



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Tuesday 9th June 2026
Term 2 Week 8

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

Tuesday 9th June

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

Wednesday 10th June

P&F Meeting
5.30pm in the Staff Room

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

Term 3 (10 weeks)

Mon 13th Jul-Fri 18th Sep

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

Year 6 Melbourne CYC
Camp

On the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

It has been a wonderful week back at school following my period of enrichment leave. I feel incredibly fortunate to have been granted this time away and equally grateful for the warm welcome I have received from all members of our school community upon my return.

My leave provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on my role as leader of this community and on the profound privilege of my vocation as an educator within the Catholic system. The experience was rich and rewarding, filled with meaningful personal, professional, and spiritual encounters. I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to have undertaken this journey.

A significant part of my time away was spent walking the ancient pilgrimage route known as the Camino de Santiago. Pilgrims have travelled this path for centuries, and I began my journey in the city of León, Spain. Over the course of several weeks, I walked through numerous villages, towns, and cities before eventually arriving in Santiago de Compostela, where I visited the tomb of St James the Apostle. Reaching this historic destination marked the culmination of the pilgrimage, and I was very pleased to arrive.

What did I learn while walking? It is a fair question, and one for which the answer continues to unfold. Among many lessons, I was reminded that meaningful achievements are rarely gained without effort and perseverance. One purposeful step at a time is often all that is required to move us towards our goals. Although I chose to walk alone, I was never truly alone. My days were filled with moments of joy and discovery, praise and gratitude, as well as periods of frustration, uncertainty, and the occasional discomfort of blisters, aching joints, and tired muscles. Yet at the end of each day, there was always a sense of accomplishment and an opportunity to prepare for the journey ahead.

Throughout my travels, the Saint Francis Xavier community was never far from my thoughts or prayers. In keeping with a long-standing pilgrimage tradition, a small piece of quartz—collected from our top oval—now rests at the foot of the Iron Cross on Mount Irago. For generations, pilgrims have left a reminder of home at this sacred site as both an offering and a prayer for protection along the journey.

While I feel truly blessed to have experienced this special time away, the warmth of the welcome I received from our students and staff upon my return reminded me of a simple truth: there really is no place like home.

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



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 FLF

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



Thank you!

I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank Mrs. Jane Clark and Jayne Mohr who stepped into the role of Principal while I was away from our school. Knowing that our school community was left in the hands of such a capable team meant that I could step away without hesitation. For this I am very grateful. I would also like to acknowledge the support shown by our Organisational Leadership team; Michael Marshall, Christine Meneely and Lindy Harty who assisted in so many ways. Of course, a big Thanks to our wonderful staff and students who work together every day to ensure that all runs smoothly at our great school. Thank You!

Swimming Program

Our swimming program is well and truly underway at our new venue, Federation University. We have received very positive feedback from the staff at the swim center regarding the manners and attitude of our students. Well done children, we are proud of you!

School Closure Day

Thanks to all families for your support of our school closure day last Friday. The teachers spent this day developing their understandings of the Auslan program which we teach in our school. Auxiliary staff spent time learning about student support and wellbeing.

Cover Up Clothes


In case we needed reminding, it has been very wet lately! Children are asked to bring a cover up top and a change of shoes if they would like to play on the paddocks or top oval at school. Gumboots might be a great option but anything that can be changed quickly is a good idea. If you would like your child to wear cover up pants as well that's fine.

Year 4 - Book Snapshot

We invite you to explore our Book Snapshot to see what Year 4 students are reading, writing and learning about. Make sure to check out the question prompts to get the conversations flowing!

Uncle Xbox


by Dr Jarrod Thomas



ST FRANCIS XAVIER
PRIMARY SCHOOL | BALLARAT EAST

Year 4

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

Dusty is an upper primary school boy living with his single mum Kathy and baby sister Mary. He copes as best he can despite poverty, racist taunts and schoolyard bullying. A gifted soccer player, Dusty excels at most sports and spends countless hours playing Xbox with his stepdad Marcus. When Marcus leaves and takes the Xbox with him, Dusty is deeply distressed. This challenge opens new possibilities in Dusty's life. With the support of Uncle Rick, he learns to surf and discovers there is more to life than gaming. He also begins to build a stronger connection to his culture, family and Country.

