



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 4th May 2026
Term 2 Week 3

P.O. Box 2027
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Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 2 (10 weeks)

Mon 20th Apr-Fri 26th Jun

Tuesday 5th May

Foundation & Year 1
Mother's Day Stall

Wednesday 6th May

Year 2, 3 & 5
Mother's Day Stall

Thursday 7th May

Year 4 & 6
Mother's Day Stall

Friday 8th May

Catch up for anyone
who missed out on
Mother's Day Stall

Mothers and Special
Friends Day

2pm Afternoon Tea in Gym
2.40pm Liturgy in Family
Groups

Final day for Book Club
Issue 3 orders

No Assembly today

Monday 11th May

Division Cross Country @
Fed Uni (selected Yr 3, 4, 5
& 6 students)

Full winter uniform to be
worn from today

Thursday 14th May

Last day for 2027

Foundation enrolments for
existing and new families

Friday 15th May

2.40pm Assembly in
School gym led by 6MM

Friday 22nd May

2.40pm Assembly in
School gym led by FJS

Mon 25th – Friday 29th May
Catholic Education Week

Tuesday 26th May

Regional Cross Country @
Warrnambool (qualifiers
from Division XC)

On the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Families,

As we head into Week Three, it's been wonderful to see how well our students are working together. They've settled into classroom routines, are looking out for one another, and are really finding their rhythm back at school.

It's been a busy start to the term, and we're so pleased with how the routines we've put in place are helping students manage all that comes their way. There's a real sense of calm and purpose across the school, which has been lovely to see.

We often talk about how predictability supports learning—not just through routines, but through the relationships we build every day. Strong, positive connections are at the heart of great learning, and that's something we value deeply.

As the days start to get shorter and the term continues at a steady pace, we hope everyone can take comfort in the routines and sense of familiarity that help keep us all grounded.



Hola from Mark

Mark continues his journey along the Camino and is pleased to share that he has now passed 200km. Along the way, he's been enjoying the changing scenery—walking through forests, farms and even the clouds—and meeting a range of people, even if only briefly.

It's been lovely to hear his updates and to know that he is safe and well.

DOBCEL Board Visit

This week, we were fortunate to welcome members of our DOBCEL board to the school. They really enjoyed spending time in our classrooms and exploring the beautiful play spaces we're lucky to have - our paddock play is always a real highlight!

Our school captains played an important role in the visit, and we're incredibly proud of the way they represented our school. The confidence, respect, and thoughtfulness they showed in their conversations did not go unnoticed—they are a real credit to our community.



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Friday 29th May

Casual Clothes Day - gold coin donations to support Cystic Fibrosis

Division Soccer @ Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility (selected Yr 5/6 students)

2.40pm Assembly in school gym led by 2MH

Mon 1st – Thurs 4th June

Swimming Program for 2TS, 2GJ, 3LL, 4KB, 4ZA, 4RR, 5CC, 5LD, 5ML & 6MM

Friday 5th June

Staff Professional Development
Pupil free day

Monday 8th June

Public Holiday-King's Birthday Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 9th June

Swimming Program for 2TS, 2GJ, 3LL, 4KB, 4ZA, 4RR, 5CC, 5LD, 5ML & 6MM

Friday 12th June

Division Netball @ Selkirk Stadium (selected Yr 5/6 students)

2.40pm Assembly in School gym led by 5CC

Mon 15th – Fri 19th June

Swimming Program for 1GH, 1EM, 1GT, 2MH, 3JT, 3ZP, 6PB & 6JS

Friday 19th June

Interscholar Sport (Yr 5/6) tbc

2.40pm Assembly in School gym led by 3LL

Mon 22nd – Wed 24th June

Golf Clinics for Yr 5/6

Wednesday 24th June

GWR Football @ C.E. Brown Reserve Wendouree

Friday 26th June

Last day of term 2
2.20pm finish

Casual Clothes Day - gold coin donations to support Ballarat East Vinnies group

12.40pm Assembly in School gym led by 1EM

Did you know there are 62 schools in the DOBCEL community, with 51 of those being primary schools? Our Diocese—often described as stretching “from the Murray to the Sea”—includes regions such as Ballarat, Warrnambool, Horsham, Mildura and Swan Hill, and supports more than 19,000 students.

We feel very fortunate to be part of such a caring and high-performing community.

Staff News

Jessica Toohey begins her family leave this Friday, and we wish her and Dan all the very best as they prepare for this next exciting chapter. Jess has been a highly valued member of our teaching staff for a number of years, and the care and commitment she has shown our students has been outstanding. We look forward to welcoming another little one into our community.

