



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 20th October 2025
Term 4 Week 3

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

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 4 (11 weeks)

Mon 6th Oct – Fri 19th Dec

Friday 24th October

Division Golf Tournament at
Mt Xavier Golf Course
(selected Yr 4-6 students)

2.30pm Assembly led by
6MM

Book Club 7 last order day

Monday 27th October

Pupil free day

Friday 31st October

Junior Sports Day for all
Foundation-Year 2 students
and Yr 6 Sports Captains

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

Colour Run

Friday 21st November

Interschool Sport with
Emmaus – Yr 5 @ SFX,
Yr 6 @ Emmaus

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

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Last week was a challenging one for our school community.

Times must be very difficult for some people. In the early hours of Saturday morning, a small group entered our school grounds and removed copper wiring. They worked in dangerous and muddy conditions, cutting through cables that were deeply embedded in the ground and leaving live wires exposed. One wrong move could have resulted in serious injury or worse.

It is difficult to understand what drives someone to take such risks. I can only assume they were hoping to make some quick money. While our school community has been disadvantaged by their actions, I also find myself wondering how disadvantaged these people must be to resort to such desperate measures. Surely, there are safer and more honest ways to make a living — even in tough times.

When events like this occur, we can either focus on the negative or look for the good that often emerges in response. In our case, the good was clear. So many people stepped forward to help — staff, parents, neighbours, and our wonderful tradespeople. The theft was first discovered by parents who were giving their time to help keep our school clean and tidy over the weekend. That's what true community looks like in action.

Thank you for your support during what has been a challenging time. I know it wasn't easy to keep children home at short notice, and your patience and understanding are deeply appreciated. We have had a great week at school despite a challenging start. We look forward to a great term ahead.



God bless,

Mark Hogbin



School Uniform

We set the goal for every child to be wearing their school summer uniform by the start of week 5. This allows for the changeable spring weather to settle into the rhythms of summer. While we are in a transitional stage it is still important to wear correct uniform including socks and all footwear. **Remember hats too!**

Tuesday 16th December
5.30pm Yr 6 Graduation
Liturgy

Thursday 18th December
Final 2025 day for students

Staff News



We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Ms. McLean who became engaged to Luke over the recent holiday period. We are delighted to share Estelle's news!

We wish Ms. Rose well as she prepares to be married to Andreus this week. May the God of all good things bless you on this special day!

Farewell Bella We say farewell to Bella Prendergast this week. Bella will be missed by the community of Saint Francis Xavier where she has been working as a valued member of our Learning Support team. Safe travels Bella as you head off to explore Canada!



JUMP ROPE
for **HEART**



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am excited to announce that we are participating in Jump Rope for Heart this term – a fantastic fundraising and physical activity program by the Heart Foundation.

By participating in Jump Rope for Heart this term, I'm expecting to get our students moving. We'll have skipping ropes available on the school grounds and are encouraging everyone to help raise funds for lifesaving research and support programs.

Over the coming weeks your child will learn new skills, increase their physical activity, and learn about heart health. And the program will end with our school wide 'Jump Off Day' where your child gets to show off their new skipping skills to their friends.

When you register your child online, you'll get access to additional skipping resources to help give your child a great reason to get away from the screens and get outdoors. Register and create your own secure webpage at www.jump rope.org.au/parents.

By signing up online, you and your child/ren can:

- Easily raise funds online.
- Track skipping skills progress and earn virtual badges along the way.
- Post updates to your page so family and friends can follow their progress.
- Access additional skipping resources.

Your child has a 'Parent and Guardian Guide' flyer to take home, which includes further information on the program. If you didn't receive this, visit www.jump rope.org.au/parents for all the information that you need.

Thank you for getting involved in Jump Rope for Heart!

Yours sincerely,

Olivia Hayward on behalf of the SFXcelling team
Jump Rope for Heart Coordinator



Jump rope.org.au
jump.rope@heartfoundation.org.au
1300 724 804

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday October 19, 2025 Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to teach them that they should always pray and never become discouraged. "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people. And there was a widow in that same town who kept coming to him and pleading for her rights, saying, 'Help me against my opponent!' For a long time the judge refused to act, but at last he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or respect people, yet because of all the trouble this widow is giving me, I will see to it that she gets her rights. If I don't, she will keep on coming and finally wear me out!'"

