

St Francis Xavier Primary School



Newsletter

Monday 15th June 2026
Term 2 Week 9

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

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 2 (10 weeks)

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 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-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

On the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Families,

Over recent weeks, our parish community has been celebrating a very special milestone as our students receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist. By the completion of this weekend's celebrations, Fr Justin will have welcomed more than 100 students to the table of the Lord in a most memorable way.

What special memories do you carry from significant moments in your life? We often look back on important occasions as stepping stones in our personal growth and development. Whether in sport, school, family life, or faith, certain experiences remain with us long after they have passed. I still remember receiving my pen licence (although, judging by my handwriting today, I'm not entirely sure how I earned it!) and I certainly remember receiving the sacraments surrounded by family and friends. These occasions marked important moments of growth and achievement.

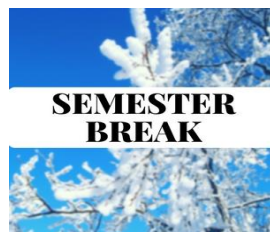
The Catholic Church celebrates seven sacraments, each representing significant stages in our faith journey. Following Baptism, children typically receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation during their primary school years. As adults, some may choose to celebrate the Sacraments of Marriage or Holy Orders and later receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. These sacred moments continue to guide and strengthen us throughout our lives.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all students from our school and parish who are receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist at this time. May God bless you and your families as you celebrate this special occasion and continue your journey of faith.

Kind regards.

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



End of Term – Start of Term

Classes cease for second term on Friday 26 June at 2.20pm. We will commence third term on Monday 13 July at 9.00am. Happy holidays everyone.

Friday 14th August

Pupil free day (to be confirmed)

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

Friday 21st August

2.40pm Assembly in School gym led by 1GH

Friday 28th August

Casual Clothes Day - gold coin donations

2.40pm Assembly in School gym led by FLP

Friday 4th September

Interscholar Sport (Yr 5/6)

Fathers/Special Friends Liturgy (to be confirmed)

No Assembly today

Wednesday 9th September

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

Friday 11th September

No Assembly today

Friday 18th September

Last day of Term 3

Footy Colours Day - gold coin donations to support Fight Cancer

No Assembly today

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)

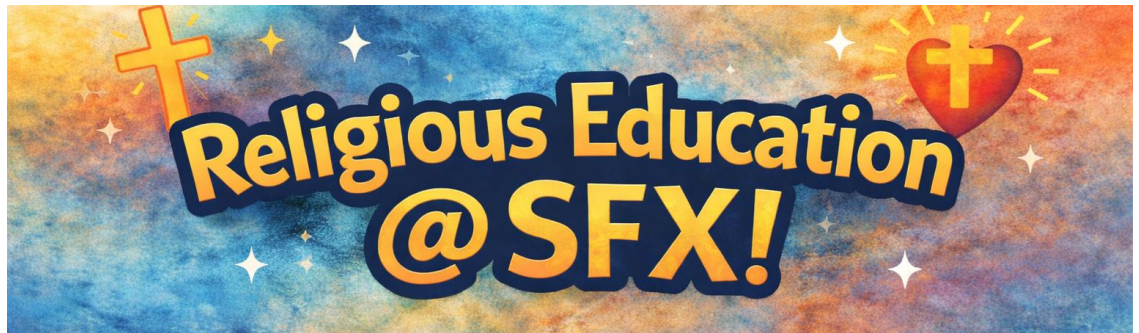
2.40pm Assembly in School gym led by 5LD

Friday 23rd October

2.40pm Assembly in School gym led by 1GT

First Semester Reports

The first semester reports will be released on our Parent Access Module (PAM) on Thursday 25 June at 4.00pm. Please take time to download and read your child’s report before having a great discussion with your children about their learning over the holiday break. Let’s celebrate learning together!



Celebrating the Eucharist

Over the past three weeks, we have had the joy of celebrating the Sacrament of Eucharist with many of our students and their families.

We congratulate all those students who received their First Eucharist and thank the families, staff and parish members who supported them along the way. It has been a beautiful time of faith, reverence and celebration in our community.