As mentioned previously, Mr Liam Canny will step into the classroom teacher role and will be well supported by his mentors and team.

We also wish Olivia Hayward all the best as she commences a six-week period of leave this week, and we look forward to her return toward the end of term. During this time, Hayley Quinlan will take on the role of Science Teacher, and we thank her for her enthusiasm and commitment in supporting our students' learning.



Bereaved Mother's Day - Sunday May 3rd

Each year, on the Sunday before Mother's Day, we observe Bereaved Mother's Day. Established in 2010, this is a day that acknowledges motherhood, in all of its forms. Providing a space for bereaved mothers to feel seen, Bereaved Mother's Day honours a grief and love that never ends.

We keep all bereaved mothers and their families in our thoughts, with care and compassion.



Jayne Mohr, Deputy Principal – Learning Diversity

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY TERM 2 Please note that in Term 2 we have set aside one school closure day for Staff Professional Development. This will be held on Friday 5 June. There will be no classes at school on this day.

PARKING AROUND OUR SCHOOL As we settle into the term we ask that all drivers be mindful of children and other pedestrians when approaching or departing from school. Road rules must be followed at all times. Let's work together to keep everyone safe.

SCHOOL UNIFORM: We have certainly been fortunate to experience such warm weather so late into April. A reminder that Weeks 1 to 3 serve as a transition period between summer and winter uniform, allowing students to wear either option depending on the conditions. From Week 4, full winter uniform will be expected. We are also pleased to introduce the

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Term 3 (10 weeks)

Mon 13th Jul-Fri 18th Sep

Mon 13th July, Tues 14th & Wed 15th July

Year 6 Melbourne CYC Camp

Friday 17th July

Start of Term 3 Mass

No Assembly today

Friday 24th July

2.40pm Assembly in School gym led by 4RR

Friday 31st July

Casual Clothes Day - gold coin donations

2.40pm Assembly in School gym led by 3ZP

Friday 7th August

Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools Athletics @ Llanberris (selected Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6 students)

2.40pm Assembly in School gym led by FBK

Friday 14th August

Pupil free day (to be confirmed)

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

Friday 21st August

2.40pm Assembly in School gym led by 1GH

Friday 28th August

Casual Clothes Day - gold coin donations

2.40pm Assembly in School gym led by FLP

Friday 4th September

Interscholar Sport (Yr 5/6)

Fathers/Special Friends Liturgy (to be confirmed)

No Assembly today

Wednesday 9th September

Division Athletics @ Llanberris (qualifiers from BCPS Aths – Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Friday 11th September

No Assembly today

Friday 18th September

Last day of Term 3

Footy Colours Day - gold coin donations to support Fight Cancer

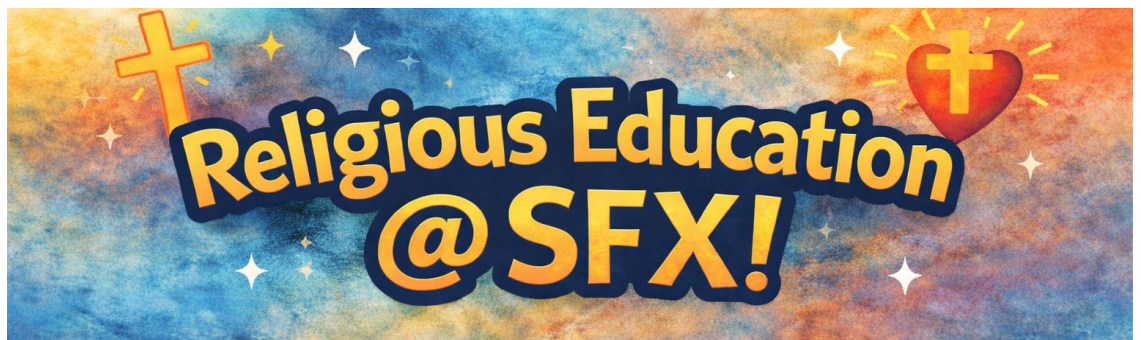
No Assembly today

St Francis Xavier puffer jacket, now available as part of the uniform for \$67. All uniform items can be purchased from Noone on Armstrong Street.

Foundation Siblings 2027 Enrolments for children of **existing** and **new families** who start Foundation/Prep in 2027 are open. Parents of **existing** and **new families** who have a child to start in 2027 - must complete the 'Enrolment Application Form' form by clicking on the following link to submit your application:

<https://dobcel.catholic.edu.au/our-schools/enrolments-expression-of-interest-form/>

Please note this is an essential step for existing families in ensuring you child is enrolled in Foundation/Prep 2027. Enrolments close 14th May 2026



Start of Term Mass

Thank you to all the families and community members who joined us for our Start of Term Mass to celebrate the season of Easter.

