



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 31st August 2026
Term 3 Week 8

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

Email: principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

Term 3 (10 weeks)

Mon 13th Jul-Fri 18th Sep

Tuesday 1st September

Father's Day Stall for
Foundation, Year 1 & Year 2
Student Led Conferences

Wednesday 2nd September

Father's Day Stall
for Year 3 & Year 4
Student Led Conferences

Thursday 3rd September

Father's Day Stall
for Year 5 & Year 6
Last day for Book Club 6
orders

Friday 4th September

Father's Day Stall for
anyone who missed out
Interschool Sport (Yr 5/6)
at SFX
Fathers/Special Friends Day
Liturgy
2pm Afternoon Tea in Gym
2.40pm Family Group
Liturgies in Classrooms
No Assembly today

6.30pm Trivia Night in gym

Wednesday 9th September

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

6pm in the Library
Instrumental Music
Showcase by Tim's students

Thursday 10th September

6pm in the Library
Instrumental Music
Showcase by Lauren's
students, Chris' students
and our choir

Friday 11th September

1.45pm-3.00pm
Market Day

No Assembly today

On the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear families,

Are you ready for our huge Trivia Night this Friday evening? It promises to be a fantastic night, and we are really looking forward to gathering together as a community, having some fun and celebrating our wonderful school.

Our Parents & Friends Committee has worked tirelessly to organise an evening that will challenge the brain, provide plenty of laughs and, importantly, raise funds to support our children and our school. We are incredibly grateful for all the time, energy and enthusiasm they have invested in making the night possible.

This year, our fundraising focus is to raise enough money to install a second all-weather play area for our students. Our existing area provides a wonderful space for basketball, netball and many other ball games, particularly during the wetter months, but having another all-weather space would make an enormous difference.

We have already made a great start. This year, we installed an all-weather surface beneath the adventure playground, meaning our students no longer have to negotiate puddles and muddy mulch after rain. It has already proven to be a wonderful addition to our school grounds.

Every fundraising effort contributes towards these goals. The profits from our Milkshake Mondays, Zooper Doopers, Hot Lunches and coin challenges all add up, as do the bigger events such as our Colour Run and, of course, Trivia Night. It is wonderful to know that the children ultimately get to enjoy the results of all these efforts.



Like all Catholic schools, we rely on the financial support of our families and community to help us provide the very best opportunities and resources for our students. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a generous and supportive community, and I thank you for the many ways you contribute to the life of our school.

And finally, I have one important warning for Friday night...

The staff have filled a table, and we are a force to be reckoned with! So come prepared, bring your A-game and be ready for some serious competition. We'll see you on Friday!

God bless,

Mark Hogbin



Tuesday 15th September
6pm Confirmation at
Damascus College

Thursday 17th September
School Disco

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 Adekate Day Camp

Friday 9th October
9.30am Start of T4/
Mercy Day Mass at
St Alipius Church

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

No Assembly today

Friday 16th October
Junior Sports Day @ SFX
for F-Y2 and Yr 6 Sports
Captains

2.40pm Assembly in
School gym led by SLD

Friday 23rd October
Greater Western Region
Basketball (Girls A) at
Selkirk Stadium

Yr 2 Pax Hill Camp

2.40pm Assembly in
School gym led by 1GT

Wednesday 28th October
Division Golf Tournament
@ Mt Xavier Golf Club
(selected Yr 5/6 students)

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

Thursday 5th November
3.30pm-6pm
Art Exhibition in school gym
Gold coin donation

Fathers & Special Friends Day

Don't forget our Fathers and Special Friends gathering on Friday commencing at 2.00pm in the Gym before heading up to the classrooms at 2.40pm for a special service commemorating these important people in our lives. See you there!