This Week’s Gospel – Sent on a Mission (Matthew 9:36 – 10:8)

In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus sees the crowds and is filled with compassion for them. He then sends out his disciples with a clear mission — to bring hope, healing and peace to others.

The disciples are not sent because they are perfect or have all the answers. They are sent because they are willing.

This Gospel reminds us that we are all called to make a difference in the lives of others through simple acts of kindness, care and compassion.

A message for families:

This week we also celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which reminds us of Jesus’ deep love for all people.

We recognise Refugee Week (June 14–20) and World Refugee Day (June 20), which invite us to reflect on the experiences of those who have been forced to leave their homes and seek safety.

These moments call us to respond with understanding, compassion and a willingness to welcome others — just as Jesus calls his disciples to do.

A family reflection:

How can we show compassion to others in our everyday lives?

What is one way we can make someone feel welcome and supported this week?

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

Our challenge for the week:

Choose one small action this week that shows compassion for others.

- Welcome or include someone new
- Offer help to someone in need
- Speak kindly and show understanding

Small acts of compassion can make a big difference.



Michael Marshall, **Religious Education Leader**

Curriculum News



Year 5 Writing!

Year 5 students have been working hard in English this semester, exploring the powerful novels *Black Cockatoo* and *Djirran*. Through these rich and thought-provoking texts, students examined important themes, character development, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives. Be sure to check out our Book Snapshot to learn more about these engaging books and the learning that has taken place in the classroom.

Throughout the semester, students developed their understanding of Information Texts and created their own informative pieces based on their learning. They also showcased their creativity by writing a narrative piece as a third instalment inspired by the series. Congratulations to Noah and Austin, who were selected to share their writing.

Jandamarra Information Report by Noah

Jandamarra, a warrior, was born in the 1870's when farmers and the authorities claimed land in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. When he was 10, he went to live on Lennard River Pastoral Station with his mother, but returned to the Bunuba people when he was 16. Jandamarra was torn between two worlds but ultimately fought for his people. There were a multitude of events in Jandamarra's lifetime that led him to become the warrior we know. He was jailed with his uncle for killing sheep. He tried to return to the Bunuba people, but was banished. Jandamarra joined the police tracker in 1894. He turned against the police. In the end, these important events shaped Jandamarra into a leader who fought for his people's freedom.

Jandamarra's first significant act of war was the battle of Windjana Gorge on November 16, 1894. He suffered severe injuries but recovered by hiding in the wilderness. Jandamarra's began targeting property or livestock, anointing the farmers who lived there. He was able to fight for a long time without getting caught by the police. Jandamarra's fight and targeting farmer's property led him to suffered severe injuries but recovered in the wilderness.

It was inevitable that Jandamarra would be caught - though not without help. He died April 1st, 1897 when Jandamarra was killed by Mingo Mick. Mingo Mick, an Aboriginal tracker, betrayed him by assisting the police. Since the legend of Jandamarra lives on over a century later, the Bunuba people knowledge him for being their savior. Though Jandamarra's life was cut tragically short, his efforts to help his people have not been forgotten.

Since Jandamarra fought ultimately for his people, he was torn between two worlds. When Jandamarra was 10, he went to live on Lennard River Pastoral Station with his mother and eventually returned to the Bunuba people when he was 16. In the Kimberley region of Western Australia, Jandamarra was born in the 1870's when farmers and the authorities claimed land.

The third installment of the Black Cockatoo and Dirram Series by Austin

Weeks ago, Mia had made the hard decision to stay on her country and leave boarding school behind. In those weeks, Mia had remembered the fun she had with Naya and all the times she was kind to her when she was homesick. Laying down in the backyard, contemplating her decisions, Mia heard the soft rustle of the leaves, humming of the wind and the quiet sound of the grass passing through her fingers. There was a sudden silence. The silence broke with a loud call "Lunch!" shouted Mia's mum. Mia got up and slowly walked into the kitchen and sat down ready for lunch.

