



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 1st June 2026
Term 2 Week 7

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

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 2 (10 weeks)

Mon 20th Apr-Fri 26th Jun

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

Friday 19th June

Interscholar Sport (Yr 5/6) tbc

2.40pm Assembly in
School gym led by 5CC

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

On the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Families,

Over the past week, you may have seen and heard a great deal about Catholic Education as schools across our diocese paused to celebrate our shared community. It has been a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our common purpose while also recognising the unique character of each school.

Our differences are something to be celebrated. They allow us to continue moving forward with confidence, embracing evidence-based teaching practices while honouring the rich Mercy tradition that is woven through all that we do.



Last week, Jane and I attended a special Mass at Sovereign Hill, celebrated by Fr Justin Driscoll. One of the themes that stayed with me was the connection between past, present and future—how we honour those who have come before us, live fully in the present, and thoughtfully consider what we will embrace and commit to in order to create a bright future. It certainly provided plenty of food for thought.

Today marks the beginning of winter—the season we all know so well in Ballarat! There is something comforting about pulling on a warm jacket and enjoying the shelter of home when the weather outside is cold, wet and grey. As we welcome the new season, I invite you to take a moment to reflect on the following message.

A Prayer for Winter

Lord of the changing seasons, as the days grow shorter and the air turns crisp, I welcome this winter season. Grant me the patience to slow down, the strength to weather the cold, and the warmth of Your presence to fill my soul. Just as the earth rests beneath a winter blanket, may my spirit find quiet, peaceful renewal. Help me to be a light and a comfort to those around me who may face struggles during this time. Amen



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.

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

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

Thank you

The past six weeks as Acting Principals have been a true privilege for Jane and I, and we are both incredibly grateful for the opportunity.

St Francis Xavier is a large and vibrant community, and each day brings something new! What stands out most, however, is the generosity, warmth and sense of belonging that exists within our school. We sincerely thank you for your support during this time.

Today, we welcome Mark back following his period of enrichment leave. We look forward to hearing about his experiences and the insights he has gained, and we know he will have much to share with our community.

Cover Up clothes

With the arrival of winter, we are once again introducing Cover Up Clothes at school. Students who choose to play on the Top Oval or in the paddock areas are required to wear cover up clothing, including a separate top worn over their school tracksuit top or jumper, as well as a different pair of shoes.

Old runners or gumboots are ideal for this purpose. If your child uses these play spaces, please send their cover up clothes in a separate bag each day. This will help keep their school uniform clean and dry while they enjoy outdoor play.

Congratulations



Recently, Charlie competed in the Calisthenics Victoria State Titles in Melbourne, where she was awarded the Under 11s State Champion title in her Graceful Solo division.

Charlie is a wonderful example of a quiet achiever and would probably never seek recognition for this accomplishment herself. We are incredibly proud of the dedication, perseverance and commitment she has demonstrated throughout the year to achieve such an outstanding result.

Congratulations, Charlie, on this remarkable achievement. We look forward to celebrating your continued success.

Jayne Mohr, Deputy Principal – Learning Diversity



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.

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.

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 Kangarooobie 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

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 continue during parish Masses across the following dates:

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.

Below is the link for **Beleza School Uniforms** - an additional supplier of our school uniform.

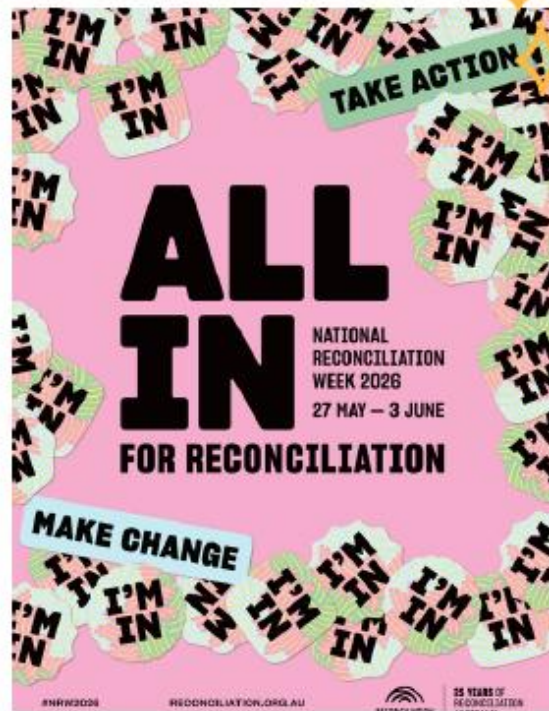
[Category: St Francis Xavier Primary School \(Ballarat East\) - Beleza School Uniforms](#)



RECONCILIATION WEEK 2026

The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2026 is **All In**, a call for all Australians to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation every single day.

