



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 25th May 2026
Term 2 Week 6

P.O. Box 2027
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Term 2 (10 weeks)

Mon 20th Apr-Fri 26th Jun

Mon 25th – Friday 29th May
Catholic Education Week

Tuesday 26th May

Regional Cross Country @
Warrnambool (qualifiers
from Division XC)

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

Thursday 11th June

Last day for Book Club
Issue 4 orders

Friday 12th June

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

2.40pm Assembly in
School gym led by 3LL

Mon 15th – Fri 19th June

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

On the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Families,

This week we celebrate two very important events in the life of our school and society: one Catholic Education week and the other Reconciliation week. The main purpose of Catholic Education Week in the Diocese of Ballarat is to celebrate and promote the distinctive mission of Catholic education across the Diocese. It is a time for school communities to reflect on their shared faith, values, learning, and commitment to helping young people grow spiritually, academically, socially, and emotionally.

Catholic Education Week also highlights:

- the partnership between schools, families, parishes, and the wider community
- the importance of Gospel values such as peace, hope, compassion, dignity, and service
- the work of staff and students in creating welcoming and inclusive learning communities
- the mission of Catholic schools to support the “fullness of life for all.”

This year, the diocesan theme is “Peace be with you all”, inspired by St Paul’s letter to the Romans. The week encourages schools to focus on peace, unity, kindness, respectful relationships, and living the message of Jesus in everyday school life. We started the week off very well with a terrific school assembly where we prayed together as a community and then watched a video created by the children to let us know what Peace means to them.



Downing in 1853 for the growing Catholic community living on the diggings. I’m sure it will be a great experience for us and our two student representatives.

Jayne and I have been invited to attend Mass at the St Alipius Diggings school at Sovereign Hill to launch Catholic Education Week in Ballarat. The St Alipius Diggings School is a recreation of one of the earliest Catholic schools on the Ballarat goldfields during the 1850s gold rush. It reflects the simple tent-style church and school established by Father Matthew

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.

Friday 19th June

Interscholar Sport (Yr 5/6) tbc

2.40pm Assembly in School gym led by SCC

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

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



National Reconciliation Week is the other important time at school this week to learn more about and honour the histories, cultures, and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Across Australia, the beginning of the AFL’s Sir Doug Nicholls Round helps shine a spotlight on reconciliation, respect, and unity through sport. As a school community, we are encouraged to continue listening, learning, and walking together in the spirit of understanding, dignity, and hope. I thank our RAP staff Leaders and RAP school leaders who have planned opportunities both inside our classrooms and out in our school environment to learn more about this most significant concept. Our assembly interwove both these major themes for our students.

Wishing everyone a peaceful week.



Jane Clark, Deputy Principal – Teaching & Learning

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY TERM 2: Please note that in Term 2 we have scheduled a School Closure Day for Staff Professional Development on Friday 5 June. No classes will be running on this day. Staff will be participating in professional learning focused on Auslan, led by educators involved in the Auslan – Teachers as Co-Learners program in their schools.

SWIMMING: In weeks 7-9 swimming will be conducted for our Yr 1-6 students. This year we will be attending Federation University pool. Please keep an eye out for messages through this newsletter in the Sport/Physical Education news section or in your classes Seesaw messages for times/requirements.

FIRST EUCHARIST CELEBRATIONS: We extend our very best wishes to all of our Year 4 children celebrating their First Eucharist at St Alipius Church Ballarat East and St Peter and Paul Church Buninyong over the next three weekends. We hope the recipients and their loved ones enjoy this meaningful milestone in their faith journey together.



CYSTIC FIBROSIS: This Friday is Casual Clothes day raising money for Cystic Fibrosis. Gold coin donations are most gratefully received.

Friday 4th September
Interschool 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

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

Casual Clothes Day – Friday 29th May

We will be holding a Casual Clothes Day this Friday, with all gold coin donations going to support Cystic Fibrosis Australia.

Students are invited to wear casual clothes and bring along a gold coin donation (or two) to help support Australians living with cystic fibrosis and their families.

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic condition that affects the lungs and digestive system, making everyday life incredibly challenging for many children and adults across Australia. Cystic Fibrosis Australia works to provide support, advocacy, research funding and hope for those impacted by the condition.

At SFX, we believe in showing compassion, supporting others and using our community spirit to make a difference. Even a small donation can help contribute to better care, support services and ongoing research for people living with cystic fibrosis.

We look forward to seeing a sea of colour on Friday as we come together once again to support an important cause.