MAIN CHARACTERS

WRITING

Dusty – the main character, a soccer-loving boy who is passionate about gaming.

Kathy – Dusty's mum, who works hard to care for the family.

Mary – Dusty's baby sister.

Marcus – Dusty's stepdad, who leaves the family and takes the Xbox.

Uncle Rick – Dusty's uncle, who introduces him to surfing, culture and Country.

Diego – an older neighbour Dusty helps with jobs while trying to save money.

In class, students will working on writing sentences with subordinating conjunctions. They will complete this unit by writing a factual recount about British Colonisation of Australia and Effects on First Nations Australians.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

THEMES

Questions to extend thinking...

- What does Uncle Rick teach Dusty besides surfing?
- Why is connection to Country important in the story?
- How does Dusty show resilience when facing challenges at school and home?
- What do you think Dusty's future might look like after the events of the book?

Additional information about the author...

Dr Jared Thomas, a Nukunu person of the Southern Flinders Ranges and Research Fellow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Material Culture and Art at the South Australian Museum and the University of South Australia, this coming of age novel offers gentle insights into growing up, family and finding your place in a digital world. Or not!

IF THEY LOVED THIS, TRY...

Calypso Summer by Jared Thomas

Our Island by Anita Heiss

The Rainbow Serpent by Dick Roughsey

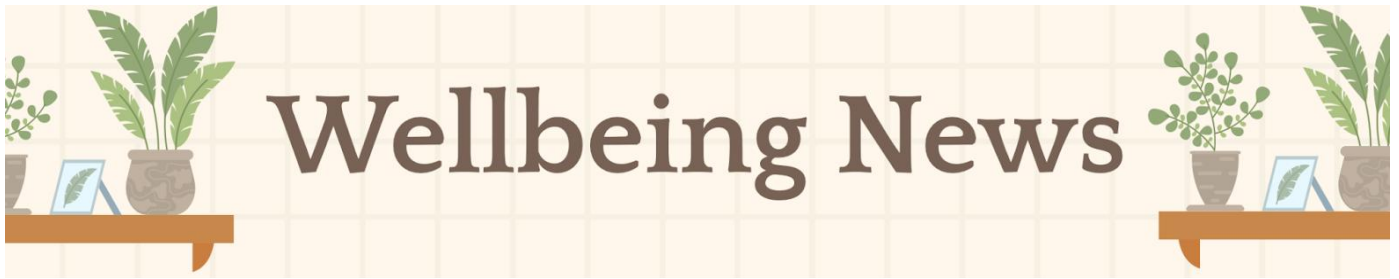
Sorry Day by Corinne Fenton

The Boy from the Mish by Gary Lonesborough

Lindy Harty, Literacy Leader

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.

4.



Wellbeing News

WEBINAR: Understanding Anxiety and Depression to Foster Resilience

DATE: Wednesday, 10 June 2026

TIME: 7:30 pm

Join international experts Dr Emma Woodward and Dr Joe Stammeijer as they share valuable insights into recognising early signs of concern and practical approaches to supporting the wellbeing of young people.

This presentation forms part of a broader webinar series designed to strengthen mental health literacy across school communities.

Topics in this session will include:

- Staying Calm and Connected
- Building Daily Routines
- Meeting the Needs of Neurodivergent Learners



Online, Wednesday
10 June, 2026
7.30 pm

Don't miss out.
FREE event.
Scan to register.



Christine Meneely (School Counsellor and Wellbeing/ MHiPS Leader)

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



Eureka Division Netball

This Friday will see SFX being represented by 4 quality teams at the Eureka Division Netball tournament at Selkirk Stadium. We have a Girls A, Boys/Mixed A, Girls B and a Boys/Mixed B team participating. Good luck to all of the students and staff involved, we know that you will represent yourselves and our school proudly and with lots of energy and enthusiasm.

2026 SFX SPORTS DATES

Term 2:

- 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

Term 3:

- Week 4 - Friday Aug 7th - Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools Athletics @ Llanberris (selected students from Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 5 - Friday Aug 14th - Division Basketball @ Selkirk Stadium (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 8 - Friday Sep 4th - Interschool Sport (Yr 5/6)
- Week 9 - Wednesday Sep 9th - Division Athletics @ Llanberris (qualifiers from BCPS Aths - Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6)

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 fantastic week.