And the Lord continued, "Listen to what the corrupt judge said. Now, will God not judge in favour of his own people who cry to him night and day for help? Will he be slow to help them? I tell you, he will judge in their favour and do it quickly. But will the Son of Man find faith in the earth when he comes?" *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

Gospel reflection

Jesus tells us a story about a bad judge and a woman who wants justice – she wants what is right and fair. Judges are supposed to be fair and honest, but this wasn't always the case. The prophets in the Bible were always getting angry with bad judges- if the judges didn't sort out the problems fairly then people would suffer again and again. The woman was ignored by the judge, but she didn't give up. She just kept asking the judge to make things right. Eventually, just to get rid of her, he gave her what she wanted. Her prayers were finally answered.

Why do you think Jesus told us this story? What does he want us to understand? There are many things that are unfair in our world and there are many people like the woman in the story who struggle to make their voices heard. This year is a Jubilee Year, a special year when we try to make the world a fairer place for all people to live in. We are called to join together as pilgrims of hope, working together for God's kingdom of justice, peace and love.

Our Challenge: Whose voice do we need to hear to help make the world a fairer place? (Adapted from CAFOD website)

Mercy Mass Thanks:

Thank you to our Parish Priest Fr Justin for celebrating Mass with us at St Alipius Church on Friday 10th October. Fr Justin spoke to us about the famous Catherine McAuley quote "We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us" and how we can all show this light in our lives.

Special thanks also to our amazing Mercy Leaders who welcomed us to our celebration and spoke about spreading kindness, hope and light wherever we go.

We welcomed many of the local Sisters of Mercy and Mercy Associates - their presence and support are a reminder of our wonderful history and the values of Catherine McAuley that our school holds dear. Thank you to all the families, friends and parish members who joined us and to the students, who were so interested, reverent, curious and who participated in our celebration beautifully.

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



Welcome back to Term 4!

This term is full of exciting activities and events for our students and staff. Starting soon students will be completing assessments from our PAT suite. PAT (Progressive Achievement Tests) help teachers understand each child's progress in reading, maths, and vocabulary. The results provide valuable insights to guide learning, highlight strengths, and identify areas for growth. These assessments also support teachers in preparing accurate and informative Semester 2 reports.

Please continue to check Seesaw regularly for up-to-date learning shared by your children. As the term progresses, more posts will appear. Both children and teachers are always delighted to see your comments and encouragement. Thank you for continuing to take an active interest in your child's learning.

Week of October 12 - October 19 at St Francis Xavier Primary School - Ballarat East



110
New Student Posts



28
Comments

Enjoy the week ahead.



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

School Closure Day – Staff Professional Learning

Monday 27th October is a School Closure Day (Pupil-Free Day). On this day, all staff will engage in professional learning focused on literacy across our school. Staff will be working with DOBCEL Literacy Leaders from the FLARE Structured Literacy Team to deepen our understanding and practice of explicit instruction through the “I Do, We Do, You Do” model.

Staff will also explore strategies from Doug Lemov's *Teach Like a Champion* to strengthen classroom management, enhance student engagement, and improve learning outcomes. We will put a spotlight on our data to inform the teaching and learning in the classroom. This day forms part of our ongoing professional commitment to engaging with contemporary best-practice research and ensuring continual improvement in teaching and learning for all students.



Lindy Harty,
Literacy Leader

Child Safe Standard 3: Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.



SPECIAL REPORT: World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day is marked every year on the 10th of October as a reminder of the importance of mental health to our overall wellbeing. It is a day that encourages families, schools, workplaces and communities across the globe to start conversations, reduce stigma and highlight the support available for those who may be struggling.

Mental health challenges can affect anyone: children, teens and adults alike. Recognising this helps us create more compassionate and supportive environments.

Parents and caregivers play a central role in shaping the mental health of their children. World Mental Health Day is an opportunity to pause and reflect on the pressures young people face in today's world and how we can best support them. Whether it's helping children find balance between school, technology and rest; encouraging open conversations about feelings; or modelling healthy coping strategies ourselves - small steps at home can make a big difference.