Sacrament of Eucharist Reminder

For all children in Year Four or older who have received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Reconciliation, the celebration of First Eucharist will take place during parish Masses across the following dates:

May 30th – St Alipius, 5:00pm

May 31st – Ss Peter & Paul's, 10:30am

June 6th – St Alipius, 5:00pm

June 7th – Ss Peter & Paul's, 10:30am

June 13th – St Alipius, 5:00pm

June 14th – St Alipius, 10:30am

Please keep these dates in mind as we look forward to supporting our students as they receive this special sacrament.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact Natalie or Cathy at the Parish Office on 5332 6611.

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 Kangarobie Camp

Friday 27th November

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

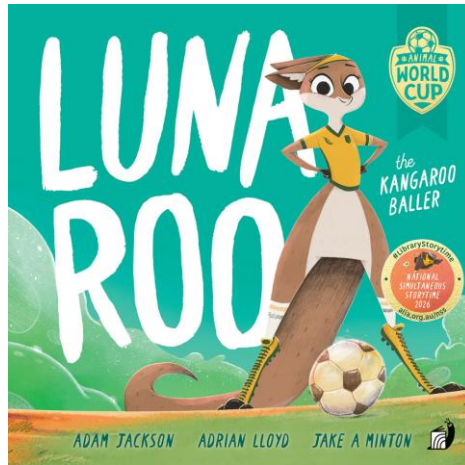
No Assembly today

Friday 4th December

End of Year Mass

Thursday 17th December

Last 2026 day for students



National Simultaneous Storytime

National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) 2026 will be held on Wednesday, 27 May 2026, featuring the book *Luna Roo: The Kangaroo Baller* written by Adam Jackson and Adrian Lloyd, and illustrated by Jake Minton.

This year’s National Simultaneous Storytime features *Luna Roo*, a story celebrating courage, resilience and believing in yourself. Selected for its uplifting message, the book highlights how children can overcome nerves and challenges with determination and heart. First-time authors Adam Jackson and Adrian Lloyd drew on their passion for soccer and

storytelling to inspire young readers, sharing important themes of teamwork, perseverance and self-belief. With the Matildas competing in the Women’s Asian Cup here in Australia and the Socceroos heading to the FIFA World Cup, soccer is set to capture the imagination of families and young readers across the country this year.

With so many enthusiastic soccer players at SFX, this book is sure to be a hit! Students are invited to visit the library at first break on Wednesday to enjoy a reading of the story and take part in a fun activity where they can design their own sports trading card.

Be sure to tune in to the latest SFX Podcast, ‘Villa Voices’, released this Wednesday, for a fantastic reading of the book by our Year 6 Library Leaders, Christian Wright and Sophie McNeill. Their engaging storytelling brings this exciting book to life for listeners of all ages.

Year 6 Writing inspires and delights their Foundation Buddies!

This term, Year 6 students have been exploring the structure and features of fables in class. They used their creativity to write their own original fables before transforming them into beautifully illustrated picture storybooks. Students were excited to visit their Foundation buddies and share their stories, proudly reading aloud and connecting with the younger students through their writing and creativity.



Lindy Harty, Literacy Leader

Wellbeing News

Our school community is richer because of the wonderful cultural diversity that exists within it. Every family brings their own stories, traditions, beliefs and experiences, helping to create a vibrant and welcoming community where we can all learn from one another. When children feel proud of who they are and where they come from, they develop a strong sense of belonging and confidence to thrive socially, emotionally and academically.

By nurturing curiosity, kindness and respect for different cultures, we help our children understand that diversity is something to be celebrated. It teaches them empathy, broadens their perspectives and prepares them to live in an increasingly connected world. As parents, carers and educators, we all play an important role in modelling inclusion and showing our children that everyone deserves to feel seen, valued and accepted.

As we approach National Reconciliation Week, we are also reminded of the importance of listening, learning and building respectful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Reconciliation encourages us to reflect on our shared history and continue working towards a future grounded in understanding, respect and unity. It is another important opportunity to celebrate the richness that diversity brings to our community.

In this edition of SchoolTV, you'll find helpful information and resources about embracing and celebrating cultural diversity with children and young people.

[SchoolTV – Cultural Diversity Edition](#)

Christine Meneely (School Counsellor and Wellbeing/ MHiPS Leader)
Contact me on : cmeneely@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au



Sport/Physical Education News

Greater Western Region Cross Country

On Tuesday, SFX will have 7 excited and probably nervous students in Warrnambool getting ready to run in the Greater Western Region Cross Country event. This is a magnificent achievement by our school to have a very strong number of students qualify for this event.