Father's Day & Special Persons Stall

The Parents & Friends Committee has been very busy preparing for our Father's Day/Special Persons Stall which will be held in the undercover area at first break on the following days:

Tuesday 1 September - Foundation and Year 1

Wednesday 2 September - Year 2, 3 and 4

Thursday 3 September - Year 5 & 6

Friday 4 September - Catch up all grades

The gifts are priced at \$2, \$3 and \$5 per child. Lots of great gifts to choose from for Dad/special person.



Student Led Conferences

Our Student Led Conferences will be held at school this week. These always provide a great opportunity for our students to showcase their learning with the support of their teachers at school. The conferences form an important part of our commitment to reporting and assessment and they are designed to allow students to direct discussions about their progress at school. Hopefully all families have been able to jump online and register for the Conferences by now.

Where is Mr. Hogbin?

Mr. Hogbin is away from school this week attending the Australian Primary Principals Conference in Canberra. While he is away Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Mohr will be acting Principals for our school. Mr. Hogbin will be back for our special celebrations on Friday.

Pupil Free Day

A reminder to all families that our final pupil free day for the year will be held on Monday 2nd November. Please note that there will be no classes held at school on this day.

Staff News

At this time of year, we often receive news about staff movements and arrangements for the new school year. Having met with our wonderful staff recently I am able to inform you of the following changes to our staff moving forward:

- Mrs. Sarah Page will continue in her role at Catholic Education, Ballarat beyond her three-year secondment from our school. Sarah will continue her work in the stewardship space working across the diocese. While we formally say farewell to Mrs. Page at our school, we celebrate the knowledge that the great work she has been doing over the past three years will continue to influence so many school communities across our diocese.
- Mrs. Leonie Leviston will be taking leave for the remainder of the 2026 school year. We thank Leonie for her dedication, care and commitment to our students and wish her and her family all the very best during this time. We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Hayley Quinlan to the position of classroom teacher in the Yr. 3 team for the remainder of the year. Welcome Mrs. Quinlan!
- Mr. Aidan Atlas has indicated that he will complete his time with us at the end of this year. Aidan will be returning to Melbourne to continue his studies there. We will miss Aidan next year and we are very grateful for the opportunities we have had to get to know Aidan over his time with us. And for the wonderful job that he does as Learning Support Officer for our children.

St. Francis Xavier Primary School is a Child Safe School called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition.
Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.

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

2.40pm Assembly in School gym led by 4ZA

Friday 13th November
12.40pm Assembly in School gym led by 2TS
Colour Run

Friday 20th November
2.40pm Assembly in School gym led by 6JS

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

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

No Assembly today

Friday 4th December
9.30am End of Year Mass in school gym

Thursday 10th December
5pm Christmas Carols

Monday 14th December
Year 6 Big Day Out

Tuesday 15th December
5.30pm Year 6 Graduation

Thursday 17th December
Last 2026 day for students

We're very excited about our upcoming **Instrumental Music Showcase evenings!** These events are an informal opportunity for children who learn an instrument at St Francis Xavier to share their learning with their families and friends, with an encouraging audience and the support of their music tutor!

Families involved in our instrumental music program are asked to keep an eye on their emails and seesaw for further information!

Tim's students will share their learning on Wednesday September 9, and Chris and Lauren's students, along with our choir, will share their learning on Thursday September 10.





SAVE THE DATE!

Please save the date for our biannual SFX Art Exhibition! More information to come!



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YEAR SIX PRESENTS

MARKET Day!

SHOP • SUPPORT • MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



1:45PM
— TO —
3:00PM

BALLARAT
SOUP BUS



ALL MONIES RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS
THE BALLARAT SOUP BUS ♥



LOTS OF DIFFERENT
GOODS & SERVICES

CREATED AND RUN BY
OUR YEAR SIX STUDENTS!

SOMETHING
FOR EVERYONE
TO ENJOY!