By engaging with resources and discussions on this day and everyday, families can strengthen their understanding of mental health and contribute to a culture where seeking help is seen as a sign of strength, not weakness.

This SchoolTV Special Report highlights the importance of World Mental Health Day and offers practical suggestions for how your family can acknowledge and support it together.

Here is the link to our Special Report: https://sfxballarat.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-world-mental-health-day-au

Sending cheers your way,

Gemma Johnson, **Wellbeing Leader**



Regional Athletics

Hurricane-like conditions played havoc at the recent Greater Western Region Athletics at Llanberris. Despite the conditions, we were proudly represented by 13 amazing students with everyone showing grit and determination to do their best. Congratulations to Sidney, Jed, Alex & Tom who have qualified to run at the State Championships later this 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.

Division Golf

Well done to all of the students that were selected to represent SFX at this Friday's Division Golf tournament at Mt Xavier Golf Club. All relevant information has been sent to the families of those students selected.

SFX Junior Sports Day

A highlight on the school calendar is the Junior Sports Day, which will once again be conducted at Russell Square on Friday October 31st. Students in Foundation, Yr 1 & Yr 2 will participate in a variety of fun activities as well as running and relay races. Our Yr 6 Sports Captains will manage the day and this is a wonderful opportunity for them to engage with the younger students and show their leadership skills.

Term 4:

- 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 + Yr 6 Sports Captains)
- Week 5 - Wednesday Nov 5th - Eureka Division Cricket @ Alfredton Reserve (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 7 - Friday November 21st - Interschool Sport with Emmaus - Yr 5 @ SFX, Yr 6 @ Emmaus

SFX Football Jumpers, Singlets & Netball dresses/bibs

If you have any SFX Football jumpers, singlets or netball dresses/bibs at home could you please return them to Mr Down or Mr Carroll or drop them into the office.

Have a great week.



Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator

P&F News

• Santa Photos!!!

The P&F are excited to bring you an opportunity to meet Santa & capture your own magical memories – this is your opportunity to have Santa photos without it costing a fortune – for a gold coin donation come and meet Santa, use your own phone or camera and capture your own photos – perfect to use on your Christmas cards – Sunday 9th November (See flyer for more details) – bookings essential – reserve your time slot in the office – spots are limited – book early to avoid disappointment!

• We are super excited to announce that the SFX **COLOUR RUN** is back for 2025 - Friday 14th November

Last Friday we launched the 2025 SFX Colour Run, the eldest child in your family would have bought home a letter which contains a link & a QR code where you can sign your child up with their own cybersafe online fundraising page and start receiving donations as well as additional information about this years colour run.

This year we will have spot prizes every day the kids are at school – to be eligible for these spot prizes you need to sign your child up with their own fundraising page. You can also use the QR code on the flyer in the newsletter or the following link: <https://stfrancixavierballarateast.goraiseit.com.au/>

We will be looking for volunteers on the day of the Colour Run to ensure that it runs smoothly. Please reach out to Lisa Clark on 0412 647 737 if you are able to help – please note you will need a Working with Childrens card. There will also be a Consent form sent out via PAM in the coming weeks – please keep an eye out for this. Happy Fundraising!

- **Uniform Shop**

Our Second Hand Uniform shop is always open, please see the office staff if you wish to have a look at any items in our Second Hand Uniform shop, or reach out to a member of our P&F to help you with any of your Uniform needs

- **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!

- **Zooper Doopers - every FRIDAY in Term 4 - \$1 each available at 2nd break**



2025 SFX Colour Run Fundraiser

Friday 14th November

- **Spot Prizes drawn every school day of the campaign**
- **Opportunity to slime the teachers**
- **Free Sunglasses for every child**
- **Free Zooper Dooper at the end**
- **Don't forget to wear a white t-shirt for the best effect**

**Volunteers needed to make the
day run smoothly - Please
contact Lisa 0412 647 737**



Santa Photos

The P&F invites you and your family to meet Santa and capture your own magical Christmas memories!