We wish Edie, Milla, Lawrence, Sam, Leo, Nellie and Chloe all the best. We hope they enjoy the experience and we look forward to hearing how they go.

Eureka Division Soccer

We have 3 very strong teams representing SFX at this Friday's Division Soccer tournament at Morshead Park Soccer Facility. 37 students have been training well and we know will wear the SFX colours proudly and display their talents and teamwork. We wish our teams good luck for Friday.

Netball tryouts

There will be tryouts this Wednesday for both boys and girls in Years 5 & 6 to be part of the SFX netball teams at the upcoming Eureka Division Netball tournament. Girls tryouts will be conducted during first break and boys during second break. These tryouts will give students the chance to demonstrate their skills in passing, shooting, defending, teamwork, and game play.

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We encourage all interested students to come along, try their best, and show great sportspersonship and enthusiasm. Remember, the coaches are not only looking for skill, but also positive attitudes, teamwork, effort, and encouragement towards others.

Swimming Program

We look forward to our 2026 swimming program for Yr 1 - 6 which begins for some classes next week. The program consists of 5 x 45 minute sessions conducted by qualified instructors at Fed Uni. Please refer to the PAM notification for all details.

2026 SFX SPORTS DATES

Term 2:

- 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 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 continue 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 Milkshakes a few times 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. *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.
- **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

Attachments

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 22nd May 2026 Hosted by FJS Theme: Hospitality

We welcome and include others.

Hospitality means welcoming other people to a home, business or school.

We show hospitality because Jesus teaches us to include everyone and show them they are welcome.

FLP	Lola Mahar and Harry Howe	4RR	Max Elliot and River Fedke
FJS	Freya & Cooper	4ZA	Ryder Buntsman & Evie Loader
FBO	Hallie Graham and Alby Whittlam	4KB	Hughey Roberts & Scarlett Govan
FTW	Jack Allen and Frankie Meade	5CC	Lola Miles and Baxter Steinman
1GH	Shirley Dorning and Rupert Howard	5LD	Willow Prato and Mitchell Bone
1EM	Harry Gemmola and Harriet Maher	5ML	Ted Nunn and Lenny Ryan
1GT	Olli McGregor and Chloe Allen	6PB	Joe Trigg and Minka Henjak
2GJ	Hadley Cheeseman and Patrick Olechnowicz	6JS	Sadie Buntsma and Sam Norris
2MH	Mya Troon and Harper Stevenson	6MM	Xavier Morris and Sienna Morton
2TS	Olive Micelli & Teddy Bannan	EE/ Sci	Hugo Blomley, Baxter Steinman, Ollie Downs, Mitchell Cycles and James Cycles- For their incredible knowledge on space and our solar system, such clever little scientists!
3LL	Lachy Hatt & Bonnie Jones	PA	Ella Crumpton and Gabe Dunne
3JT	Marli Wilson & Thomas Green Zahli Kingston (Last week - Excellence)	VA	Layla Marshall and William Mumford (FJS)
3ZP	Carter George & Harriet Walshe	PE	
		Tch	Mitchell Cycles (5ML) & Rory Dunne (4ZA)
Principal's Award: Tom Green - for showing hospitality in everything he does around our school.			

Ministry District Newsletter

Pentecost Year A – May 24th, 2026

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

Priests: Frs. Justin Driscoll & Shaiju Mathew

Staff: Cathy Prunty (Parish Co-ordinator)
Natalie Gleeson (Admin Assistant)

Finance: Jackie Wigglesworth

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Email: jackie.wigglesworth@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 26 th	11.00 am	Mercy Place Ballarat East Sovereign Hill St Alipius' Tent
Wednesday May 27 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East
Thursday May 28 th	10.30 am 11.00 am	St Brigid's Ballan Estia Mt Clear
Friday May 29 th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East St Michael's Bungaree
Saturday May 30 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East

Weekend Masses – Most Holy Trinity

Saturday May 30 th		Sunday May 31 st	
5.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Ballarat East Bungaree
6.30 pm	Springbank	10.30 am	Buninyong Ballan

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Jim McNulty

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Bill Adriaans, Diane Banko, Jean Bourke, Sandra Briffa,
Calvert Croxson Clarke, John Egan, Peter Frichot,
Fredrick Giles, Margaret Joukergouw, Molly O'Neil, Paul
Reddie, Terry Sexton, Angela Teuma, Joe Tonna, Jim
Wheelahan, Barry Wise