Celebrating Reconciliation Week at SFX



Reconciliation Week Breaktime activities.

Throughout the week the children have enjoyed a range of breaktime activities with a Reconciliation Week focus.

Monday Miss Rose led the children in a game of Marngrook.

Tuesday there was First Nations book reading in the Library.

Wednesday the children had the opportunity to create Reconciliation Week art in the Art Room with Mrs Molloy.

Friday we had a working bee in our Indigenous Garden.





First Nations learning in our classrooms

All of our classes have been involved in lots of wonderful learning around Reconciliation, Wadawurrung culture and First Nations perspectives throughout the week.

In the Art Room, our Foundation children have been introduced to the art of Wadawurrung artist Jenna Oldaker, our Year 1s and 2s have explored the art of First Nations artist Jimmy Pike, our Year 3s and 4s have looked at the art on this year's Doug Nicholl's Round footballs, our Year 5 artists have created self portraits in the style of the amazing First Nations artist Kaylene Whiskey and the Year 6s have chosen an inspirational First Nations Australian to create a portrait of.

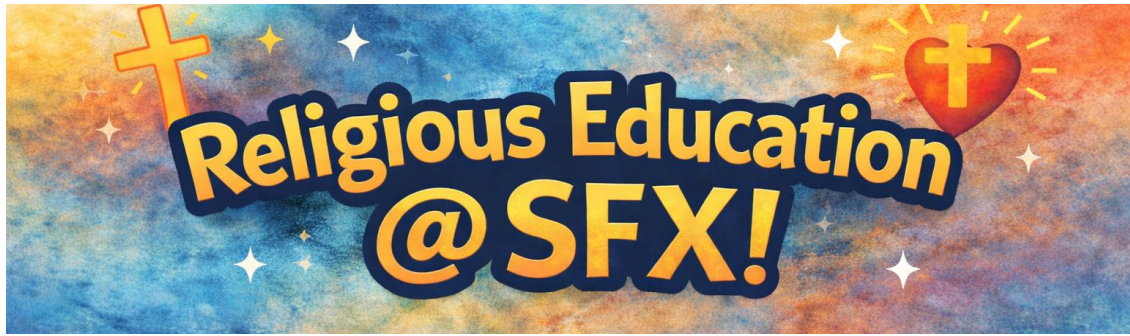


Reconciliation Week Assembly

Our Year 6 RAP leaders and other children from our school led a beautiful Reconciliation Week prayer at our Monday morning Assembly.

Our amazing school choir performed the Wadawurrung song 'Koling Wada-Ngal' (Let us walk together).





Celebrating Catholic Education Week

Thank you to our whole school community for making Catholic Education Week such a special and joyful time at SFX.

It has been wonderful to see the pride, spirit and sense of community across the school. From classroom activities to shared moments of prayer and reflection, our students have truly shown what it means to live out our faith each day.

We are grateful to our staff, students and families for the way they contribute to making our school such a welcoming, faith-filled place.

This Week's Gospel – The Holy Trinity (John 3:16–18)

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear one of the most well-known and powerful messages of our faith: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son."

The feast of the Holy Trinity reminds us that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit — a relationship built on love.

While this can be a mystery to fully understand, the message is simple and clear: God is love, and we are called to share that love with others.

A message for families:

On June 5, we recognise World Environment Day, which connects beautifully with this message of love.

If God created the world out of love, then caring for the Earth is one of the ways we live out that love. Looking after our environment is not just important — it is part of our responsibility as people of faith.

A family reflection:

How can we show love for others in our everyday lives?

What is one way we can care for the world God has given us?

Our challenge for the week:

Choose one small action this week that shows love for others or for our world.

- Help someone in need
- Spend time caring for the environment
- Show kindness in your words and actions

Small acts of love can make a big difference.

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.