It was a beautiful way to begin the term together, and it was wonderful to see our students involved so thoughtfully in the liturgy. We are grateful to Fr Justin and to all who helped prepare and lead the Mass.

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Term 4 (11 weeks)

Mon 5th Oct–Fri 18th Dec

Wednesday 7th October
Year 3 Day Camp

Friday 9th October
Start of T4/Mercy Day Mass

Regional Athletics @
Llanberris (qualifiers from
Division Aths-Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6)

No Assembly today

Friday 16th October
Division Tennis @ Ballarat
Regional Tennis Centre
(selected Yr 5/6 students)

2.40pm Assembly in
School gym led by 5LD

Friday 23rd October
2.40pm Assembly in
School gym led by 1GT

Friday 30th October
Casual Clothes Day - gold
coin donations to support
MercyWorks

2.40pm Assembly in
School gym led by FTW

Monday 2nd November
Assessment and Reporting
Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 3rd November
Public Holiday-Melbourne
Cup Pupil Free Day

Friday 6th November
Eureka Division Cricket @
Alfredton Reserve (selected
Yr 5/6 students)

2.40pm Assembly in
School gym led by 6JS

Friday 13th November
2.40pm Assembly in
School gym led by 2TS

Friday 20th November
2.40pm Assembly in
School gym led by 4ZA

Wed 25th-Fri 27th Nov
Year 5 Kangaroo Camp

Friday 27th November
Casual Clothes Day - gold
coin donations to support
Ballarat East Vinnies group

No Assembly today

Friday 4th December
End of Year Mass

Thursday 17th December
Last 2026 day for students

A Time of Hope and Trust

As we continue through the Easter season, we are reminded that this is a time filled with hope, trust and new life. The message of Easter continues to guide us — that even in uncertain times, we are never alone.

This Week's Gospel – Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:1–12)

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples and reassures them, saying, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." He reminds them that he is the way, the truth and the life, and that through him, we come to know God.

The disciples are unsure and a little afraid, but Jesus encourages them to trust — even when they don't have all the answers.

This Gospel reminds us that we don't always need to know everything or have everything figured out. What matters most is that we trust the path we are on and continue to live with love, kindness and faith.

A message for families:

On May 10, we celebrate Mother's Day, a special time to give thanks for the mothers, grandmothers and special women in our lives.

Mother's Day is a chance to reflect on the love, care and guidance these important people provide each day. In many ways, they help show us what it means to live with patience, compassion and generosity — values that reflect the way of Jesus.

A family reflection:

Who are the people in our lives who guide and support us?

How can we show appreciation for the care and love we receive from others?

Our challenge for the week:

Take time this week to show gratitude to someone who guides or cares for you.

- Say thank you in a meaningful way
- Write a note or draw a picture
- Do something kind without being asked

Small acts of gratitude can make a big difference.



Michael Marshall, Religious Education Leader

Literacy Learning in Year 1

Bailey Dodd visited the Year 1's for a special incursion, where he shared his experiences and knowledge as an architect. He explained what architects do, how they design buildings, and the creative thinking involved in his job. Bailey also showed us some examples of his work and talked about the different steps in the design process. This incursion linked closely to our literacy book *Iggy Peck, Architect*, as we were able to make connections between Iggy's ideas and Bailey's real-life role. It helped us better understand how imagination and planning come together in architecture, making our learning both fun and meaningful.

We invite you to explore our Book Snapshot to see what Year 1 students are reading, writing and learning about.



Iggy Peck, Architect

by Andrea Beaty



ST FRANCIS XAVIER
PRIMARY SCHOOL | BALLARAT EAST

Year 1

At St. Francis Xavier Primary School, we believe a love of reading grows when school and home work together. This book snapshot is designed to help you connect with your child's learning—through classroom experiences, conversations, and shared stories at home. By reading together, talking about books, and making time for reading each day, you play a vital role in building confident, capable readers.



STORY SNAPSHOT

Iggy Peck, Architect follows a creative boy named Iggy who loves to build using a variety of different materials. Iggy's second grade teacher bans architecture due to her own childhood fear of tall buildings. However, during a school excursion a collapsed bridge allows Iggy to demonstrate the importance of architecture and show his teacher the value of his passion.

MAIN CHARACTERS

Iggy Peck - A creative and curious young boy who loves building structures out of anything he can find (even unusual materials like nappies!) He dreams of becoming an architect!

