMER NETBALL



EUREKA NETBALL CLUB SUMMER COMP REGISTRATION



**BUILD SKILLS
HAVE FUN
MAKE FRIENDS**



**Eureka
Netball Club**

DATE



MON 6 OCT 2025

TIME



4.00PM - 6.00PM

LOCATION



LLANBERRIS
BALLARAT NETBALL
ASSOCIATION

SUMMER SEASON

After school games

Term 4 2025 & Term 1 2026

No games in school holidays

9 & under games: Tuesdays

11 & under games: Tuesdays

13 & under games: Mondays

**IT'S TIME TO START THINKING
ABOUT CRICKET!**

**EAST BALLARAT CRICKET
CLUB INVITES YOU TO COME
AND HAVE A HIT WITH US.**

Woolies Junior Blasters (5 - 9 year olds)

Tuesday afternoons @ Russell Square - 4:00 - 5:00pm

Session One - 14th Oct. 2025

U.9/11s Girls & Open teams - (2 Divisions)

Practice Sessions - Tuesday afternoons (4:00 - 5:10pm)

Session One - 9th Sept. 2025

Matches - Wednesday afternoons (4:00 - 6:15pm)

First match - 15th Oct. 2025

For further information please contact

Mark Ryan 0477 527 334

Mark Simpson 0493 119 867


Peter Davie 0407 773 734



*East Ballarat Cricket Club
Our Local Family - 'Club Connect' -
Run by Families*

FUTSAL BALLARAT

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINICS!

Three children, two boys and one girl, are shown in action playing futsal. They are wearing black and yellow futsal kits with 'FUTSAL BALLARAT' and 'MERCY CLUB' printed on them. The girl is on the left, kicking the ball. The boy in the center is looking down at the ball. The boy on the right is also looking down at the ball. They are all wearing black socks and futsal shoes. The background is a solid green color.

SEPTEMBER 23 | 24 | 25 | 30
OCTOBER 01 | 02



Book Now!



www.futsalballarat.com.au
admin@futsalballarat.com.au

Bendigo Bank

Community Bank
Creswick & District



SEASON COMMENCING OCTOBER



Looking for a great summer outdoor sport for your child to get involved with, then tennis at Mt Prospect is for you! Played on Saturday mornings across both Term 4 and Term 1 at the same location in Creswick on natural grass courts, tennis provides your child a great chance to be physically active in a safe, multi-gendered sport.

Competitions for all standards ages 8 -17 /

Hot Shots Program available for ages 5 +

To find out more, please contact

Junior Director - Casey Preston

0417 379 525 or kckenzi@hotmail.com, or visit

www.mtprospecttennis.com.au



Our Vacation Care Program will, once again, be running over both weeks of the upcoming school holidays.
We have lots of fun and engaging activities planned including a build your own "blocks" kit, a day of wheelie fun and an excursion to Chipmunks Ballarat.
Come and join us on a new adventure every day. You will find lots of new friends and catch up with old friends.
We hope to see you all there!

See below for the full program and how to book.

SPRING VACATION CARE PROGRAM

22 September - 3 October 2025

Hours of Operation: 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday (excluding Public Holidays)

Parents to provide morning tea and lunch for their child (unless otherwise stated) and Base 1270 to provide an afternoon snack. Besides the planned activities listed each day, children are free to choose from a variety of additional activities at Base 1270.

Monday 22nd Sept	<p><u>BASE1270 OP-SHOP</u> We are bringing op-shopping to Base 1270! Join us for a day full of thrilling, treasure hunting and exploring sustainability. From the fluffiest teddy bear to the most interesting book, there is something for everyone. <u>This day is possible through donation. If you have toys, clothes or books you can donate please bring this along to Base.</u></p>	Monday 29th Sept	<p><u>BLUEY BONANZA</u> WACKADOO! It's BLUEY Day! For real life! Enjoy some Bluey and Bandit crafts and decorate some sugar cookies. Don't forget about keepy-uppy, freeze tag, the floor is lava and, most importantly, cricket!</p>
Tuesday 23rd Sept	<p><u>BLOCK BUILDERS (LEGO DAY)</u> The BLOCKLERS team are sending BASE1270 a variety of different block building kits for everyone to build and take home! Please note that students will pick a mystery box to create, so will not be picking their set. Be ready to put on your construction hats and get building! <u>ADDITIONAL COST OF \$20 PER STUDENT</u> <u>MAXIMUM OF 45 STUDENTS TODAY</u></p>	Tuesday 30th Sept	<p><u>SCIENCE SPECTACULAR</u> Get ready to hypothesise and be mesmerised! We're going on a scientific journey to the land of experiments! Will they fizz, will they RANG! or will they POP! The one thing we don't want is for them to flop! What's going to happen? Let's take a guess. One thing's for sure there's bound to be a mess!</p>
Wednesday 24th Sept	<p><u>WHEELIE WEDNESDAY</u> On wheelie Wednesday, we invite everyone to bring a choice of their bike, scooter, rollerblades or skateboard to BASE1270 to show off their moves! We will be spending lots of time outside today, so remember your hats and get excited to create all sorts of courses, races and adventures to ride on and around. <u>Please remember your helmets, so that you are allowed to ride or skate!</u></p>	Wednesday 1st Oct	<p><u>CHIPMUNKS EXCURSION</u> Today we are heading to Chipmunks Playland for some fun. Make sure you come dressed to run, jump and slide on all of the fun equipment. Most importantly...DON'T FORGET YOUR SOCKS! <u>ADDITIONAL COST OF \$20 PER STUDENT</u> <u>MAXIMUM OF 45 STUDENTS TODAY</u></p>
Thursday 25th Sept	<p><u>THROWBACK THURSDAY</u> From the 20's to the 2000's today at Base 1270 we are heading back in time to enjoy the decades. The day will be filled with bright coloured crafts, feet tapping music and activities that make us feel like we have been transported back in time. Come dressed in your best decade inspired outfit. <u>BURGER LUNCH IS PROVIDED</u></p>	Thursday 2nd Oct	<p><u>MAKE IT RAIN-BOW</u> Paper, crayons, paints and more let's fill the room with all the colours of the rainbow. We will pour some paint, colour some sticks and cut some paper to make our colourful creations.</p>
Friday 26th Sept	<p><u>GRAND FINAL DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</u> <u>NO VACATION CARE TODAY</u></p>	Friday 3rd Oct	<p><u>BASE 1270 CARNIVALE</u> Roll up, Roll up! The Base 1270 Carnivale is in town. There will be lots of games and prizes to be won! Try your luck in the fish pond and pop a balloon to see if you're a winner. Make yourself a claw and test it out in the "Mystery Box". What type of game will you run in Sideshow Alley?? <u>HOT DOGS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR LUNCH TODAY.</u></p>

To secure places for the Vacation Care Program, please book through Xplor. Should you have any questions or for new enrolments please contact -

Phone (work hours): 0481 574157

Email: oshc@buninyongps.vic.edu.au

Bookings close at 6:00pm on Friday 19th September. NO LATE BOOKINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