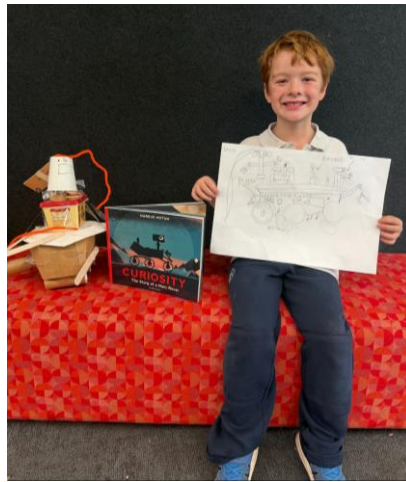
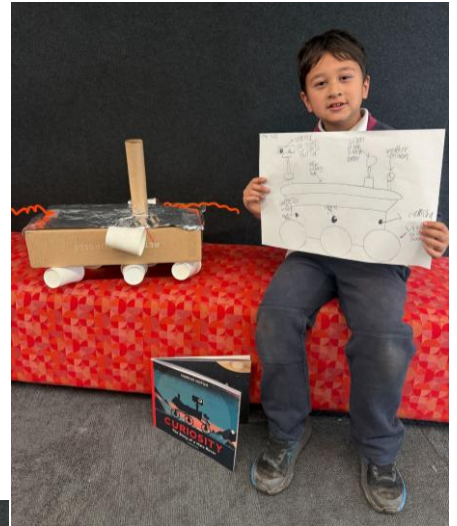
Information Texts in Year 2!

Year 2 students have been learning about *Curiosity: The Story of a Mars Rover* and writing information texts. Ava S. and Bob N. are delighted to share their information texts with you.

The students had so many facts to share after reading this book. They learnt that the Curiosity Mars Rover:

- has a weather station. — Callum
- has 17 cameras. — Maple
- goes to Mars and takes photos to document what is on Mars. — Arpan

At the completion of this unit, students designed their own Mars Rover and used recycled materials to bring them to life. They made meaningful connections to what they were learning in Literacy, Inquiry, and Science.



29/05/26 Bob N
 Curiosity rover landed safely on Mars^{in 2011} after a long journey in space. Firstly, a space craft launched from Earth. On its journey in space to Mars it detached every part of the spacecraft except for the top part called the module. Next the rover entered Mars atmosphere and a parachute opened to slow it down, before lowering it to Mars rocky surface using a sky crane. Finally touchdown was completed on Mars. The message took 15 mins to get back to NASA to say the rover was safe. The safe landing of the rover was exciting because the rover was going to collect samples of dust so they could check for evidence of life.



Lindy Harty,
 Literacy Leader

Landing on Mars Ava S.
 On Nov the 26th
 Curiosity Rover landed safely on Mars after a long journey through space. First, a rocket was launched through Earth's atmosphere and traveled millions of kilometres to Mars. Next, the rocket entered Mars's atmosphere and it turned in to 7 minutes of terror. A large parachute opened to slow down the spacecraft and a sky crane lowered the rover down. Finally the rover touched down on the rocky surface and sent the first message to NASA. Curiosity's safe landing meant that scientists could learn more about the red planet and how it has changed.

Wellbeing News

Conflict is a natural and unavoidable part of life. As children grow, differences in opinions, emotions and expectations can sometimes lead to tension at home, at school or with peers. While these moments can feel challenging, they also present valuable opportunities to teach young people important life skills. How conflict is managed within the family plays a key role in shaping a child's ability to communicate, regulate emotions and navigate relationships.

When conflict arises, children can sometimes move quickly into a "fight, flight or freeze" response. Teaching and practising de-escalation strategies helps children calm their bodies and minds so they can think clearly, communicate respectfully and solve problems more effectively. Simple strategies such as taking deep breaths, using calming tools, asking for space or talking to a trusted adult can help children manage big emotions before conflict grows bigger. There are some *great de-escalation strategies* next week in the *Yr 3-6 Read and Thrive Journals*.

For adult carers, supporting children through conflict means staying calm, listening with empathy and modelling respectful problem-solving. When handled constructively, conflict can strengthen relationships, build resilience and help children develop the confidence to manage disagreements in healthy and productive ways.

This edition of SchoolTV explores practical strategies to help families approach conflict with greater understanding and confidence.

Here is the link to this topic <http://sfxballarat.catholic.schooltv.me/newsletter/dealing-conflict-au>

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

Last Tuesday, SFX had 7 students in Warrnambool running in the Greater Western Region Cross Country event. All students ran brilliantly and should be very proud of their efforts and achievements. Congratulations to Nellie and Lawrence who have progressed through to the State championship next term.