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

STUDENTS • PARENTS • GRANDPARENTS • FRIENDS

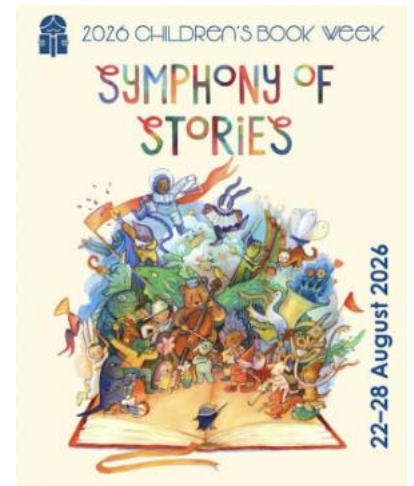
LET'S COME TOGETHER AS THE SFX COMMUNITY
TO SHOP, SUPPORT & CELEBRATE!

Book Week 2026

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make our 2026 Book Week – Symphony of Stories such a wonderful celebration at St Francis Xavier Primary School. Our students were exposed to a fantastic range of activities and experiences throughout the week, encouraging a love of reading, stories and imagination. It was wonderful to see the excitement and enthusiasm across the school as our children immersed themselves in the world of books.

A very special thank you to our Literacy Leader, Lindy Harty, for the incredible organisation, creativity and time that went into coordinating the many activities throughout the week. Your efforts helped make Book Week such a memorable experience for our students.

If you haven't had a chance to see any photos, be sure to check out our SFX Facebook page, where you can see some of the terrific opportunities and wonderful moments from across the week.



Student Led Conferences

This week your child(ren) will be showcasing their school work and discussing learning goals with you through their Student Led Conferences. During Student Led Conferences, your child will lead the discussion with you about their school work, while teachers will help direct conversation.

Each Student-Led Conference will run for 13 minutes, and we strongly encourage all families to attend. Please note that children are required to be present at these sessions.

We look forward to positive and meaningful Student Led Conferences that highlight and celebrate each child's achievements.

If you haven't already booked, please follow the process below to make your booking.

School Interviews – Booking Process:

1. Visit schoolinterviews.com.au/code
2. Click on 'Make a Booking'
3. Put in the event code: 87myu
4. Follow the instructions to make your Student Led Conference time

Enjoy your week.

Jane Clark, **Deputy Principal – Learning & Teaching**





This Friday, we look forward to welcoming our Dads and Special Friends to our Father's Day Liturgy. It will be a lovely opportunity to come together as a school community and celebrate the special men who play such an important role in the lives of our children.

As society changes, so too does the role of fathers. My own Dad probably saw his role within our family as predominantly being the breadwinner and disciplinarian. Much of the parenting advice in the 1980s was directed towards mothers as the primary caregivers, with less recognition of the important role men played in their children's development.

Thankfully, this has changed significantly. Over the past few decades, research has shown us just how much Dads – and other positive male role models such as teachers, coaches, church leaders, uncles and grandfathers – matter. Their influence and positive impact on children's development cannot be understated.

This is one of the reasons our Respectful Relationships learning is so important. Helping children to recognise and question gender norms and stereotypes gives them the opportunity to develop a broader understanding of what it means to be a boy, a girl, a man or a woman. By challenging limiting stereotypes from an early age, we can help children grow into young people who are more respectful, understanding and accepting of themselves and others. We want our children to understand that caring, nurturing, showing emotions, being strong, providing for others and asking for help are all human qualities – not qualities that belong to one particular gender.

Attached is an article by Michael Grose celebrating the important place of Dads and Special People in the lives of our children. As we approach Father's Day, it is a wonderful reminder of the many men who encourage, support, guide and love our children.

You can also check out our Special School TV Report about the positive impact fathers and male role models can have on their child's mental health and wellbeing

Here is the link to this topic http://sfxballarat.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/celebrating-fathers-day

We look forward to celebrating with you on Friday and wish all our Dads and Special People a very happy Father's Day for Sunday!