Shaun Carroll, **SFX Sport Coordinator**

As we enter the colder months and peak cold and Flu Season it's important to support our students' understanding of common health conditions that may affect their classmates and friends. We are sharing this Asthma Australia resource to explain asthma in a child friendly way. We would encourage families to read through the information with their children to promote awareness, understanding and empathy for those living with Asthma.

This is an Asthma Australia resource that gives a child friendly explanation of Asthma, what it is, how it can affect breathing and how asthma medication helps.

This is particularly relevant given the increase in respiratory illnesses during winter and the importance of keeping our school community safe and informed.

Many thanks

Andrea Grant, School First Aid Coordinator



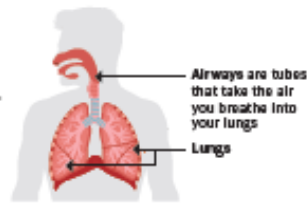
What is asthma?

When you breathe, the air travels in and out of your lungs through tubes called airways.

Having asthma means your airways are extra sensitive.

Lots of people in Australia have asthma, **1 in every 9 people**.

How many people in your class have asthma?



What does asthma feel like?

Things your lungs don't like are called triggers. These are things like smoke, pollen, dust or cold air.

When you breathe something in that your airways don't like, they start to squeeze tight. This makes it hard to breathe! You might cough, wheeze or feel very puffed out.



What medicine do you need?

There are two main types of asthma medicine.

Relievers and Preventers.

Relievers relax the muscles in your airways to make it easier to breathe. Most kids with asthma have a **blue** puffer called Asmol, Ventolin or Zempreon.

Preventers calm down the airways to make them less sensitive. Preventers come in all sorts of different **colours**.

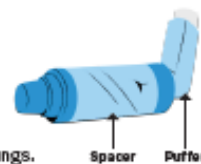


What else do you need?

The best way to use a puffer, is by connecting it to a spacer.

A spacer is a big plastic tube.

It stops the medicine ending up all in the mouth instead of in the lungs.



- **P&F Meeting** – Wednesday 10th June 2026 – 5.30pm in the Staff Room
- **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



Ministry District Newsletter

Body and Blood of Christ Year A – June 7th, 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 9 th	11.00 am	Mercy Place Ballarat East	
Wednesday June 10 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East	
Thursday June 11 th	10.30 am 11.00 am	St Brigid's Ballan Mecwacare Canadian	
Friday June 12 th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East St Michael's Bungaree	
Saturday June 13 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East	
Weekend Masses – 11 th Sunday in Ordinary Time			
Saturday June 13 th		Sunday June 14 th	
5.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am	Buninyong Bungaree
6.30 pm	Springbank	10.30 am	Ballarat East Ballan

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Peter Davey, Russell Reid (Mildura)

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Stan Blake, Timothy and Kristen Canty, Jack and Patricia Carey, Edna Crosbie, Michael Davies, Judith Dickson, George Dimech, Brian Foley, Myrtle Fuller, Daniel Greene, James Edward Jarvis, Shelia McCartin, Elizabeth Nunn, Greg Plageman, Edna Quinlan, Maurice Ryan, Paula Scott, Leo Tuddenham

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Owen Widdison, Richard Wade

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

The Body and Blood of Christ

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

John 6:51-58

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 19:2-6

Romans 5:6-11

Matthew 9:36 - 10:8

UPCOMING DATES

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

EUCCHARIST28 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>.

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>.

EUCCHARIST CELEBRATIONS



Once again this weekend, 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.

BAPTISMS

Ss. Peter & Paul's Buninyong
Hunter James Ward
Son of Brayden and Felicity

St Brigid's Ballan
Ivy Collins Mitchell
Daughter of Cory and Tracey



Parishioners from across the Ministry District braved some very ordinary weather on Wednesday evening to gather at the Golden City Hotel for dinner. Numbers were great and people enjoyed a catch up and good meal.

LITURGY ROSTERS

Liturgy Rosters for the coming two months have been emailed out. Copies of these rosters can also be found on the sound desk in the church. Please feel free to take one. Just a reminder to sign in each time you are involved in a ministry at Mass so that we have our records up to date. Initials are preferable to a tick. Ministers of the Word and Eucharist are reminded that they are asked to welcome people to Mass as they wait for the priest prior to Mass starting. We would be grateful if you could hand out newsletters as well.