Swimming Program

We look forward to our 2026 swimming program for Yr 1 - 6 which begins for some classes this 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.

Eureka Division Soccer

What a magnificent day of soccer at last week's Eureka Division Soccer Tournament!

Our students demonstrated outstanding teamwork, determination, sportspersonship and skill throughout the competition. Every player gave their best effort on the field, making us proud with their positive attitude and commitment.

A big congratulations to all of the students for representing our school so well. A big thank you to the families and friends that came to support our teams, and a special shoutout to Nathaniel and David for your coaching expertise, time and patience.



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.

2026 SFX SPORTS DATES

Term 2:

- 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 (Girls) @ 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 tremendous 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 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 29th May 2026 Hosted by 2MH Theme: Compassion
 We treat others the way we would like to be treated.
 Compassion means to feel the suffering of others and to help ease that suffering.
 We show compassion to others because Jesus teaches us how to care.

FLP	Elsie Briggs and Mila Broadbent Harry Howe (From Previous Week)	4RR	Asher Sutcliffe and Ollie Rumble
FJS	Billie Newton & Ollie Shillito	4ZA	Eddy Heinrich & Mila Quandt
FBO	Portia Martin and Lewis Delalande	4KB	Shevan Perera & Harper Gull
FTW	Jack Giles and Levi Plover	5CC	Charlie Quarrell and Jett Raine
1GH	Harvey Rowland and Charlie McNamara	5LD	Savee Thuse and Kade Swayn
1EM	Vann Brooks and Flynn Warr	5ML	Pippa Gleeson and Thomas Hiscock
1GT	Blake Morvell and Laila Jennings	6PB	Minti Toohey and Eliza Hanrahan
2GJ	Imogen Curtain and Toby Wilson Hadley Cheeseman & Patrick Olechnowicz (Last week - Hospitality)	6JS	Lily Davison and Xavier Foster (Last week, Sadie Buntsma for Hospitality).
2MH	Fergus Toohey and Harper Gilbertson Mya Troon (Last week - Hospitality)	6MM	Bonnie Giles and Winnie Harrison
2TS	Tommy Just & Hazel Fedke	EE/ Sci	Ollie Downs (Last week - Hospitality), for his amazing knowledge on the solar system. Sophie McNeill- for her curiosity and generous sharing of her space knowledge during science lessons.
3LL	Ruby Plover & Khloe Nield	PA	Lily Bye and Darcie Richardson
3JT	Zoe Cooper & Mayo Baruwa	VA	Ada Mason & Rex Owins (2MH)
3ZP	Harry Toohey & Piper Swayn	PE	Maya Loader (2GJ) & Howard Latchford (3JT/LC)
		Tch	Olive Lenaghan (6JS) & Spencer Belsar (1GT)

Principal's Award: Will Allan from 3ZP
 He held open the door for three adults and was very kind towards them which was great to see. Will was showing compassion as he treated others the way he would like to be treated. Well done Will!

Ministry District Newsletter

Trinity Sunday Year A – May 31st, 2026

Incorporating the faith communities of Ballan, Ballarat East, Bungaree, Buninyong, Clarke's Hill, Dunnstown, Gordon & Springbank
Priests: Frs. Justin Driscoll & Shaju 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 June 2 nd	11.00 am	Mercy Place Ballarat East - Anointing
Wednesday June 3 rd	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East
Thursday June 4 th	10.30 am	St Brigid's Ballan
Friday June 5 th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East St Michael's Bungaree
Saturday June 6 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East

Weekend Masses – Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

Saturday June 6 th		Sunday June 7 th	
5.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Ballarat East Gordon
6.30 pm	Dunnstown	10.30 am	Buninyong Ballan

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Eamon Lenaghan

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Jean Bourke, Joan Clifford, Joseph Cremona, Kevin Dowsley, Nick Cassar, Heather Marlsen, George Pearse, Patricia Robertson, Sam Spiteri, James Terris

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Owen Widdison, Richard Wade

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The Most Holy Trinity

Exodus 3:1-6, 8-9
2 Corinthians: 13:11-13
John 3:16-18

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16
1 Corinthians 10:16-17
John 6:51-58

UPCOMING DATES

- June 3rd**
Ministry District Dinner
Golden City Hotel Ballarat
6.00pm
- June 4th**
Baptism Preparation Sessions
Mary Glowrey Rooms (Cathedral Precinct)
10 am or 5.30 pm
- June 5th**
My Aged Care information session
Ballarat East Parish Hall at 2.00pm
- June 6th & 7th**
First Eucharist
St. Alipius' Parish
- June 10th**
St. Alipius' Parish Finance Committee
7.30 am – Parish Hub
- June 11th**
St. Alipius' Parish Liturgy Committee
5.30 pm – Parish Hub
- June 13th & 14th**
First Eucharist
St. Alipius' Parish
- June 26th**
Damascus @ St. Brendan's
Celebration Mass
10.30 am

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.