As she finished sitting down, Mia's mum asked her, "Is everything alright?" "Yeah, just hungry", said Mia. Mia's mum handed her a delicious sandwich, and then walked away. "Where are you going?", said Mia "I'm going to have a rest.", said Mia's mum.

Mia ate her sandwich while still thinking about the decision she made. She was asking herself, Was it worth it? Did I make the right choice? Mia stood up and walked over to where her mum was sleeping. She tapped on her mum's shoulder. Once, twice, three times. She didn't wake up. Mia yelled at her mum twice, but no response. Mia's eyes teared up and she ran to get her phone and call the ambulance.

Half an hour later, the ambulance arrived at Mia's house, finding her with Mia's mum. The medics tried everything they could to save Mia's mum, but they couldn't. Mia was sitting in the corner waiting for an answer. Was she alive? Was she dead? A medic walked over to her and told Mia the devastating news. "Your mother, she's gone" Mia's eyes teared up again, but in disbelief. She ran out the door, bawling her eyes out. She ran to the tree in her backyard and cried for hours. By the time she had stopped, the ambulance had found Jy, Jawiji and Jaja. They had been told the news too. They were absolutely devastated.

Three days later, scientists discovered that Mia's mum had died from an extreme heart attack which killed her instantly. A funeral was held the next day and everybody in the town attended. The funeral went on for a day. It was a very difficult time for Mia.

After the funeral, Mia sat on the couch that her mum died on. All she could think about was her mum Jy's reaction was just as devastated. He was depressed. And eventually he took on the truth and realised that his mum was gone. Mia did not want to realise the truth. It was too hard.

Eventually, about a month later, Mia had thought about all the sadness she had gathered and what she could have done to save her mum. She could have asked if she was ok, or checked if she had fallen asleep. Finally, Mia woke up to reality and also acknowledged that her mum was gone, forever. At least once a week, Mia went to her mum's gravestone and talked about her day. She thought that if, in spirit, she was there that it would be like she was still on earth and that everything would be better. Although this last month was devastating, Mia realised the truth of life and lived hers with joy and happiness.

Dirrarn

by Carl Merrison & Hakea Hustler



ST FRANCIS XAVIER
PRIMARY SCHOOL | DALLAKAT EAST

Year 5

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

In *Dirrarn*, Mia begins a new journey at boarding school, thousands of kilometres from her home, family, and the expansive landscape she cherishes. Alongside her best friend Naya, she navigates the challenges of forming new friendships, adapting to different perspectives, and living in an unfamiliar environment where she does not see herself, her people, or her culture represented. Faced with loneliness and uncertainty, Mia must find the strength to assert her truth and remain connected to who she is. The *dirrarn*, Mia's totem animal, becomes a symbol of strength and freedom, helping her maintain a strong connection to Country while she is far from home.

MAIN CHARACTERS

Mia - the main character.

Naya - Mia's best friend at boarding school. Naya supports Mia as they both navigate new friendships and challenges.

Charlotte - A student at the boarding school who bullies Mia and Naya, contributing to the many challenges Mia faces.

Jy - Mia's grandmother. An important family figure who helps keep Mia connect to culture, language and Country. The *dirrarn* (black cockatoo) itself is symbolic throughout the story, representing Mia's strength, freedom, and connection to Country.

WRITING

In class, students will be learning to write interesting topic and concluding sentences, adverbial phrases and using appositives. They have written a character analysis of Mia and a factual recount about *The Life of First Nations Warrior, Jandamarra*.

THEMES

This text explores:

- identity and belonging
- connection to Country
- friendship
- resilience and courage
- truth and voice
- strength through culture

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Questions to extend thinking...

- How do you think Mia felt when she first arrived at boarding school?
- What challenges does Mia face being so far away from home and Country?
- How does Mia show courage throughout the story?
- Were there moments in the story that made you feel angry, sad, hopeful, or proud? Why?
- How do friendships help Mia through difficult times?
- Why is it important to speak up and "assert your truth"?
- Which character did you connect with and why?