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Owen Widdison, Richard Wade

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11

1 Corinthians: 13:3-7, 12-13

John 20:19-23

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

The Most Holy Trinity

Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9

2 Corinthians: 13:11-13

John 3:16-18

UPCOMING DATES

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

June 3rd
Ministry District Dinner
Golden City Hotel
6pm

June 4th
Baptism Preparation Sessions
Mary Glowrey Rooms (Cathedral Precinct)
10 am or 5.30 pm

MINISTRY DISTRICT SOCIAL GATHERING

On Wednesday June 3rd the ministry district will hold a dinner as a social get together. Dinner will be at the Golden City Hotel at 6 pm. Please call the Parish Hub to put your name on the list by 29th May. Everyone is most welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing many people from our ministry district on the night. Rides can be organised where needed. Contact the parish office if you would like a ride.

BAPTISMS

St Alipius

Matilda Rose and Harriet Maree Walshe
Daughters of Timothy and Alyssa

Arthur John Reid
Son of Jack and Hayley

WELCOME TO EMERITUS BISHOP PAUL BIRD

Bishop Paul will celebrate Masses at Ballarat East and Buninyong this weekend to enable Fr Shaiju to celebrate Masses in the Sunraysia Parish while Fr Francis is in India on annual leave. Welcome Bishop Paul.

FORMATION FOR COMMUNION MINISTERS

In coming weeks, the ministry district will offer some formation/renewal for Communion Ministers. This would be available to those who already participate in the ministry as well as to those who would like to become part of the ministry. Please give some consideration to being part of this formation. If you would be interested in participating in this formation, please contact the parish office.

SVDP WINTER APPEAL 2026

The Ballarat East Conference of SVdP invites you to join with them by supporting our Winter Appeal. This year's theme is "for more and more people homelessness is just one sudden crisis away". Each year, this appeal plays a vital role in the Society's fundraising efforts.

Parishioners are encouraged to help continue the Society's work of helping those most in need.

Please do so by donating via:

The envelopes at the end of the pews. Please place completed envelopes in the collection plate.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

BAPTISM SUPPORT

Parishioners in the St. Alipius' Parish will know that we have people bringing their children to us each weekend for Baptism. Each year we baptise over one hundred children. We appreciate the way that you, as parishioners, make these people welcome. At our recent Parish Pastoral Council meeting we spoke of the desire to have parishioners who would be happy to meet with these families before the baptism as part of the preparation and then be there on the day to welcome the family and show them where to sit. If you think that this is something you would like to do, please contact the parish office for more information. Phone 0437 505 517.

We acknowledge this land's traditional owners and custodians and pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

“Peace be with you all” is the theme for this year of St Francis of Assisi. Many celebrations will take place including Mass at Sovereign Hill with Fr Justin on Tuesday in the St Alipius' tent church, remembering our heritage and beginnings from the goldfields in the 1850's. St Alipius Primary School first opened its doors to the children of the Ballarat East goldfields on April 1st 1853 – the thirteenth non-government school formally registered in the state of Victoria. The mainly Irish Catholic parents of the time joined with Fr Matthew Downing to establish a school in the wood and canvas tent that was being used as a church on Sundays. We remember Eliza Brett, Arthur Cunningham Anastasia Hayes, Julianna Kirk, Thomas McGrath, and John Manning who staffed the first Catholic schools in Ballarat East and Buninyong (St Nicholas of Tolentino). Surrounded by the disorder and disillusion of the goldfields, these parents were seeking something more for their children: a chance for the better life that they believed an education could bring and the chance to belong to a community that found its inspiration in the person of Jesus.

On Thursday, the students and staff of St Brigid's Ballan, St Mary's Clarke's Hill and St Patrick's Gordon will gather at Ballan for 10.30am Mass. On Friday Catholic Education Week will be celebrated with Mass and Dinner at Damascus College with the presentation of service acknowledging those employed in Catholic education for 30 years. Nominees for the Bishop Paul Bird Spirit of Catholic education awards include Damascus College St Brendan's Dunnstown Founding Team: Karen Goonan, Katrina McMahon, Fiona MacKenzie, Rachael Thompson, Roger Barrows, Anita Lidgett, Paul Crabtree, Peter O'Loughlin. Congratulations to the team on their nomination for proving Rich Pedagogical Practices for Deeper Learning and Wellbeing.