Miss Lila Greer - Iggy's second-grade teacher, who initially dislikes architecture due to a bad childhood experiences, She discourages Iggy's building at first but later changes her perspective.

RESPONDING IN CLASS

Students in **Year 1** will learn about the difference between statements and questions and the use of boundary punctuation. For example: An architect creates plans for the building design. (S) How many doors are included on the plan? (Q). Student will create story maps to retell the story and to write their own narrative.

THEMES

This text explores:

- Passion and creativity
- Self expression
- Problem solving and teamwork

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Suggestions to connect with the text at home:

- Go for a walk around your neighbourhood.
- Choose a building and sketch its exterior, noting the materials used and label it.
- Build with Blocks or lego your dream house or challenge yourself to build different kinds of structures using such as bridges, pyramids or domes.
- Look at famous architecture together, such as the Taj Mahal, Eiffel Tower, Sydney Opera House, etc.
- Ask lots of questions why, what and how questions!

IF THEY LOVED THIS, TRY...

The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires
Rosie Revere Engineer by Andrea Beaty
Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Buildings by Christy Hale



Lindy Harty, Literacy Leader

Wellbeing News

Mean behaviour and bullying behaviour are not the same, although both can be hurtful and harmful. Understanding the difference can help adults respond in the right way and support children effectively.

Mean behaviour is usually rude, unkind or hurtful behaviour that happens occasionally. It may be impulsive, done in the heat of the moment or because a child is upset, frustrated, or still learning social skills. Examples of this are saying something unkind once, leaving someone out of a game one day or snatching a toy or pushing in line. Mean behaviour is still not okay, but it is often a one-off or occasional conflict that can be addressed through teaching empathy, problem-solving and making amends.

Bullying is repeated, intentional behaviour that causes harm and involves a power imbalance. The child being targeted may feel unable to stop it. It can be physical (hitting, pushing, damaging property), verbal (name-calling, threats, teasing), social (excluding, spreading rumours) or online/cyberbullying (hurtful messages or posts).

Calling every conflict “bullying” can make it harder to address real bullying effectively. Children also need help learning how to handle friendship issues, conflict and unkind moments. Helping your child to understand the difference can be as easy as saying: “Sometimes people are mean once or make a bad choice. Bullying is when someone keeps being mean on purpose again and again, especially when the other person feels powerless.”

For parents and carers, it can be difficult to know how best to respond. However, recognising the signs, listening without judgement and maintaining open communication can make a significant difference.

Do It For Dolly Day is a national reminder that kindness matters and that everyone has a role to play in creating safe and inclusive communities. This Special Report provides practical guidance to help families understand bullying, support their child and promote empathy, respect and positive relationships, ensuring no child feels alone.

Here is the link to this topic http://sfxballarat.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-do-it-dolly-day

Have a wonderful week!

Christine Meneely (School Counsellor and Wellbeing/ MHiPS Leader)

Contact me on : cmeneely@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au



Sport/Physical Education News

Eureka Division Football (AFL 9's)

In unusually warm football weather, SFX was represented by 4 outstanding teams at last week's Division AFL competition at Wendouree. Displaying SFX pride, all students played with determination and teamwork and were part of many memorable moments. All 4 teams showed improved skill and teamwork as the day progressed and achieved some great results. Congratulations to the Boys SFX Red and the Girls B teams that made it to the Grand final and congratulations to the Girls A team who went through undefeated and have progressed to the Regional Finals later this term. A huge thank you Ms Astbury, Mr Canny and Luke Brennan for your support and coaching expertise on the day.

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Eureka Division Cross Country

We have a very strong squad of runners that are preparing well for the Eureka Division Cross Country at Fed Uni next Monday. 40 students from Years 3 to 6 have earned their place in the team and are looking forward to taking on the challenging course and running the best they can

Division Soccer Tournament Tryouts

This Thursday there will be tryouts for students in Yr 5 & 6 for the SFX Girls and Boys soccer teams for the upcoming Division soccer tournament. Tryouts will be conducted in the gym during break time on Thursday, Boys: 1st break and Girls 2nd break.