You may like to explore this Jaru Country (around Halls Creek) in the Kimberley region of Western Australia - <https://www.nma.gov.au/learn/kospace/the-kimberley-1990/kids>

IF THEY LOVED THIS, TRY...

Black Cockatoo by Carl Merrison & Hakea Hustler

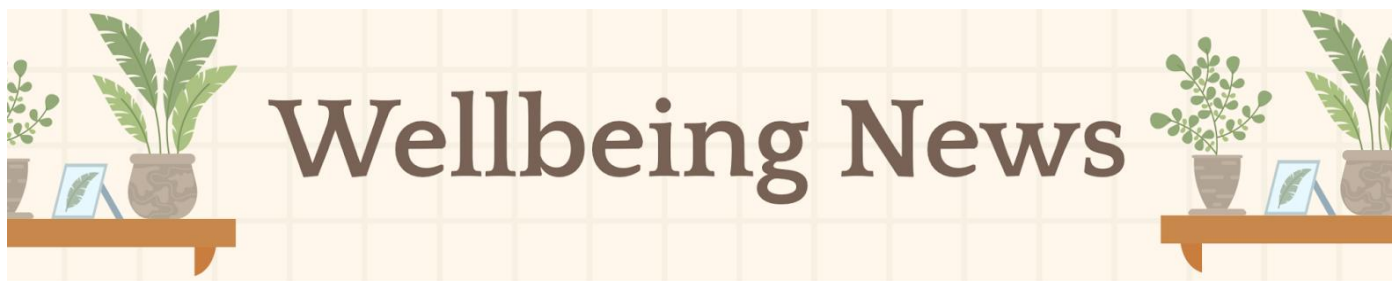
Ubbys Underdogs by Brenton McKenna

Ghost Bird by Lisa Fuller

The Little Wave by Phillipa Harry



Lindy Harty, Literacy Leader



If your household is anything like mine, watching sport is a big deal!

In the last couple of weeks I've caught glimpses of AFL, Rugby League, Motorsports, Netball, Soccer and Basketball as I wander past the TV.

As a "reformed Queenslander", my family and I are eagerly awaiting this Wednesday's State of Origin game!

An athlete's truly incredible accomplishment is not only their natural ability; but developing the mental strength needed to get them to the top level of competition.

We have so many wonderful conversations watching high level performances and gut-wrenching defeats. Sport can offer us numerous opportunities for teaching our children about perseverance, goal-setting, resilience, gratitude, adaptability and teamwork. Although most of us will never achieve or compete at such high levels, we can use these athletes as examples to help our children learn about what it takes to achieve great results and develop a growth mindset.

We can help our children develop a growth mindset by:

- being curious about other ideas, learning tactics and solutions to problems
- looking at failure as a learning opportunity- in fact replace the word "failing" with the word "learning"
- using the power of "yet" (e.g. "I can't do that" versus "I can't do that....yet!")
- learning we only improve if we keep trying
- viewing challenges as opportunities

Attached at the end of today's newsletter is an interesting article about the role parents play in helping their children develop a growth mindset.

Have a wonderful week!

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



Sport/Physical Education News

Eureka Division Netball

Our Year 6 girls and boys netballers made Villa extremely proud at last week's Eureka Division netball tournament with their athletic ability, willingness to learn and sense of good fun. Congratulations to all of these students for their efforts.

Well done to the Mixed A team who finished 3rd overall in their division, the Mixed B team who finished 2nd, the Girls B who won their Grand Final, and congratulations to the Girls A team who won a tense Grand Final and have progressed to this Friday's Regional Finals at Selkirk Stadium. We know that you will represent our school and yourselves with pride and continue to play with great energy and fun!

A huge thank you to Mrs Boyd, Mrs Hanrahan, Rauf, Bree and Mrs Barclay for your support and coaching on the day.

We would like to acknowledge all of the families and friends that came along to support our teams, your energy and support is greatly appreciated.

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.



