



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 3rd November 2025
Term 4 Week 5

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

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)

Thursday 6th November
Victorian State Track & Field
@ Lakeside Stadium (for
qualifiers from Regional
event)

Friday 7th November
No Assembly

Sunday 9th November
Santa Photos for those who
have reserved a spot

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

Tuesday 2nd December
Pop Up Uniform Shop

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

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Once again, our school was the target of unwelcome visitors last week. Copper wiring was stolen from our grounds, and, once again, learning was interrupted for our children. It's hard to believe that lightning can strike twice in the same place, and yet it can. Desperate individuals, with just enough knowledge to access the pits and remove what they wanted, caused significant damage to our school.

Of course, we will recover—and in fact, we already have. Yet the feelings of intrusion and violation remain strong. Our amazing service providers have worked tirelessly to restore power and repair the damage, and we are extremely grateful for their hard work and commitment to our school.

When we discovered the damage early Tuesday morning, we had to act quickly. We knew families would already be on their way to school or preparing to drop children off. A message was sent out immediately, and as always, our parent community rallied to support us in our time of need. Your flexibility and understanding, even with such short notice, were deeply appreciated. Those children who remained at school embraced a different type of day and were wonderfully accepting of the changes that had to be made. Our staff, as always, provided exceptional care for all students, and I am very proud of their efforts.

Where to from here? That's a good question. We are currently exploring additional security measures around the school, which you may notice in the coming weeks. Fortunately, our CCTV system captured valuable information that has been shared with police. New vandal-proof pit covers are in place, and we remain hopeful that we won't have to experience this type of incident again.

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



School Closure Day

Thank you to all families who supported our school closure day this week. We worked on assessment and reporting as we enter into the second half of the school year. Days like these are incredibly important and we certainly appreciate your support.

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL- Sunday November 2, 2025 All Saints (Year C)

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus saw the crowds and went up a hill, where he sat down. His disciples gathered round him, and he began to teach them:

"Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!

"Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort them!

"Happy are those who are humble; they will receive what God has promised!

"Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully!

"Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them!

"Happy are the pure in heart; they will see God!

"Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children!

"Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!

"Happy are you when people insult you and persecute you and tell all kinds of evil lies against you because you are my followers. Be happy and glad, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. This is how the prophets who lived before you were persecuted." *(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation)*

Our Challenge: Perhaps this week we can try particularly hard to remember what it is that Jesus asks of us. Perhaps you could choose to try and be one of the types of people that Jesus says will be happy this week: gentle and humble, merciful, peaceful, doing what is right. Perhaps you could show special care to those who are sad, laughed at, hurt or poor.



Invitation to Visit our School Chapel: Over the weekend (November 2nd), the Catholic Church celebrated All Souls' Day, a time to remember and pray for our loved ones who have passed away. We are reminded of the universal human experience of mortality and the eternal promise of God's love and mercy. In doing so, we acknowledge the enduring connection that we share with those who have gone before us.

This week we invite you to visit our school chapel; to perhaps light a candle or say a prayer (according to your faith tradition) to honour the memory of your departed loved ones.

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



Last Friday we celebrated **World Teachers' Day!** 🍎 We thank all the incredible staff at **St Francis Xavier Primary School**. Each of you makes a difference — every day, in every classroom, for every child.



Your dedication, care and creativity help our students grow, learn and shine. We are truly grateful for all that you do to inspire and nurture our learners.



Thank you for making SFX a place where hearts and minds flourish! ✨



Teaching and Learning Update

Term Four is well underway, with teachers and students working hard to consolidate the learning from 2025 and ensure every child is well prepared for success in 2026. We remain committed to using the **Stepping Stones Maths curriculum** and **Mental Maths** to help all students build strong skills and confidence as mathematicians—both at SFX and beyond. As always, we continue to strive for excellence in the teaching and learning experiences we provide each day.