When: Sunday 9th November 10am- 4pm

Where : SFX Staff Room

Cost: Gold Coin Donation

All money raised will be used to purchase items for Reverse Advent Boxes

What's Included:

- A 5-minute personal time slot with Santa
- A festive backdrop
- Bring your Phone or your camera & take your own photos - perfect for Christmas cards or keepsakes - we will have members of the P&F who can assist in taking photos of your whole family on the day



Bookings essential - reserve your time slot in the office!

Spots are limited - book early to avoid disappointment!

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

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C 19th October, 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Tuesday October 21 st	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East	
Wednesday October 22 nd	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday October 23 rd	11.00 am	Calvary Kirralee Aged Care	
Friday October 24 th	9.30am	St Alipius' Ballarat East	
Saturday October 25 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday October 25 th		Sunday October 26 th	
6.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Buninyong Gordon
6.30 pm	Clarkes Hill	10.30 am	Ballarat East Ballan

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED
Ruth Hamm

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME
Fr Denis Dennehy, Bill Fay, Michael Conlan, Joan
Therese, Margaret Callyn, Mary Hamm, Constance
Edwards, William Mahar, Ellen Doyle, William
Gleeson, Una Shanahan, Constance Gleeson

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL
Irene D'Arcy, 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 Fawley (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.*

COLLECTIONS

The figures below are for last weekend.

Supporting our priests: \$936

Supporting our parish: \$463

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

MINISTRIES OF PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD: WHY ARE THEY SO IMPORTANT?

Bishop Paul has prepared some reflections on the importance of the ministry of proclaiming God's Word. The reflections are available from the diocesan website - scan or click the QR code.



30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY REUNION

- DAMASCUS COLLEGE

In 2025, we proudly celebrate 30 years since the founding of Damascus College, a milestone that honours our rich heritage and the uniting of three schools, Sacred Heart College, St Martin's in the Pines and St Paul's Technical College. Together, we have built a vibrant, faith-filled community that continues to inspire students and families across generations.

We invite all members of our community - past and present students, families, staff and friends — to join us.

30 Year Anniversary Reunion on Saturday 25 October 2025, from 2.00pm to 5.00pm at Damascus College. Enjoy live music, campus tours, archive displays, refreshments and the opportunity to reconnect, reminisce and celebrate our shared story.

Everyone is welcome. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1461755>

PLANNED GIVING STATEMENTS

Planned Giving Statements and a Profit and Loss Statement along with a letter from our priests have been emailed out this week. If you didn't receive yours, you may find an envelope bearing your name at the rear of the church. We thank you for participating in this program.

HOMILIES

Parishioners are asked to note that both Frs. Justin and Shaiju's homilies are being placed on the parish website for those who would like to read over them following Mass. To access the homilies, go to our website and click on the 'Resources' box, you will find them here.

BANK TRANSFERS - PAYMENT DISPLAY NOTICE

New Security Feature Important Information for Online Payments Across Australia, Major Banks are implementing 'Confirmation of Payee' – a new security system that displays the legal account holder name to help prevent payment fraud. When you make payments to our parish, which has an account with CDF, your statement and payment screen will now display the legal name for the CDF account rather than the name of the parish. This legal name is: 'Archdiocese of Melbourne Catholic Development Fund'. What this means for you? While your parish name may not appear on the payment page, you can still use the familiar name (e.g., a parish name) when making payments. Rest assured, this is to be expected, and your payment will reach the correct destination. Following the Diocese of Ballarat CDF merger, Ballarat client accounts are now included under the new legal name 'Archdiocese of Melbourne Catholic Development Fund' with our banking partner. This is a normal security feature, and your payment is still legitimate and secure. If you have any questions about your payment, please contact CDF or the Diocese Office directly.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Our annual Remembrance Mass, celebrating the lives of those who have passed away in the past 12 months will be held at 6:00 pm on Saturday November 8th at St Alipius. A second Remembrance Mass will be celebrated at Ss. Peter and Paul's Buninyong on Sunday November 16th at 10.30 am. If you have lost a loved one in the past twelve months, but they weren't buried from our parish, please contact the parish office to have them remembered at this Mass.