2026 SFX SPORTS DATES

Term 2:

- Week 4 - Monday May 11th - Division Cross Country @ Fed Uni (selected students from Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 6 - Tuesday May 26th - Regional Cross Country @ Warrnambool (qualifiers from Division XC)
- Week 6 - Friday May 29th - Division Soccer @ Ballarat Region Soccer Facility (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 7 - Monday June 1st - Thurs June 4th - Swimming Program - students from 2TS, 2GJ, 3LL, 4KB, 4ZA, 4RR, 5CC, 5LD, 5ML & 6MM
- Week 8 - Tuesday June 9th - Swimming Program - students from 2TS, 2GJ, 3LL, 4KB, 4ZA, 4RR, 5CC, 5LD, 5ML & 6MM
- Week 8 - Friday June 12th - Division Netball @ Selkirk Stadium (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 9 - Monday June 15th - Friday June 19th - Swimming Program - students from 1GH, 1EM, 1GT, 2MH, 3JT, 3ZP, 6PB & 6JS
- Week 9 - Friday June 19th - Interschool Sport (Yr 5/6) - TBC
- Week 10 - Monday June 22nd - Wednesday June 24th - Golf Clinics - students in Yr 5 & 6
- Week 10 - Wednesday June 24th - GWR Football @ C.E. Brown Res, Wendouree

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

- **Hot Lunch Reminder** – Hot lunches every Friday, place your child's order on Flexi Schools before 10am Thursday – no late orders will be taken – Volunteers needed to help pack – sign up available in your class chat group
- **Milkshake Mondays** will commence next Monday at first break \$1.50 for a milkshake & freckle/or marshmallow
The P&F are looking for anyone who would like to learn how to run Milkshake Mondays – they will then be put on a rotating roster to Co-ordinate Milkshake a few time each term so that we are not reliant on the same 1 or 2 people running this each week – if this is something you would like to do please contact Lisa on 0412 647 737 and come and learn next Monday at our first Milkshake Mondays for term 2. *Please don't think that someone else will sign up so I don't need to – if we cannot get the volunteers to co-ordinate this each week we will not be able to run this and then the Children miss out.*
We will also require 5 additional volunteers to assist each week via sign up in your class chat.

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- **Uniform Shop** Did you know our Second Hand Uniform shop is always open? Please see the ladies in the office if you wish to look at any items in our Second Hand Uniform shop, or reach out to a member of the P&F to help you with any of your Uniform needs.
All items in the Second Hand Uniform shop are between \$5 and \$10.

- **RYANS IGA COMMUNITY REWARDS Program** For the months of May & June 2026 – St Francis Xavier Primary School has been selected to participate in the **Ryan's IGA Community Rewards program** at the **Mount Clear store**



If you are in the area, pop in and collect your groceries and put you tokens in our token box

- **Mother's Day Stall – Gifts priced between \$2 and \$7** The P&F will be running a Mother's Day Stall between Tuesday & Friday next week for students to purchase a gift for their mum or special person – we will require volunteers to assist in running these – sign up via your class chat

The stalls will be held at first break as follows:

Tuesday 5th May – Foundation & Grade 1

Wednesday 6th May – Grade 2, 3 & 5

Thursday 7th May – Grade 4 & 6

Friday 8th May – catch up for anyone who missed out

Attachments

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 1st May 2026 Hosted by 4KB Theme: Respect

Respect means considering the feelings and wishes of others, respecting myself and caring for all of creation. We show respect because Jesus shows us that everyone is important and because our world needs our care.

FLP	Nellie Rix Sage Buenen	4RR	Oscar Kersley and Sutton Answer
FJS	Aniela Hallowell & Tomas MacGillivray	4ZA	Judd Boyd & Edie Giles
FBO	Levi Wilson and Sienna Cardona	4KB	Thiago Motta Crespo & Lilly Bye
FTW	Ava Hooper and Mathew Harrow	5CC	Leo Dodd and Lyla Nestor
1GH	Henry Sertori and Elsie Atkinson	5LD	Charlotte Porter and Eddie Anderson
1EM	Maya Ryan and Maeve Williams	5ML	Byron Morton and Milla Kingston
1GT	Louie Kersley and Stevie Smith	6PB	Henry Flynn and Evangeline Spiers
2GJ	Sov Hill	6JS	Maddie Purtell and Ella Crumpton
2MH	Sov Hill	6MM	Macklin Smith and Darci Prebble
2TS	Sov Hill	EE/Sci	Odie Brooks and Noa Cavanagh
3LL	Sam White & Hudson McKay	PA	N/A
3JT	Indi Nestor and Rupert Veal	VA	Shevan Perera, Oskar Olszewski, Scarlett Govan, Louie Evans
3ZP	Will Allan & Harriet Howard	PE	Arthur Madigan, Willow Begbie
		Tch	Lenny Rumble & Arthur Madigan (FBOK)

Principal's Award: Nicholas Taylor, Ollie Rumble and Arlo Troon for kindness and willingness to help a peer, in a calm and supportive manner.