MINISTRY DISTRICT FINANCES

Moving forward, income for each of the parishes in the Ministry District will be published on the bulletin monthly, using the format below. The figures will be printed on the first weekend of each month.

	St. Patrick's	St. Michael's	St. Alipius'
Collections	3,166		5611
Direct Debits	1510	859	3820
Credit Card			2370
Envelopes	1775	230	1084
Tap 'n Go Machines	160		963

ENCYCLICAL MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS BY POPE LEO XIV

Claudio Betti article in Eureka Street, [Pope says AI must serve humanity, not power](#), says The impression is that the Pope reads our time as a historical phase marked by the meeting of two major phenomena. On one side, the extraordinary growth of technological capabilities and the possibilities offered by artificial intelligence. On the other side, the emergence of a culture where the language of force, control, and competition gradually replaces cooperation, fraternity, and shared responsibility...Artificial intelligence represents the historical context within which deeper questions emerge. The real issues concern the human person, dignity, work, freedom, truth, power, and the future of human coexistence... The encyclical is published not only on the one hundred and thirty-fifth anniversary of Rerum Novarum. It is also promulgated the day after Pentecost. It is difficult to consider such a coincidence irrelevant. If the reference to Rerum Novarum places the document within the great journey of Catholic Social Teaching, the timing of Pentecost adds another dimension. At Babel, human beings seek a single language. They seek uniformity, control, and power. At Pentecost, something different happens. A new language is not born. A language made new is born. Each person continues to hear in their own language and history. The Spirit does not eliminate differences. It makes them understandable. Unity does not arise from uniformity but from communion.

Anna Rowlands (Durham) University participated in the launch of the Pope's first encyclical at Magnifica Humanities. Her address can be accessed [here](#). Anyone interested in joining Fr Justin in exploring this landmark encyclical please contact the Parish Office 0437 505 517.

“Giver of breath and bread.”

Reflection on the Gospel Body and Blood of Christ Year A

(John 6:51-58)

Veronica Lawson RSM

As I watch the birds foraging for food in my front yard, I am transported back to the poetry of Gerard Manly Hopkins who began *The Wreck of the Deutschland* with the prayer: “Thou mastering me God! giver of breath and bread.” Every creature needs bread and every creature needs breath. “I can’t breathe”, that cry of African American George Floyd has echoed across the globe for over six years now, making both Pentecost and Trinity strange reminders of the right of all to the breath of life. It will haunt us until we effect the conversion of heart that eliminates white supremacy and every form of violence.

As we celebrate Corpus Christi, we remember the two billion or more across the globe who yearn for “bread” in order to remain physically alive. We cannot appreciate this feast and what it signifies unless we have some appreciation and some satisfying experience of the material reality that underpins the symbolism of bread and wine. At the most basic level, this Feast is about bread broken and shared. It calls us to share our daily bread with those who hunger and thirst.

Today’s gospel passage belongs within a section of John’s gospel generally called the Bread of Life Discourse. Some scholars suggest that the discourse as a whole is cast in the form of a synagogue homily. In this view, it is a rabbinic type exposition of Exodus 16:4 and Psalm 78:24-5 on the manna/bread that God rains from heaven. In John 6:51-58, there are allusions to Eucharist as both meal and sacrifice. Jesus is the manna or bread from heaven. Life comes from eating his flesh/body. It also comes from drinking his blood.



For the ancient Israelites, the life was in the blood. Blood poured out is life poured out. To drink the wine/blood is to participate in the life of Christ poured out.

An analogy from my own context might help us to grasp something of the mystery that we call Eucharist. My home town, Ballarat, is the site of the Eureka rebellion. The Eureka flag is housed in a place of honour in the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka. At one level, this flag is fabric and thread. At another, it far transcends the materials from which it is crafted. These materials were transformed, possibly by women from our own parish, into a symbol of freedom for the Eureka rebels. In the process, they changed their purpose and meaning; so too with the bread and wine of our Eucharistic celebrations. They have become, in a very real though mysterious sense, the body and blood of Christ. While we reflect on this mystery, we ground our faith in action designed to address the issue of global hunger and the circumstances that inhibit access to “bread” for all. The feast of the Body and Blood of Christ invites us to careful consumption of the world’s resources so that all God’s people and all God’s creatures may have life.