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2026 SFX SPORTS DATES

Term 2:

- Week 9 - Monday June 15th - Friday June 19th - Swimming Program - students from 1GH, 1EM, 1GT, 2MH, 3JT, 3ZP, 6PB & 6JS
- Week 9 - Friday June 19 - GWR Netball (Girls) @ Selkirk Stadium, Wendouree
- 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 Reserve, 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

- **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 12th June 2026 Hosted by 3LL Theme: Justice

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	Hunter Mitchell and Gabriella Schweida	4RR	Rome Davis and Charlie Irving
FJS	Curtis Slade & Chelsea Tiley	4ZA	Paddy Robinson & Hazel De Lorenzo
FBO	Remi Grant and Oliver Foster	4KB	Milla Nicholson & Jude Reus
FTW	Ella Brady and Emerson Somerville	5CC	Mackenzie Donnelly and Sophie Knowles
1GH	Elliott Evans and Daphne Reus	5LD	James Cyples and Tara Lloyd
1EM	Teddy Veal and Ivy Miller	5ML	Macie Lloyd and Lenny Owins
1GT	Harry Carter and Ollie Quinlan	6PB	No Year 6 Awards- Netball
2GJ	Maya Loader and Will Green	6JS	
2MH	Aria Steinman and Tex Olszewski	6MM	
2TS	Ava Segrott and Jack Hingston	EE/ Sci	Willow Prato and Harper Phelan -for cleaning up rubbish after others left it behind. Olive Miceli- for extending her knowledge of the solar system by continuing her learning at home. Sophie McNeil- for her amazing knowledge on space.
3LL	Alfie Waldron Harvey Mason Lachy Hatt	PA	
3JT	Odie Brooks & Yael Vasserman	VA	Mia Cadogan & Alfie Waldron (3LL)
3ZP	Charlotte Carter & Flynn Williams	PE	Oskar Olszewski (4KB) & Rome Davis (4RR)
		Tch	Yael Vasserman (3JT) & Pali Shrestha (FTW)
Principal's Award: No award this week			

Ministry District Newsletter

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A – June 14th, 2026

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

Priests: Frs. Justin Driscoll & Shaiju Mathew

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

Finance: Jackie Wrigglesworth

Email: ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

Phone: 0437 505 517

Phone: 5337 7128

Our parishes are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people, and vulnerable adults.
Safeguarding Officers: Ballarat East Parish – Emily Clarke 5331 1816; Bungaree & Gordon Parishes – Cathy Prunty 0437 505 517

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES

Weekday Masses

Tuesday June 16 th	11.00 am	Mercy Place Ballarat East
Wednesday June 17 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East
Thursday June 18 th	9.30 am 11.00 am	St Brigid's Ballan Calvary Kiralee
Friday June 19 th	9.30 am	St Alipius' Ballarat East
Saturday June 20 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East

Weekend Masses – 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday June 20 th		Sunday June 21 st	
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

Cody Breen, Carmel Fitzpatrick (Charlton), Lorraine Sells, Fr. Michael Tate (Hobart), Josemarie Yu

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

Rosalie Barry, June & Paul Ballinger, Kevin John Corbett, Jack Crough, Kevin Dowsley, Greg Dunn, Kevin Everard, Norman Graham, Bill Murphy, Barbara Rix, Danny Roche, Leo Shanahan, Winifred Taylor, Fay Thomas, Ann Weidner, Michael Wise

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Owen Widdison, Richard Wade

THIS WEEK'S READINGS 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 19:2-6
Romans 5:6-11
Matthew 9:36 - 10:8

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20:10-13
Romans 5:12-15
Matthew 10:26-33

UPCOMING DATES

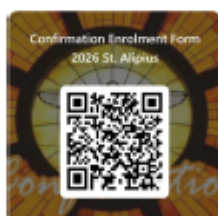
June 13th & 14th
First Eucharist
St. Alipius' Parish

June 24th
Formation for Communion Ministers
Ss. Peter & Paul's Buninyong
7pm

June 26th
Damascus @ St. Brendan's
Celebration Mass
10.30 am

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM – BALLARAT EAST PARISH

Confirmation Preparation will begin on July 22nd with compulsory parent meetings at St. Alipius church hall. People wishing to enrol their child in the program can choose between a meeting at 10.30 am or 6pm. Children who wish to receive this sacrament must have been baptised and need to be in Year 3 or higher. If you know someone who is ready to be confirmed this year, please refer them to our parish office or ask them to enrol in the program using this QR code.