Throughout this term, teachers will continue to share student progress through our **assessment schedule** and the **Seesaw Digital Journal** platform. Assessment tasks posted on Seesaw highlight your child's achievements. Teachers are also busy preparing **Semester Two Reports**, which will be shared later this term. Each child will receive a written report along with progression points that reflect their learning achievements in alignment with the **Victorian Curriculum (Version 2)**.

Seesaw also provides us with insights into our usage. Below is a snapshot of our Week 4 engagement.

Week of October 26 - November 2 at St Francis Xavier Primary School - Ballarat East



237

New Student Posts



104

Comments

Enjoy the short week.



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

- **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 2025**

Make sure you have signed your child up with their own fundraising page – not just to collect donations, but to be in the running for our spot prizes throughout the campaign – prizes drawn every day!

<https://stfrancisxavierballarateast.goraiseit.com.au/>

We will be looking for volunteers for to help on the day of the Colour Run to ensure it runs smoothly – please reach out to Lisa Clark on 0412 647 737 if you are able to help – you will need a Working With Children card.

There will also be consent forms sent out on PAM in the coming weeks

Happy Fundraising!

- **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DONATIONS** – We are seeking donations for our Christmas Raffle – if you would like to make a donation, or know someone or a Business who would like to make a donation – please reach out to Lisa Clark 0412 647 737 – or drop your donation into the office

- **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 – **We will be holding another Pop Up Shop on Tuesday 2nd December – we would love if anyone who has uniforms that no longer fit be donated prior to this date!**

- **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**



SFX Christmas raffle

DONATIONS

SFX Parents & Friends association are
seeking your support for donations
for our Christmas raffle

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO OWNS A BUSINESS THAT
COULD OFFER A SERVICE OR WOULD DONATE AN ITEM FOR
OUR SFX CHRISTMAS RAFFLE?

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DONATION BUT ARE UNSURE
HOW YOU CAN HELP?

PURCHASE A GIFT VOUCHER, DONATE A HAMPER,
PURCHASE AN ITEM TO DONATE

ALL BUSINESSES & FAMILIES WHO MAKE DONATIONS WILL
BE PROMOTED IN ORDER FOR OUR SFX COMMUNITY TO
CONTINUE SUPPORTING THEM IN THE SAME MANNER THAT
THEY HAVE SUPPORTED OUR SCHOOL

Please drop any donations into the
front office, or if you have any
questions contact Lisa Clark

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!

2025 SFX Colour Run Fundraiser



**Sign up to begin fundraising
today - scan on the QR code**

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**

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

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed Year C – 2nd November, 2025

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES			
Weekday Masses			
Tuesday November 4 th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East	
Wednesday November 5 th	11.00 am	Mercy Place (All Welcome)	
Thursday November 6 th	10.30 am	St Brigid's Ballan	
Friday November 7 th	9.30am	St Alipius' Ballarat East	
Saturday November 8 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses			
Saturday November 8 th		Sunday November 9 th	
6.00 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

Ray Gregory

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Nikola Vukmirovic, Eris Blood, Martin John Seiger, Bill Hall, Richard Keating, Catherine Hayward-Brown, Henry Nolan, Mary Donegan, Jack Molloy, John James Ronan, Bart Fuller

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Daren Vukmirovic, 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 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.

Supporting our priests: \$944
Supporting our parish: \$ 1,038

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

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

VIT REGISTRATION

As part of the safeguarding in our parish, we ask teachers who volunteer to provide their updated VIT registration to the parish on an annual basis. If you are a volunteer who needs to do this, can we ask that you do so as soon as possible please.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL) NEWS

Mass for deceased members next Monday November 3rd, at 12.05 at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Next meeting of the Cathedral Branch of the CWL will be held at Nazareth House on Monday November 3rd at 1.30pm. New members welcome.

Garden Party to support Pregnancy Help Ballarat, Sunday November 30th - Keep this date free - Details to follow.

Christmas Stall at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday December 14th, after the morning Masses. Competition for decorated Christmas cake. Tickets to be sold in advance. Rose sale. Donations welcome
Inquiries - Carmel 0401 175 045

lives of those who have passed away in the past 12 months will be held in coming weeks.