VISITING PRIESTS

This weekend we welcome and thank Fr. Kevin Maloney and Fr Gary Jones, who will be saying Masses in our parish. We are grateful for their willingness to be here with us.

MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON CANCELLED

Please note that the Melbourne Cup Luncheon has been cancelled due to a lack of interest in this year's event.

LITURGICAL MUSIC WORKSHOP IN BALLARAT WITH BR MICHAEL HERRY FMS

This workshop will feature special music for Advent and the Christmas season, how to sing the Responsorial Psalms each Sunday and beautiful music for prayer and worship from Marist Music on Thursday, November 20, 2025 at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 480A Gillies Street, Wendouree at 7.00pm. Please register your attendance at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/liturgical-music-workshop-with-br-michael-herry-fms/> or scan or click the QR code.

OCTOBER DATES

Tuesday 28th
5.00pm Mass at the Cathedral for clergy jubilees - Bishop Paul, Frs. Eugene McKinnon & Wally Tudor

PASTORAL LETTER TO THE CATHOLICS OF VICTORIA ON EUTHANASIA AND ASSISTED SUICIDE

The State Government is seeking to amend Victoria's euthanasia and assisted suicide laws. If passed, the Government's Bill would further weaken protections for vulnerable patients and reduce protections for medical practitioners who conscientiously object to euthanasia and assisted suicide. In response the Bishops of Victoria have written a pastoral letter to asking that we contact our local Members of Parliament to urge them to vote against the proposed laws. A copy of this availability in the foyers of our churches or via this link: www.bit.ly/EuthanasiaBill

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

There are a variety of materials currently available which support people to pray and reflect during the Advent period. If you would like a copy of some of this material, please contact the parish office and leave your name with Nat or Cathy and we will place an order.

BAPTISM

Rosie Pearl Wilson
Daughter of Jordan and Danielle Wilson

Ted Joe Alexander
Son of Jordan Alexander and Gabrielle Wellington

OCTOBER IS CATHOLIC MISSION MONTH

Each year during October, Catholic Mission and the broader Catholic community come together to celebrate World Mission Month, guided by the theme "Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples." Together, we have the power to create change and build a more just world for people everywhere. By supporting missionaries in their work, we can create life-changing opportunities for countless children, families, and communities worldwide. Join us in making a difference for our sisters and brothers.

This week, you're invited to partner with the Church in Zambia to help women overcome poverty and mothers give birth safely. The Women's Cooperative, led by Sr Jane will provide women with the training and support required to break the cycle of scarcity, and the Chilonga Mission Hospital is determined to ensure every woman and baby receives a safe and dignified start to life. During World Mission Sunday, we are called to be 'Missionaries of hope among all peoples', and we invite you to extend Christ's love to those in need in Zambia. Your gift will also assist many other Church programs around the world. www.catholicmission.org.au/mission. Free Call: 1800257296

CATHOLIC MISSION SUNDAY – AN INVITATION

Bishop Edwin Mwansa Mulandu, Bishop of Mpika in Zambia, will visit Ballarat on Saturday 25th October to celebrate the 5.30 Cathedral Vigil Mass. There will be a cuppa in the Cathedral Presbytery at 4.30 pm for those who would like to have the opportunity to meet +Edwin and hear first-hand about the mission work in Zambia).

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MAGAZINE

The Australian Catholics Magazine is available in the foyers of our churches. Pick up your copy today, it always contains a series of interesting articles to reflect on.

Never Abandon the Struggle for Justice

Reflection on the Gospel-29th Sunday in Ordinary Time C
(Luke 18:1-8)

Veronica Lawson RSM

In today's gospel, the narrator has the Lukan Jesus introducing the reader to a parable "about the need to pray always". If the parable that follows were really about prayer, then the unjust judge would image a God who has no respect for anyone and is reluctant to hear the pleas of the exploited! There are clearly problems with this and scholars are divided on how to explain it. The most likely explanation is that, in the editorial process, the gospel writer has added Jesus' introductory words, his final instruction to pay attention to the judge's words and the three questions at the end. The original parable was almost certainly told in another context and ended with the words of the judge. It has acquired different meanings as it has shifted from an oral to a written context and the Lukan author adjusts it rather awkwardly to the issues he wants to address with his communities.