FORMATION FOR COMMUNION MINISTERS

Thank you to all parishioners across the Ministry District who have indicated an interest in formation for Communion Ministers. This formation will be held on June 24th at 7pm at Ss. Peter & Pauls' Church in Buninyong. Please call the office to register your name if you will be in attendance on the night so that we have sufficient materials.

BISHOP MARK'S PASTORAL VISIT

Bishop Mark Freeman will celebrate Masses with us on the weekend of June 27th – 28th with the 5.00pm Vigil Mass at Ballarat East, 9.00am Sunday at Gordon and 10.30am Sunday at Ballan. This will be our first opportunity to formally welcome Bishop Mark to our parishes since his ordination and installation a Bishop of Ballarat on March 19th 2026. Parishioners and friends from each of the church communities across our Ministry District are invited to gather with Bishop Mark at the Wallace Hotel for Sunday lunch, on Sunday June 28th from 12.30pm. So that a booking can be made, please register your attendance with either the parish hub 0437 505 517 or put your name on the list provided at the back of each of our churches.

EUCCHARIST CELEBRATIONS – BALLARAT EAST



This weekend, we welcome the last of the children who have been preparing to receive the sacrament of Eucharist for the first time. Our thanks goes to families for the time spent preparing their

children for this. Staff at our local schools have also been very involved and we thank them for their work in supporting the children, both at school and at weekend Masses. Thanks to all our parishioners for making these families so welcome.

BAPTISMS

St. Alipius' Ballarat East

Oliver David Farrow
Son of Troy and Hannah

Augie Jack and Oakleigh Thomas Murphy
Sons of Drew and Sharni

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

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.

LITURGY ROSTERS – ST. ALIPIUS' CHURCH

Copies of liturgy rosters can 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 at St. Alipius' are reminded that they are asked to welcome people as they wait for the priest prior to Mass starting. We would be grateful if you could hand out newsletters as well.

DIOCESAN ARCHIVES HERITAGE & HISTORY TALKS WINTER SERIES 2026

All are welcome to attend the Heritage & History Talks Winter Series 2026 on Thursday, June 25, 2026 at the Archives & Gallery, 5 Lyons Street South, Ballarat from 10.00am – 12.00noon. The program is: "The Count O'Loughlin Legacy: The Ballarat Diocesan Collection" presented by Dr Michael Taffe; "Biblical Coins: A Private Collection" presented by Mr Jeremy McKnight; "The Bishops' Heraldry: A study on development and application" presented by Mr Richard D'Apice AM KCSG AIH; "The Higgins, Haydens and other families from Ballarat East" presented by Mr Andrew Hayden; and "Mitres and Crosiers: The Ballarat Diocesan Collection" presented by Dr Malcolm Borg. Refreshments provided. RSVP by June 20 to archives@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 0499 015 030.

REFUGEE WEEK

Refugee Week: Sunday, June 14 - Saturday, June 20, 2026, "A Million Stories"

As Europe recovered from the devastation of World War II, Australia responded to an international call to offer a future to people with nowhere to call home. Since that initial agreement in 1947 to receive 4000 refugees from Central Europe, Australia has issued one million permanent humanitarian visas – welcoming people from all parts of the globe, people who have helped to build modern Australia. Refugee Week 2026 is a moment to reflect on that milestone and to celebrate the million stories behind it. As part of celebrating the 40th Refugee Week, a celebration born in Australia and now observed around the world, let's keep sharing stories, challenging stereotypes, and building a more inclusive society. Let's build on this legacy.

BULLETIN DISTRIBUTION

In recent times, a couple of parishioners have mentioned that they haven't been able to open the bulletin which has been emailed to them. If this is an issue for you, please let the office know so that attempts can be made to rectify the problem. At this stage we don't know what the issue is, but will look into it and hopefully be able to provide a solution. In the meantime the bulletin is available on our parish websites where it is uploaded each week.