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



INSIGHTS

In praise of fathers: the place of the modern dad



Fatherhood has been transformed from the breadwinner and disciplinarian role of the past to a far more complex framework. Here's how:

Diversity rules

A look at different cultures even within our shores shows there's no one 'right way' to be a dad. Fathers have a strong biological urge to ensure their children's survival, which drives dads to be protective, some to have high expectations and others to promote self-sufficiency. Fathers may differ in how they parent, but ultimately, we all belong to the same valued club. Fathers almost universally want what's best for their child.

Recognising dads

Being a dad is not given the same attention as motherhood. The parenting advice industry is often skewed toward mothers as the direct or primary carers. The lack of recognition can also at times be seen in the mental health field. It's now recognised that men experience heightened anxiety at all stages of fatherhood, however, most simply suffer in silence because 'that's what men do.' The recent advances in mental health promotion still have some way to go when it comes to fathers.

Playtime is crucial

Fathers have long been seen as the kings of play. Science now shows that play is a critical part of the fathering toolkit. Whether it's engaging in rough and tumble play with toddlers, sharing pizza night with primary-school kids or laughing with teens over the latest cat video, dads bond best with their children through play. Oxytocin, the bonding chemical that promotes strong relationships is released most intensely for men when playing with kids. On the other hand, oxytocin spikes for women are prompted by affectionate activities such as stroking, cuddling and talking softly to kids. Activity is at the heart of effective fathering as it's through play that many men do their best fathering work.

Part of team parent

'I wish my partner raised children like me' is a common parent comment. While usually uttered out of sheer frustration this comment misses the point that evolution dislikes duplication. Put simply, if one parent is the disciplinarian the family doesn't need another. Better for the other parent to focus on nurturing, teaching or arranging daily timetables. In busy families it's better to ensure all the parenting bases are covered rather than duplicating roles and leaving out important functions. Working together as one part of a team will ensure that most of the needs of a child are met. Alternatively, if you are parenting a child on your own stay connected with other families and reach out for assistance when required.

Provided as a part of our school's Parenting Ideas membership

parentingideas.com.au

The school of dad

Traditionally, fathers have been heavily linked with children's learning, but not necessarily of an academic kind. The reinforcement of values, real-world problem-solving and teaching for self-sufficiency have been the usual domain of dads. Recent studies show that dads can also positively impact their children's academic achievement, but in different ways to mothers. While mothers are more likely to be involved in at home learning activities such as hearing children read and supervising homework, fathers are more likely to positively impact their children's attitude to learning. According to American educational researcher William Jeynes, dads focus more (than mothers) on moulding and modelling correct mindsets and behaviours, which provide the foundation upon which children and teens can build their academic journeys. It's this bigger picture focus where fathers can do their best work, particularly changing boys' attitudes to women and giving their daughters the confidence to stand up and be heard.

Dads and kids' development

If a father wants to positively influence children and teenagers, it's important to ensure that their relationship is warm and supportive. While this may be at odds with men's natural tendency to push children's developmental boundaries, fathers should lean on their well defined ability to relate to their kids through play. As Australian educational leader Dr. Tim Hawkes noted in his book *"Ten conversations you should have with your son"* dads who engage in banter and fun are better placed to discuss issues of real substance with their children.

Dads and resilience

Fathers who promote children's self-sufficiency are well placed to develop resilience in their children. In fact, a key role for modern fathers is to ensure, as part of team parent, that their children can confront and overcome the hardships, frustrations and difficulties that life throws at them. This is done less by adopting tough, hard-nosed tactics, and instead allowing kids to take physical and emotional risks in the knowledge that they can return to a warm and secure base.

Dad is a social role

With children growing up in step, adoptive, single parent and same sex families fatherhood has become less a biological and more a social role. As society changes and assisted parenting techniques continue to advance, whoever answers to father takes on importance in a child's life. This is not denying the rights of a biological father, but rather acknowledges that for many children the person who shows up whether stepfather, relative or family friend, or even a single parent doing both roles, is the social father for a child.