ST. ALIPIUS PARISH

6 pm Saturday November 8th at St Alipius

10.30 am Sunday November 16th at Ss. Peter and Paul's Buninyong

GORDON PARISH

The cemetery Mass will be held on Sunday 16th November, at 11.00am, at the Gordon Cemetery, Old Western Highway, Gordon. All welcome.

BUNGAREE PARISH

Mass at the Bungaree (Pootilla) cemetery on November 9th at 9am.

RCIA FOR CHILDREN

The parish currently has several families who have expressed interest in the RCIA for children. This program will run in the first term of 2026. If you know of anyone who would be interested in finding out more about this process, please encourage them to contact the parish office. An information meeting will be held in late November, early December.

INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028 THEME ANNOUNCED

Pope Leo XIV has chosen "This is My Body, Given for You" as the theme for the International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Sydney in 2028. Read more at the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

VISITING PRIESTS

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

During Advent this year, we will be having the Children's Liturgy of the Word at our 6pm Masses. This program will begin on the evening of Saturday November 29th and will run each weekend until Christmas. This gives children a chance to listen to the readings, complete an activity and pray together. Please spread the word.

UPCOMING DATES

Thursday 6th November
Baptism Information Session
Mary Glowrey Room (Cathedral)
10 am & 5.30 pm

Friday 7th November
Caring Group Gathering
St. Alipius' Hall
2 pm

Saturday 8th November
Remembrance Mass
6 pm St. Alipius'

Wednesday 12th November
Parish Finance Council
7.30 am – Parish Hub

Sunday 16th November
Remembrance Mass
10.30 am Ss. Peter and Paul's

Thursday 20th November
Liturgy Meeting
5 pm – Parish Hub

PPC Meeting
6.30 pm - Venue TBC

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS 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.

CARING GROUP

The Caring Group will meet on Friday 7th November at 2pm in St. Alipius Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please bring a small plate to share.

COUNTER'S ROSTER

Our parish is currently looking for people who might like to be on our counter's roster. If you are available on a Tuesday morning and think that this is something you could do, please contact the parish office. Please note that a Police check is required for this, but we are happy to help you with that.

PRIESTS AND SYNODALITY IN AUSTRALASIA WEBINAR

The Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR) and Garratt Publishing present "The Afternoon of Christianity: The courage to change". Tomas Halik asserts the conviction that personal spiritual accompaniment will be the crucial pastoral role in the Church of the future. How would this play out for priests in a Synodal Church? Joe Grayland and Brendan Reed will discuss this and related issues and Carmel Pilcher will provide a response and observations. This free event on zoom will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2025 at 7.00pm. Register at [https://garratt.wufoo.com/forms/k16z5y05046j9f/d/?ct=t\(allCats-ACCCRWebinar6Nov-22oct2025\)&mc_cid=5e21f29896&mc_eid=5a2c8a01a7](https://garratt.wufoo.com/forms/k16z5y05046j9f/d/?ct=t(allCats-ACCCRWebinar6Nov-22oct2025)&mc_cid=5e21f29896&mc_eid=5a2c8a01a7)

BAPTISMS

Gus Anthony & Ned James Whittaker
Sons of Brad and Darcie Whittaker

PRAYER FOR THE JUBILEE OF THE WORLD OF EDUCATION

Education offers hope and opportunity. Those who serve in this vocation shape minds and hearts, strengthen character, and empower children and young people to realise their full potential.

Today, we give thanks for the role they play in our communities, and we lift up our prayers for their continued wisdom, patience, and fortitude.

We pray for all of our education communities. Thank you, loving God, for the teachers, mentors, administrators, and support staff who devote themselves to the nurturing and development of students, and for their unwavering commitment to cultivating knowledge, fostering curiosity, and instilling a profound love of learning in the hearts of future generations.

May their work always be guided by compassion, humility, and a deep desire to inspire every student entrusted to their care. Amen.