Always with Compassion in our Hearts

Reflection on the Gospel

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

(Matthew 9:36-10:8)

Veronica Lawson RSM

Stories of war and its aftermath have dominated the news for some years now and the plight of those affected has touched some of the hardest of hearts, though not all. Although aid agencies are doing their best to respond, the “harvest” of the suffering creatures of the earth remains overwhelming and the “labourers” seem ever so few. Compassion is an anticipated human response in the face of such tragedy. Not everyone, however, moves from the feeling of compassion that such events elicit towards action for transformative change. With so much suffering across the globe, those of us with access to food and shelter and clothing can easily lose perspective. Matthew has recounted story after story of the compassion in the heart of Jesus of Nazareth: he never lost perspective in the face of suffering. His compassion poured itself out in restoration to community life for a leper, in healing for a centurion’s servant, in return to health and a call to ministry for Peter’s mother-in-law, in a practical response to hunger (“You give them something to eat”) and much more. He was “moved with compassion” (*esplanchnisthē*) and to be “moved with compassion” in the biblical tradition is never just a feeling. It is always expressed in action. The Greek verb means to be moved in the depths of one’s being, one’s innards or guts. It implies a physical reaction in the face of suffering. It translates the Hebrew *rahām*, to have “womb compassion”. Like the Greek, its Hebrew antecedent has elements of deeply experienced emotion expressed in action to alleviate suffering.



Compassion, womb love, gut love, parental love and pity all communicate something of the meaning of this concept. Compassion is a key value in Matthew’s gospel, a key value of God’s empire or kin-dom. The compassion of Jesus signals nearness of God and of God’s reign. The work must continue and a structure is required if that is to happen. Twelve male disciples are named as the core group invited to carry forward the work of Jesus, although other references in this gospel suggest that discipleship is by no means limited to the twelve. They are given authority to preach and to heal. For the present, their mission is restricted to “the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” Jesus reaches out beyond his own people. His disciples, women and men, will do likewise only after they have walked the whole journey to Jerusalem in his company. The “harvest” is no less demanding in our times than it was in Jesus’ time and our mandate is no less compelling than that of our first century counterparts. We seek out the ways that are possible for us, always with compassion in our hearts.

INSIGHTS

Mind your language. How what you say creates your child's mindset.



One of the big ideas in education over the past 10 years has been Professor Carol Dweck's work on Growth Mindset. However, despite (or perhaps because of) the hype, much of Dweck's work has been misunderstood, or misapplied. Too often we've tried to teach about growth mindset, instead of teaching for a growth mindset. Importantly, the role parents play in helping develop a growth mindset in their child has been largely overlooked.

In this article I share a simple way you can help your child develop a more growth-oriented mindset.

About Mindsets

Your child's mindset is how they view their most basic abilities, like their talents and intelligence, and it has a profound impact on their learning.

A child with a fixed mindset believes they are fundamentally limited. Who they are today, is pretty much who'll they be in the future. For them, school and learning is a way to discover those abilities. They'll ask if they are musical, or how smart they are. For these children, school becomes one long test to discover the answers to these questions.

A child with a growth mindset understands they have the capacity to develop their abilities. For them learning becomes a vehicle for creating and developing those abilities. You'll hear this child say things like "I want to become really good at maths, so I'm going to work hard to make that happen."

Why parents matter

Contrary to what social media might say, you can't just tell your child to have a growth mindset. Their mindset is rooted in a lifetime of experiences.

As parents we play an important role in creating the experiences that develop our child's mindset. What we repeatedly say, value, and reward all shape our child's mindset. And I should know because I got it wrong.

What I did wrong

When my daughter was young, I encouraged her to try lots of different activities. She tried music, art, gymnastics, singing, the Maths Olympics. You name it, we tried it. And that's fundamentally a good thing.

The problem wasn't what I was doing. It was the messages I attached to it. Sometimes when she wasn't keen to try a new activity, I'd say something like "Come on sweetheart, give it a go. You never know, you might be good at it!"

parenting *ideas

Can you hear the fixed message in there? "You might (already) be good at it."