Ministry District Newsletter

5th Sunday of Easter Year A – May 2nd, 2026

Incorporating the faith communities of Ballan, Ballarat East, Bungaree, Buninyong, Clarke's Hill,
Dunnstown, Gordon & Springbank

Priests: Frs. Justin Driscoll & Shaiju Mathew

Staff: Cathy Prunty (Parish Co-ordinator)

Finance: Jackie Wrigglesworth

Natalie Gleeson (Admin Assistant)

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Email: Jackie.wrigglesworth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Phone: 0437 505 517

Phone: 5337 7128

Our parishes are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES

Weekday Masses

Tuesday May 5 th	11.00 am	Mercy Place Ballarat East	
Wednesday May 6 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East	
Thursday May 7 th	10.00 am 11.30 am	Ballan Mecwacare (Anointing) St Brigid's Ballan	
Friday May 8 th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East St Michael's Bungaree	
Saturday May 9 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses – 6th Sunday of Easter			
Saturday May 9 th		Sunday May 10 th	
5.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Bungaree Buninyong
6.30 pm	Springbank	10.30 am	Ballarat East Ballan

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Kate Moran, Frank Vacari

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

John Blood, Irene Coulter, Arthur Gore, Mary & Merv
Howard, Brian & Nellie Keighrey, Maree Mathews, Rev.
Norbert Olsen, Helen Ronan, John Ryan

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Owen Widdison, Richard Wade

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts: 6:1-7

1 Peter: 2:4-9

John: 14:1-12

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts: 8:5-8, 14-17

1 Peter: 3:15-18

John: 14:15-21

UPCOMING DATES

May 7th

Baptism Preparation Session
10 am or 5.30 pm
Mary Glowrey Rooms – Cathedral

May 13th

Ballarat East Finance Committee Meeting
7.30 am
Parish Hub
*

Gordon Parish Leadership meeting
St. Brigid's Ballan
7.00 pm

May 21st

St Vincent de Paul Festival Mass
10.30 am
Ss Peter & Paul's Buninyong
*

Ballarat East Pastoral Council Meeting
5.30 pm
Parish Hub

May 22nd

Loreto College Principal Commissioning Mass
11.00 am
Loreto College

May 24th

Gordon Parish Confirmation
9.00 am & 10.30 am
Gordon & Ballan Masses

May 28th

Bungaree Parish Leadership Team Meeting
7pm
St. Brendan's Dunnstown

MASS COUNTS IN MAY

National Mass Counts will take place over the first four weekends of May. Total attendance will be recorded in Weeks 1 and 2, gender information in Week 3, and age demographics in Week 4. Counters please check with your parish for forms.

BAPTISMS

Ss Peter & Paul's Buninyong

Pippa Jules Bond
Daughter of Shane and Kate
Caity Nola Palmer
Daughter of Garry and Tara
Ted & Lillian Hall
Children of Laura and Patrick

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an international Christian ecumenical observance kept annually between Ascension and Pentecost in the southern hemisphere. It is an opportunity for Catholics to take up Pope Francis' challenge to go out to the edges of the Catholic Church and engage with all to whom Christ came. Catholic prayers for Christian unity ask for the Holy Spirit to heal divisions, foster reconciliation, and fulfill Jesus' prayer "that they all may be one" (John 17:21). The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2026 is "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4:4). All welcome to attend the following services in Ballarat:

Monday, May 18 at 2.00pm: St Patricks Cathedral, corner Sturt & Dawson Streets, Ballarat
Tuesday, May 19 at 2.00pm: Peel Street Church of Christ, 37-39 Peel Street, Bakery Hill
Wednesday, May 20 at 2.00pm: St Peter's Anglican Church, 1309 Sturt Street, Ballarat
Thursday, May 21 at 2.00pm: Ballarat Central Uniting Church, 101-103 Lydiard Street South, Ballarat
Friday, May 22 at 2.00pm: Ballarat Anglican Cathedral, 49 Lydiard Street South, Ballarat.

BALLARAT VOLUNTEER EXPO



"Your year to volunteer"

St Vincent De Paul members and other volunteer organisations will be present in St Patrick's Cathedral Hall on Wednesday 20th

May from 11am – 3pm.

You are invited to come along and explore what opportunities exist that may suit you.

Discover how you could make a difference in our community.