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: PROJECT AND ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR - PREVENTION IN FAITH COMMUNITIES: BUILDING RESPECTFUL COMMUNITIES (BALLARAT-BASED)

St Alipius Parish invites expressions of interest for a part time (8 hours per week) Project and Engagement Coordinator for the Faith Communities Focusing on Prevention: Building Respectful Communities Project, funded through Respect Ballarat. The Coordinator will forge connections with faith communities in the Ballarat region and support the delivery of workshops to build confidence and capacity in the prevention of gendered-violence as part of the Respect Ballarat initiative. Read the position description at <https://css.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Position-Description-Faith-Communities-Engagement-Coordinator-May-2026.pdf>.

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.

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.

MASS COUNTS

Over the previous four weekends we have participated in the National Count of Attendances at all Masses – thank you to our counters.

The average numbers attending Masses were

5.00pm	Ballarat East	138
6.30pm	Clarkes Hill	30
6.30pm	Dunnstown	34
6.30pm	Springbank	43
9.00am	Bungaree	30
9.00am	Buninyong	50
9.00am	Gordon	51
9.00am	Ballarat East	93
10.30am	Ballan	68
10.30am	Ballarat East	125
10.30am	Buninyong	117

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

The National Reconciliation Week 2026 theme is “All In”, a call for all Australians to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation every single day. National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

EUCHARIST28 UPDATE

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. This national journey to Eucharist28 is an invitation for all of us to be set on fire by the Holy Spirit and share in the breaking of the bread. The journey begins now, in our own hearts, in our own parishes. For more information and regular updates, please register at the website <https://eucharist28.org/>

ACU CENTRE FOR LITURGY

The ACU Centre for Liturgy offers parishes specialised training and formation workshops, as well as a range of short courses. Find out more at <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/institutes-academies-and-centres/acu-centre-for-liturgy/pastoral-training>.

BAPTISMS

Ss Peter and Paul Buninyong
Nellie and Morgan McIntosh
Daughters of Michael and Shae-Maree

Betty Mae and Wilbur John Todd
Children of Matthew and Daisy

CARING GROUP

The next meeting of the Caring Group will be held at 2pm on Friday 5th June in the Ballarat East 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.

EUCHARIST CELEBRATIONS



Over the next three weekends, we welcome the children who have been preparing to receive the sacrament of Eucharist for the first time. These children prepare for the sacrament at home with their

families using a Diocesan resource called ‘Let the Children Come’. Their preparation is supported by their schools which teach related topics in their Religious Education classes. We congratulate these children and their families for taking this final step of their initiation into the Catholic church. Please keep them in your prayers.

God of Communion, and God in Communion with the World

Reflection on the Gospel ~ Trinity Sunday Year A

(John 3:16-18)

Veronica Lawson RSM

In the beginning is not the solitude of a One, of an eternal Being, alone and infinite. Rather, in the beginning is the communion of the three Unique Ones" (Brazilian theologian Leonardo Boff). Trinity Sunday is the day that we set aside to celebrate who God is in Godself and who God is in relation to everything that exists. We celebrate the nearness of the Triune God who draws us as participants into the mystery of life, of communion, of love and of salvation.

Today's gospel passage forms part of Jesus' dialogue with a Pharisee called Nicodemus whom Jesus leads from a basic and fairly literal understanding to new understandings of what it means to be in relationship with God. The need to be "born of the Spirit" is part of the conversation that forms the context for this gospel reading. God is not a distant God, but rather a God of communion, and a God in communion with the world: "God so loved the world..." John uses the term "world" in today's gospel to refer to humanity in need of salvation. Jesus, "God's child", is the one through whom the world is saved.