I turned trying something new into a test to find out if she was good at it. I promised her the possibility of instant success. To make things worse, if she didn't have instant success, I'd often console her with something like "Well, don't worry. You can't be good at everything."

In other words, she'd failed that test. Now it was on to the next test to see if she was good at that instead. The unintended lesson: If you're not immediately good, give up.

Why did I do that?

If you just had an "ouch" moment, you're not alone. Parents say these types of things all the time. We say them out of love, and with the best of intentions.

When we see our child upset or struggling, our natural reaction is to want to protect them from that discomfort. But what I did was to provide my daughter with an excuse for struggle by saying "you're not that type of person."

Perhaps you've provided your child with a similar excuse by saying something similar like "I was never good at that either." The underlying message being "we aren't the right type of person to be good at that—we don't have those abilities."

A nudge in the right direction

To help us be better parents and nurture a more growth-oriented mindset in our children, we need a little nudge. A reminder that helps us counter any unconscious bias and ensure we create more growth-oriented messages for our children.

I've created lots of these nudges, for all types of situations. The one relevant to this situation is to remember that "Learning is about creating, not discovering."

Learning is about creating, not discovering.

In the context of trying new things, this nudge reminds us that we're not trying to find out if my daughter has those abilities. We're trying to decide if she wants to develop those abilities. So, now I might say:

"Darling, getting good at something takes time and the right type of effort. You need to decide if this is something you're prepared to invest the time and effort into getting good at."

The nudge helps us repeat this message over and over, slowly creating a more growth-oriented mindset. They become more empowered and see life as being in their control. They recognise they can become whoever they want, or need, to become.

It's like George Bernard Shaw said, "Life is not about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself."



James Anderson

James Anderson is an international speaker, author and educator. In an educational landscape focused on teachers, James' work focuses on learners. His signature work defines *Learnership™* – the skill of learning. He answers the question: What does it mean to be a *skillful* learner? For further information visit www.jamesanderson.com.au. You can also listen to James and Dr Justin Coulson discuss *Learnership™* on the *Happy Families* podcast episode [#529 \(The Growth Mindset\)](#) and [#559 \(How to Create Skillful Learners\)](#).



BASKETBALL HOLIDAY CAMPS

WEDNESDAY 1ST & THURSDAY 2ND JULY
SELKIRK • 9AM - 3PM

TUESDAY 7TH & WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY
SELKIRK STADIUM • 9AM - 3PM

DISCOUNTS
FOR MULTIPLE
DAYS AND
CHILDREN!

SCAN TO SIGN UP



SELECT OUR
SCHOOL
AND WE GET
\$5 BACK

In one fun-filled day, kids will learn and play footy in a safe, inclusive environment. They'll pick up new skills, play mini-games and get creative with designing a footy or uniform. Plus have a footy goodie bag to take home.



4-7 YEAR OLDS*



Our youngest players learn footy through fun, age-appropriate games that build skills, confidence and teamwork, led by NAB AFL Auskick coaches.



7-12 YEAR OLDS

Older kids level up their footy skills through modified game play and challenging activities that build teamwork, leadership and lasting memories in a fun, energetic day.

*Kids can join NAB AFL Auskick if they are turning 5 in the calendar year (before 30th June in WA).

BALLARAT SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

BALLARAT WEEK 1 SESSION
WEDNESDAY JULY 1ST | 9AM-3PM
MARTY BUSCH RESERVE,
SEBASTOPOL

BALLARAT WEEK 2 SESSION
WEDNESDAY JULY 8TH | 9AM-3PM
CITY OVAL, BALLARAT



In one fun-filled day, kids will learn and play footy in a safe, inclusive environment. They'll pick up new skills, play mini-games and get creative with designing footy goods



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BALLARAT ALL GIRLS HOLIDAY PROGRAM

FRIDAY 10TH JULY | 9AM-3PM

Alfredton Recreation Reserve

4-7 YEAR OLDS



7-12 YEAR OLDS