In closing

As society changes the role of fathers is also shifting as well. While the place of a father in a child's life has always been important, there's never been a greater need for fathers to be supported in their role and to widen our view of what it is to be a dad.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.

Local Finals

Good luck to all of the students and staff that are currently participating in local football and netball finals. Keep enjoying the game, doing your best and being the best teammate you can be.

2026 SFX SPORTS DATES

Term 3:

- Week 8 - Friday Sep 4th - Interschool Sport (Yr 5/6) @ SFX
- Week 9 - Wednesday Sep 9th - Division Athletics @ Llanberris (qualifiers from BCPS Aths - Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6)

Term 4:

- Week 1 - Friday Oct 9th - Regional Athletics @ Llanberris (Qualifiers from Division Aths - Yr 3, 4, 5 & 6)
- Week 2 - Friday Oct 16th - Junior Sports Day @ SFX (F-Y2 & Yr 6 Sports Captains)
- Week 3 - Friday October 23rd - Greater Western Region Basketball (Girls A) @ Selkirk Stadium
- Week 4 - Wednesday Oct 28th - Division Golf tournament @ Mt Xavier Golf Club (selected students from Yr 5/6)
- Week 5 - Friday Nov 6th - Eureka Division Cricket @ Alfredton Reserve (selected students from Yr 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 wonderful week.

Shaun Carroll, SFX Sport Coordinator



P&F News

- **Trivia Night**
Friday 4th September – 6.30pm in the school Gym
Don't forget to book your table/seat – we look forward to seeing many of you on the night
BYO food – drinks at bar prices
- **DONATIONS/PRIZES needed**
As part of our Trivia night, we run a silent auction as well as a Raffle on the night – if you are able to assist with a Donation/Prize, please reach out to a member of our P&F or leave your donation in the office.
If you have committed to donating a prize, please bring them into the office and leave them with Anita as soon as possible.
- **Father's Day Stall – first break in the undercover area**
Gifts priced from \$2 - \$7
Tuesday 1st September – Foundation, Year 1 & Year 2
Wednesday 2nd September - Year 3 & Year 4
Thursday 3rd September – Year 5 & Year 6
Friday 4th September – catch up for anyone who missed out
- **SAVE THE DATES: School Disco – Thursday 17th September – more details to come**

- **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**
\$1.50 for a milkshake & freckle/or marshmallow
We require 5 volunteers to assist each week please sign up via the link sent 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
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
The P&F relies on volunteers each and every week to help pack Hot Lunches and assist with Milkshake Mondays.
Your class rep shares the volunteer sign up link in your class chat on a regular basis. The links cover the entire term, allowing you to choose a date that suits you well in advance.
Unfortunately, we are finding it increasingly difficult to fill all volunteer spots each week. Without enough volunteers, we may need to reduce or change the frequency of these much-loved treats for our children.
If you have an hour or 2 spare, please consider signing up for a shift. Every volunteer makes a real difference, and your support helps ensure we can continue to offer these special treats for our children, please don't think oh someone else will do it – we are a large community and if each family volunteered once or twice a year it would ease the constant request for volunteers.



SFX TRIVIA NIGHT

**BOOK YOUR TABLE
IN THE OFFICE**

Friday

4th September

at SFX Gymnasium
Doors open at 6.30pm

\$17 per person
or \$150 for a
table of 10

**Gather your table
Book your babysitter**

Drinks at Bar prices - BYO Food
Silent Auction, Great Raffle Prizes & lots of fun to be had



Attachments

ASSEMBLY AWARDS 28th August 2026 Hosted by FLP Theme: Excellence

We show our personal best.

Excellence means being the best person we can be.

We always try our hardest, even when it's difficult, just like Jesus did.