The action is located in "a certain city", suggesting that it is a story for any and every city where the vulnerable persist in seeking justice. There are two main characters, the judge and the widow. There is another non-speaking character in the wings, namely the widow's opponent. The hearer or reader is invited to fill the gaps. Who is this opponent? What sort of injustice is the widow experiencing? Since the judge clearly recognises the validity of the widow's claim, why does he refuse to hear her plea?

There may be a hint in this that he is accepting bribes from the woman's adversary. We might well ask what sort of judge, especially a judge in the Jewish tradition, would admit that he has no respect for God or anyone else.

A vital clue to understanding the parable lies in the translation of the final words of the judge. A literal translation reads: "so that she won't finish up giving me a black eye". Translators have consistently softened the impact of this with a metaphorical reading. Might Jesus be drawing attention to the plight of those in that society who can only get justice from a corrupt judiciary if they resort to violence? The widow in this story is one feisty woman: without the support of a husband or the benefit of social security payments, she has only her own personal resources to rely upon. The judge operates from the untested assumption that she is prepared to use her fists. In fact, like the God of Israel, she uses only her constant appeal for justice. Jesus tells his hearers to pay attention to what the "unjust judge" has to say. It is not entirely clear what the reader is meant to take from this story. One possibility is that those who seem to have little power can win out in the end if they have the courage to persist in their struggles for justice, an encouraging message in the face of ongoing planetary distress.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Twenty-Nine Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 17:8-13

2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Gospel: Luke: 18:1-8

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach: 35: 12-14

2 Timothy: 4: 6-8

Gospel: Luke: 18: 9-14

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 17th October Hosted by FTW Theme: Excellence

Excellence - Being the best person we can be. We always try our hardest, even when it's difficult, just like Jesus did.

FLP	Jacob Walker, Spencer Belsar	4JS	Noah Osciak, Leo Dodd, Abbey Williams
FGJ	Harvey Rowland, Lula Blomeley Term 3 Respect - Arthur Latchford	4LK	Archie Gerdtz, James Bodnar
FBO'K	Nehemiah Abraham, Daphne Reus	4KB	Casey Hartup, Sophie Knowles, Alora Warren
FTW	Eva Ludbrook, Teddy Veal	5CC	Eli Jones, Bridie Millington
1JS	Aria Steinman, Harry Jolly	5ZP	Mollie Arnts, Remi James
1EM	Parker Davis , Rex Owins	5QM	James Bosworth, Nixon George
1GT	Murphy Daniel, Jed Phelan	6PB	Lois Cummins, Evie Tuffen
2RR	Harvey Mason, Yael Vasserman	6ZA	Lachie De Lorenzo, Evie Staley
2MH	Noa Cavanagh, Zephyr Swanson	6MM	Maddie Murphy, Archie Williams
2TS	Tom Stanley, Frankie Richards	EE	1JS
3LL	Arlo Troon, Eliza Vallance	PA	Claudia Cochrane, Elizabeth Baruwa
3JT	Devon McCartin, Ignatius Rush	VA	Pippa Gleeson , Edie Brennan
3DG	Paityn Grant, Oscar Kersley	PE	Jasper Govan, Ada Mason
		Tch	Harry McMahon , Bailey McCartin

Principal's Award:

QUERIES: TEXT SEAN 0411 602 204



TERM 4 SPORTS!

**WEDNESDAYS: MULTI-SPORTS
3:20PM - 4:50PM**

**BASKETBALL, SOCCER, FRISBEE, TENNIS
& CRICKET (2 WEEKS OF EACH)**

**11 WEEK PROGRAM
PREPS TO GRADE 6**

**SIGN UP AT
ANY TIME
DURING THE
TERM**

**\$23 + GST
PER SESSION**



ST FRANCIS XAVIER PS

**SESSIONS RUN AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER PS
PICK UP IS AT 4:50PM FROM THE SCHOOL**



Proud Local Partner

WWW.KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU/GREATER-BALLARAT

Lions Club of Ballarat proudly presents International Entertainment Australia's...