Destined to Share the Fullness of Life

Reflection on the Gospel- All Souls Day

(Luke 7:11-17) Veronica Lawson RSM

All Souls Day is a time to remember those who have died, especially the members of our family and those close to us. It follows immediately on the Solemnity of All Saints. Over these two days, we celebrate the mystery of the communion of saints: the saints *through whom* we pray to God, the saints *for whom* we pray, and the saints (God's "holy" people) *with whom* we gather to pray. All Souls Day was first celebrated by monks in the seventh century, on the day after Pentecost. Since the tenth century, it has been observed on November 2. Prayer for the dead is grounded in a deep conviction that a purifying process accompanies the experience of death. Some suggest that at death we face the personal limitations we have not faced in life. Who knows? It remains in the realm of mystery.

In today's gospel reading, Jesus encounters a funeral cortege at the gates of Nain. He is moved with compassion (*esplanchnisthē*), moved at the very core of his being, for the plight of a woman who is shattered by the death of her only son and under threat of a life of destitution. In first century Palestine, women who lacked the protection of a husband or adult son were among the most destitute. The unnamed woman of our story has already suffered the loss of her husband. She now grieves for the loss of her adult son who is identified as a "young man".

For a widow to lose her only son was shattering. She became dependent upon the goodwill of neighbours and friends and whatever extended family she may have had. Nain was a tiny village in the Valley of Jezreel in the southern part of Galilee. As in every town, the gate was the place where legal cases were determined and justice was delivered. Now, at the gate of this town, Jesus of Nazareth brings both mercy and justice. He feels the pain of the widow and responds by restoring life, not only to the young man, but to his mother, to the extended family and to the grieving village community.

Like this young man, Jesus was the only son of a woman who had possibly been widowed by the time he began his public ministry. His mother is to know the same pain of loss as her unnamed "sister" in Nain. The sight of the funeral procession and the tears of the woman elicit his heart-felt compassion. Tears will function later in this chapter as an instrument of hospitality (7:36-50). In this story, the tears and touch of the Anointed of God bring life to a son who was lost and restore life to a community and family within that community. In the context of today's celebration, the young man's restoration to earthly life might function to remind us that death does not have the last word, that we are ultimately destined to share the fullness of life with God, the source of life.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

2 Maccabees: 12:43-45

Romans: 5:17-21

Gospel: Luke: 7:11-17

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Ezekiel: 47:1-2, 8-9,12

1 Corinthians: 3:9-11, 16-17

Gospel: John: 2:13-22

🏀 LEARN THE GAME — WITHOUT PLAYING THE GAME! 🏀

Join the Phoenix Fledging Academy.

Where young players learn the how and why of basketball — so when it's game time, they're ready to soar! 🦅

🌟 About the Program

Want to understand basketball before jumping into full games?

Come and try our brand-new Phoenix Fledging Academy — developed exclusively by Phoenix Basketball Club!

This 6-week pathway program is designed for young players who want to build skills, confidence, and basketball knowledge — all while having fun and making new friends, without the pressure of competition!

💰 Cost: \$50 per participant 📅 Starts: Friday, 13th November

📍 Location: The Arch (Ballarat High School) – Court 3 ⌚ Time: 4:30pm – 5:30pm

👨👩👧👦 Ages: 5–8 | Boys & Girls Welcome

🔥 What We'll Work On

- ✅ Fun & Skill Development
- ✅ Ball Handling & Control
- ✅ Shooting Form & Footwork
- ✅ Passing Technique
- ✅ Defensive Positioning
- ✅ Game Rules & Strategy
- ✅ Basketball IQ Development

🚫 No Games. No Scrimmages. Just Skills.

👤 Led By

Phoenix Coaches & Senior Phoenix Players
Small group training for personalised attention.

🎁 Bonus!

All participants receive a **FREE Basketball & Drawstring Bag** upon registration!

🚫 Limited Spots Available! Register your interest today and start your basketball journey the right way.

📞 Contact: Phoenix Basketball Club ✉ Email: admin@phoenixbasketball.org

🦅 **Phoenix Basketball Club – Building Skills • Confidence • Team Spirit** 🏀