FAMILY GROUPS

At recent meetings of the PPC we have spent some time discussing the benefits of the Family Groups which have existed in the parish over a long period of time. Recently members of the only remaining group shared some reflections which we are now going to share on our bulletins in coming weeks. This week the reflection comes from Dianne and Kevin McKeegan. Kevin and I joined when our family were at St. Alipius' Primary School in the late 1980's. We were invited to a 'get to know you evening' at the home of Judy and Frank Vagg. Many of us who gathered knew faces more than names, and from here our group was formed. The Vaggs led us for the first two years then we all took a turn. Our group really jelled; there could be 20-30 adults and 15 children at some outings and we picked up a few friends of friends along the way. Activities included car rallies, picnics, B.B.Q.'s or afternoon tea at someone's home. Christmas time was a big celebration as it was our weekend away every year. We would have a big cook up and just enjoy spending time together. Fred, Mary, Kevin and myself are the last of our original group. We currently meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month for lunch, somewhere different each time. Our group is home to about 25 people now.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION ACROSS THE MINISTRY DISTRICT

Children are commencing sacramental preparation in our Parish Coordinated, Family based, Catholic School supported programs following parent information sessions. At Masses at Ballarat East and Buninyong, children are being presented to the parish as they commence preparation for their first reception Eucharist which will be celebrated at Parish Masses on the weekends of May 30th – 31st, June 6th – 7th and June 13th – 14th. Last Sunday, at Masses in Gordon and Ballan, children commencing preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation were presented to the parish communities. Confirmation will be celebrated on Pentecost Sunday, May 24th. We offer our prayerful support to these children, their parents and all involved in the sacramental programs. In the diocese of Ballarat, the order for celebrating the sacraments of initiation continues to be baptism, confirmation then first Eucharist (communion).

RENEWAL HAS BEGUN!

The International Eucharistic Congress in Sydney in 2028 ("Eucharist28") will be a global gathering of the Church centred on the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Christian lives, culminating in a Papal Mass with Pope Leo XIV. It will be a festival of faith, rich with worship, prayer, testimonies, art, music – a truly 'once in a lifetime' experience, and a transformative moment for our nation. But this is more than an event in Sydney. It is a national journey, an invitation to renewal for the whole Church, wherever we are. The journey begins now, in our own hearts, in our own parishes. Across the Easter weekend, thousands of catechumens and candidates throughout Australia were baptised and received into full communion with the Church. Our churches were alive with faith—pews filled, hearts renewed. It was a beautiful witness to what the Church is called to be every week, not only at Christmas and Easter. The great gift of the Eucharist is that it is not merely a story remembered over a few sacred days. At every Mass, we encounter the reality itself: we offer ourselves to God alongside Christ, truly present in our midst. For more information and regular updates on Eucharist28, please register on the website www.eucharist28.org or click or scan the QR code.

BALLARAT DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation online. This low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through our partner, Dayton University. Cycle 4 begins June 1. There are 27 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now until May 28. Scan the QR code for more information or email fran.peterkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7154.

CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY AT ST MARY'S SCHOOL, CLARKES HILL

Everyone is invited to join the students and families of St Mary's school for a liturgy at 2.30pm this Friday, 8th May at the school and followed by afternoon tea. Please call the office on 5334 5280 if you are able to make it. We would love to see you there!

The Way to an Untroubled Heart

Reflection on the Gospel-Easter 5A

(John 14:1-14)

Veronica Lawson RSM



"Take from my heart all painful anxiety" is a gospel inspired prayer. It is the prayer of the first Sister of Mercy, Venerable Catherine McAuley. Like Jesus, Catherine knew in her being that a troubled heart is always a possibility. Even if we don't have any serious concerns in the present, we are often anxious about the future. There is a difference, of course, between having concerns and having a troubled heart. The difference lies in how we deal with the inevitable problems and challenges that come our way. If ever there was a time with potential for troubled hearts, it is right now as we deal with the effects of war, with volatile world leadership, with extreme weather events and with the pain of uncertainty such as the world has rarely experienced.

Freedom from anxiety is the constant message of the gospels. "Do not let your hearts be troubled" is Jesus' word to his friends in John's gospel. The verb, here in passive mood ("be troubled"), is used of Jesus' spirit when he finds his friend Mary and her companions weeping over the death of Lazarus (11:33). It means literally to shake or to stir up. Jesus is really shaken by grief in that situation. As he faces his own death, he does not want his friends to be troubled of heart or spirit. He speaks here from his own experience.

Jesus shows the way to an untroubled heart:

"Believe into God, believe also into me." The faith of the disciples is to be grounded in his care for them both in the present and into the future: "I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again and will take you to myself". In this context, Jesus makes three claims: "I am the way and the truth and the life." The prologue to the gospel, which functions as an overture to the gospel, has introduced the notion of the incarnate Word as "full of grace and truth" and the bringer of "grace and truth" (1:14, 17). The Word is the *life* that is the light of all (1:4), the bread of *life*, even the resurrection and the *life*. Jesus' claim to be "the way" is foreshadowed in the parable of the gate: "I am the gate for the sheep (10:7)."