2025 World Festival of Magic

The World Festival of Magic features world-class acts performing astonishing illusions, interactive magic, and comedy. Providing relaxed theatre performances for children, young adults and families in the Grampians Region.

Enjoy the "live performance" experience with a casual attitude to audience noise and movement in an accessible and inclusive environment, where you are welcomed and free to be yourself without restriction or judgement.

One hour shows. Suitable for all ages and accessible for people...

- with diverse abilities and backgrounds (wheelchair accessible)
- who might require a more flexible and inclusive environment when attending the theatre (sensory-friendly).
- who are facing hardship.
- are without access or opportunity to live theatre.

***Featuring moving and flashing lights, and upbeat, sometimes dramatic music.**

ALL TICKETS ARE COMPLIMENTARY, including parent, sibling and carer tickets. Thanks to sponsorship from local businesses.

***Bookings from schools, organisations, carers and families are all welcome.**

Scan the QR Code to visit the shows website and watch highlights from previous shows...



FOUNDERS THEATRE - FEDERATION UNIVERSITY Chancellor Drive (off University Drive), Mount Helen Campus VIC		
SHOW DATE	#1 SHOWTIME	#2 SHOWTIME
SATURDAY, 15 TH NOVEMBER 2025	11.30 AM	2.00 PM

To book tickets, please email your name, preferred showtime/s and ticket numbers to...

meredithnewman@showintent.com.au

or call / text 0404-367-782

Cafs Early Help Group Programs

ADHD and Me

Presented in partnership with the centre for Perinatal Health and Parenting

In this 2h workshop, the centre for Perinatal Health and Parenting will focus on empowering parents to explore all things ADHD! The session will cover:

- What does an ADHD diagnosis mean for my child?
- What techniques can I use to support ADHD sensory needs and behaviours in the home?

A space is provided for Q&A for any specific questions you might have about neurodiversity.

Group Information

Date: Tuesday 25th November 2025

Time: 10.30am-12.30pm

Cost: Free

Location: 515 Chisholm Street, Black Hill, Ballarat



To register use the QR Code provided:

For Referral use the QR code provided, or further information contact the Early Help Team on family.support@cafs.or.au or 1800 692 237



Cafs Early Help Group Programs

Infant Child First Aid

Presented in partnership with PAEDS

This FREE Program is for parents/carers of babies and children. Babies under 12 months are welcome! The group explores First Aid techniques delivered by professionals. PAEDS vision is to empower all individuals with the knowledge to confidently manage illness and accidents! Issues we will explore include burns, head injury, rash, choking, breaks, CPR and more.

Group Information

Date: Tuesday 28th October 2025

Time: 10am- 1pm

Location: 515 Chisholm Street Black Hill.



To register use the QR Code provided:



For Referral use the QR code provided or further information contact the Early Help Team on family.support@cafs.org.au or 1800 692 237

(PAEDS)

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Cafs Early Help Group Programs

Dad's Tool Kit

A Parenting Program for Dads and Male Carers

Dad's Tool Kit is an eight-week Parenting Program for fathers and male carers who are seeking to gain a better understanding of their children's needs in relation to relationship safety and stability. Themes of respectful interpersonal and family relationships are covered with topics including:

Needs	Connection
Emotional regulation	Values
Family safety	Relationship
Communication	Boundaries

Group Information

Date: Wednesdays starting 22nd Oct 2025

Time: 10am – 12pm

Location: 515 Chisholm Street, Black Hill.



For consultation or Referral contact the Early Help Team:

family.support@cafs.org.au or 1800 692 237

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Cafs Early Help Group Programs

Tuning Into Kids

A Parenting Program for Parents and Carers in partnership
with the Salvos

Tuning into Kids is a FREE 6-week program that aims to help parents or carers to understand their children's emotional needs.

TIK supports parents and carers to build trusting relationship with their children. Themes covered:

Relationship	Communication
Emotion Coaching	Needs

Group Information

Date: Wednesdays starting Oct 22nd 2025

Time: 1.30pm – 3pm

Location: Online



For consultation or Referral contact the Early Help Team:

family.support@cafs.org.au or 1800 692 237



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