Trinitarian language pervades John's gospel and is present elsewhere in the Christian scriptures, almost certainly reflecting the incipient belief of the earliest communities that God is one, as Jewish faith asserts, and at the same time three-in-one. This belief was to develop over the subsequent centuries into the doctrine of the Trinity which is at the very heart of Christian faith.



Perichoresis, a Greek term suggestive of both permeation and diversity in unity, is one of the earliest and probably one of the most striking metaphors used to explain this Trinitarian life of God. The life that is in God is

three and yet one in a totally harmonious union of love. Another early metaphorical explanation was of three unified suns, with their three lights mingled into one light. No one image can capture the mystery of God's dynamic Trinitarian existence. Every image falls short in some respect. Since God is neither male nor female, it is important to remember that the traditional male language of Father, Son and Spirit is one way of imaging the Trinity and is not to be absolutized or taken as a literal description of God who is three in one.

Trinitarian love casts out hatred and enmity and wanton destruction. It calls us to live in harmony with one another and with the whole of the Earth community. It calls us to examine our tendency to privilege those who look and act like us and who see the world as we do. It calls us to "enlarge the space of our tents" (Isa 54:2), to walk with all God's people in faith and hope and love, working together to enshrine unity and peace across diverse cultures and habitats.



EVERYONE'S BEST INTEREST

When you open an account with CDF Community Fund, you not only get a great return on your savings, but you will also help build classrooms for students, hospitals for the sick, aged care homes for the elderly, and social service facilities for the poor and vulnerable. Open an account with us today. **It's in everyone's best interest.**

Term Investment Account Special

5.35% P.A.*

12 MONTHS



CDF: Supporting Our Catholic Community

Your savings can do more than grow; they can strengthen Catholic schools, wellbeing programs, and communities right here in the Diocese of Ballarat.

For more than 50 years, CDF has helped make this possible, from a brand-new learning centre at **Emmanuel College** to student wellbeing initiatives like the **Paw Pals Therapy Program**. Through the collective support of our community, funds are directed back into parishes, schools, and healthcare services across the Ballarat region.

Earn a competitive return rate of interest, while supporting the life of the Church close to home.

By choosing to save with CDF, you can help care for the life of our Church today, while supporting future generations.

Visit catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund or call **1800 134 135** to find out more.

Faith in Action



"The Catholic Development Fund has helped support the life and mission of our Church across the Diocese of Ballarat for more than 50 years, assisting the growth of our parishes, schools, community services and health care. Through the faithful participation of many across our Diocese, CDF provides a tangible expression of faith, strengthening the foundations of our community. Together, we are called to serve with faith, hope and love, ensuring that the places where people gather, learn and care for one another continue to grow and flourish for future generations."

**Bishop Mark Freeman,
Diocese of Ballarat, Victoria**



Visit our website and learn more about CDF, including account options and current projects supported by our funding.

*Rate subject to change. Interest paid at maturity.
The Fund is required by law to make the following disclosure: Investment in the Fund is only intended to attract investors whose primary purpose for making their investment is to support the charitable purposes of the Fund. Investor's funds will be used to generate a return to the Fund that will be applied to further the charitable works of the Catholic Church. The Fund is not prudentially supervised by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority nor has it been examined or approved by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC). An investor in the Fund will not receive the benefits of the financial claims scheme, or the depositor protection provisions in the Banking Act 1959 (Cth). The investments that the Fund offers are not subject to the usual protections for investors under the Corporations Act (Cth) or regulation by ASIC. Investors may be unable to get some or all of their money back when the investor expects or at all and investments in the Fund are not comparable to investments with banks, finance companies or fund managers. The Fund's identification statement may be viewed [here](#) or by contacting the Fund. The Fund does not hold an Australian Financial Services Licence. The Fund has entered into an intermediary authorisation with CDFCF AFSL Limited ABN 49 622 976 747, AFSL No. 504202 to issue and deal in debentures.

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.

FREE!

WESTERN BULLDOGS

ALL-GIRLS

AFLW GIRLS SUPER CLINIC

**04
JUNE**

Clinic 4:30-5:30pm
Brown Hill Recreation Reserve, Ballarat
Suitable for ages 5-12



Snot Bottom
vs
THE ZOMBIE BOOGERS
THE SCIENCE OF SNOT

BALLARAT PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
TUESDAY 30 JUNE | 3PM

MORE INFO & TIX
BPACBALLARAT.ORG



"unforgettable experience"
★★★★★ Kids in Adelaide

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.