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY – ISSUE 1 2026

The first issue of ODC for 2026 is now available in the foyers of our churches. Take a moment to pick up your copy which celebrates, among other things, the ordination and installation of our Bishop, Mark Freeman. You can also read about the 180th anniversary celebration for the Sisters of Mercy. Don't miss out on your copy.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FESTIVAL MASS

On Thursday morning the Ballarat East Conference of St. Vincent de Paul hosted Mass for members of St. Vincent De Paul Conferences from far and wide. Mass was said by Bishop Mark who was joined by Fr. Justin, and it celebrated the great work of the many people who belong to what we know as 'Vinnies'. Congratulations to the Ballarat East members who were awarded service medals for five, ten and fifteen years of membership. We would all acknowledge what a great effort that is and congratulate and thank all members for the wonderful work they do.



CARING GROUP

The next meeting of the Caring Group will be held at 2pm on Friday 5th June in the parish hall. Please note that we are going to have a guest speaker to this meeting to which everyone is invited. The speaker is Helen Merry from Mercy Health and she is coming along to provide information to interested parishioners on services that are available in the home. The session is titled 'Support at Home – Keeping Seniors Living at Home Longer' and is designed to take the confusion out of My Aged Care. Mercy Health will walk through:

- How to apply for a My Aged Care assessment
- What types of services you may be eligible for
- How to navigate the system and choose the right supports for your needs
- Where to turn for help with forms, referrals, and ongoing decisions

This presentation will give practical steps, guidance, and reassurance that people are not alone in the process.

We thank members of the Caring Group for allowing us to have the speaker at this time. For more information contact the parish hub.

Investing in the Way to Peace

Reflection on the Gospel ~ Pentecost Sunday Year A

(Acts 2:1-11; John 20:19-23)

Veronica Lawson RSM

Pentecost Sunday is often called the birthday of the Church. The earth itself features powerfully in the imagery associated with this feast: harvest, mountain, earthquake, thunder, fire. For the ancient Israelites, Pentecost (meaning “fiftieth”) was a harvest festival celebrated fifty days after the opening of the harvest. When the Jerusalem Temple was built, this harvest festival was transformed into a pilgrimage feast to celebrate the covenant that Israel had made with God on Mount Sinai. Several decades after the death of Jesus, the early Christians reflected on their origins and chose this feast to mark the birth of God’s new covenant with God’s people. In today’s first reading (Acts 2:1-11), Luke tells the new Pentecost story in symbolic language that evokes the story of Moses and the people of Israel receiving God’s Law on Mount Sinai. Just as God’s presence to Israel was marked by earthquake and thunder and fire, so God’s Spirit enveloping the people of the new covenant in the upper room appears in a mighty rush of wind and tongues of fire. Luke’s account also evokes early rabbinic teaching that the voice of God on Sinai divided into seventy tongues and all the nations received God’s Law in their own tongue.

For the wisdom at the heart of the new covenant, we turn to the gospel reading from John 20:19-23. The resurrected Christ appears to the disciples who are huddled behind locked doors. He offers the simple greeting: “Peace be with you,” the greeting we offer each other with a simple gesture at every Eucharistic celebration.



Jesus sends his disciples on a mission of peace in continuity with his own God-inspired mission. He breathes on them the gift of the Holy Spirit and tells

them that God will forgive those whom they forgive, and will “retain” or “seize hold of” the transgressions of those whose sins or transgressions they “retain”. To seize hold of wrong-doing is to expose it and deal with it. Sometimes it is best to forgive and simply allow everyone to move on. In other situations, an easy amnesty only exacerbates the problem. We might learn from Pope Leo who teaches the way to peace in every word and every action.

Much of the enduring conflict in our world derives from the inability of ordinary people and of both church and civic leaders to know how to deal with transgression. The Holy Spirit is the unique source of our capacity to deal with the perpetrators of violence. The Holy Spirit is likewise the source of our power to forgive, of our power to refrain from vengeance and our power to ensure restoration and healing. In our times, the earth itself cries out for forgiveness, for restoration and for healing. As we celebrate this feast of the Holy Spirit, we might consider engaging in a “values inventory” by looking at how much of our personal and collective resources we invest in the things that make for peace.

Congratulations to Finya, Olivia and Violet on being part of the upcoming BCMA production of Mary Poppins Jr.

BCMA's Tue & Thu Junior FiPs
Musical Theatre production of

Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH's

**MARY
POPPINS
JR.**



**3pm Saturday 20th | 11am & 1.30pm
Sunday 21st June
Gay E. Gough Theatre**

Haymes PAINT SIXT BigginScott bcma

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.