If the disciples know Jesus, then they also know the way to God whom Jesus images in tender parental terms as "Father." If Philip does not believe in their mutual indwelling, then maybe he can believe on account of the "works" of Jesus, works that are also the works of God. Those who believe have the power to do these and even greater works. This seems extraordinary, but it is really a matter of believing with untroubled hearts that the power comes from God. Let us not underestimate the power of prayer at this time of distress or the power of action, no matter how small, to help those whose hearts are troubled.

Community News

24-week Confident Kids Program, designed to help children aged 5–10 years build confidence, resilience, and structured discipline in a fun and supportive environment.

The program is divided into two 12-week phases:

First 12 Weeks: Focused on building structure and confidence through engaging obstacle course based activities.

Second 12 Weeks: Focused on developing discipline, with a strong introduction to boxing fundamentals.

Program Details:

Cost: \$20 per week

Sessions: Monday & Thursday at 4:30 PM

Duration: 45 minutes per session

Children can attend one or both sessions each week

We pride ourselves on creating a welcoming and inclusive environment, where every child is encouraged to be themselves while receiving ongoing support and positive encouragement.

VSF BALLARAT
876 HUMFFRAY STREET SOUTH,
BALLARAT VIC 3350

FIRST CLASS FITNESS

VICTORY STAR FITNESS IS A GYM FOR EVERYONE!

OPEN 24-7

ABOUT THE GYM

Our aim is to put our VSF gyms amongst the greatest fitness facilities in Victoria, where people can feel comfortable and confident in a professional and friendly training environment. With both 24/7 access and classes offered throughout each day, our goal is to guide and support all our members, old and new, to reach their fitness goals, whatever they may be.

A major focus of the VSF brand is building a community – working with schools, local charities and local businesses to provide a network of support for our members to have access to anything they might need in their fitness journey. Within the gym our staff keep engagement high, building member confidence and enjoyment with every session.

ENQUIRE NOW
03 5331 7040
info@victorystarfitness.com.au

www.victorystarfitness.com.au

VSF BALLARAT
876 HUMFFRAY ST S,
MOUNT PLEASANT VIC 3350

CONFIDENT KIDS PROGRAM

FOCUS

**DEVELOPING CONFIDENCE
BUILDING COMPETENCY
INCREASING RESILIENCE**

INTENTIONS & OUTCOMES

- DEVELOP KEY SKILLS & ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION
- DEVELOPMENT & ACTION THROUGHOUT YOUNG LIFE.
- BUILD ON PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, MENTAL & SOCIAL SKILLS
- COACHING & TEACHING METHODS FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE
- BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS & ENGAGING WITH OTHERS
- PROBLEM SOLVING WITHIN A CHALLENGING BUT CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT
- TECHNICAL TRAINING TO ASSESS CO-ORDINATION & APPLICATION
- PROMOTE SELF-MOTIVATION & DISCIPLINE
- DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON & PROMOTE POSITIVE BEHAVIOURAL TRAITS
- IMPROVED ATTITUDE AND WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE
- UNDERSTANDING CONTROL & INTENSITY
- ENGAGE IN CHALLENGES & GOOD CONDUCT
- DEVELOP POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

ENQUIRE NOW
(03) 5331 7040
ballarat@victorystarfitness.com.au

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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.

EUREKA NETBALL CLUB 2026 JUNIOR WINTER COMPETITION

Build your skills, make friends & have fun with the Burgundy & White this season!



JUNIOR PLAYERS NEEDED!

- u9, u11, u13, u15
- Uniforms available to purchase

Contact Eureka Netball
Club via Facebook or
netballeureka@gmail.com

- Competition starts Saturday 2nd May
- Games every Saturday between 9:00am and 2:00pm
- Weekly training on Monday evenings
- All games and training **INDOORS** at Llanberris



**EUREKA
NETBALL CLUB**

**Burgundy &
White since 1981**

**JOIN OUR
LOCAL
walking
group**

**9:30am-10:30am Tuesdays during school term
Meet outside the cafe at Barkly Square**

Walking Specimen Vale Creek to the Eureka Centre return.
Toilets and baby change facilities at start/finish and halfway point.
Pram friendly path - relatively flat.

<https://www.ballarateastnh.org.au/classes/activities>

Scan QR

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