FLP	Riley Brown and Nellie Rix	4RR	Charlie Irving and Rome Davis (Wilson Quinlan from last week)
FJS	Will Mumford & Isla McLean	4ZA	Ivy Dorning & Evie Loader
FBO	Portia Martin and Levi Wilson	4KB	Lilly Bye & Angus Morley
FTW	Jack Allen & Ella Brady	5CC	Max Miller and Baxter Steinman
1GH	Shirley Dorning and George Ellis	5LD	Malo Hansen and Edie Waldron
1EM	Lily Martin and Zane Carter	5ML	Milla Kingston and Maddie Little
1GT	Amelia Reus and Ollie Quinlan	6PB	
2GJ	Ella Finley and Toby Wilson	6JS	Nixon George and Bridie Millington
2MH	Tex Olszewski and Scottie Toohey	6MM	Evie Answer and Paddy Dwyer
2TS	Teddy Bannan & Stella Hipke	EE/ Sci	Raising Rarity Team
3LL	Mia Cadogan & Emme Cavanagh	PA	Finley Rolfe, Christian Wright and James Bosworth for excellence in songwriting collaboration
3JT	Indi Nestor & Odie Brooks	VA	Henry Sordello, Riley Brown, Luka Ross & Sage Buenen
3ZP	Harriet Walshe & Elliot Fulcher	PE	Nina Trigg & Oscar Toohey
		Tch	Evie Loader (4ZA) Frederick Lynch (5ML)
Principal's Award: Lola Miles for demonstrating excellent leadership.			

Ministry District Newsletter

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - August 30th, 2026

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

Priests: Frs. Justin Driscoll & Shaiju Mathew

Staff: Cathy Prunty (Parish Co-ordinator)

Finance: Jackie Wigglesworth

Natalie Gleeson (Admin Assistant)

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.

Safeguarding Officers: Ballarat East Parish - Emily Clarke 5331 1816; Bungaree & Gordon Parishes - Cathy Prunty 0437 505 517

MINISTRY DISTRICT MASS TIMES

Tuesday September 1 st	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East
Wednesday September 2 nd	11.00 am 6.00 pm	Mercy Place Ballarat East (Anointing) Rosary for Mark Forbes - St. Michael's Bungaree
Thursday September 3 rd	10.30 am 2.00 pm	St Brigid's Ballan Funeral Mass Mark Forbes - St. Patrick's Cathedral
Friday September 4 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East St Michael's Bungaree
Saturday September 5 th	9.30 am	St. Alipius' Ballarat East
WEEKEND MASSES - 23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
Saturday September 5 th		Sunday September 6 th
5.00 pm	Ballarat East	9.00 am Ballarat East Gordon
6.00 pm	Dunnstown	10.30 am Buninyong Ballan

WE ASK YOUR PRAYERS FOR:

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Vincent Chisholm, Mark Forbes

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME

William Bourke, John Box, Kath Bruhn, Gerald Clifford, Peter Duffy, Alma Eastwood, Tom McTigue, Kath Mulcahy, Evelyn Nash, Eileen O'Meara, Kevin Reddie, Rommy Sapuri, Peg Shanahan

THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL

Bill Burgess, Patrick Landrigan, Cindy McKenzie, Richard Wade, Owen Widdison

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20:7-9

Romans 12:1-2

Matthew 16:21-27

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 33:7-9

Romans 13:8-10

Matthew 18:15-20

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BAPTISMS

St Peter & Paul's Buninyong

Billie Poulton

Daughter of Cohan and Sarah

Jimmy Hamish Marquand

Son of Hamish and Lucy

BALLARAT DIOCESE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY PROGRAM: GROW IN FAITH, KNOWLEDGE AND MINISTRY.

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) offers flexible online courses for parish staff and volunteers through the University of Dayton. With 31 subjects to choose from and a course fee of just USD \$50, there is something for everyone. Cycle 6 begins on 7 September, and registrations close on 3 September. Scan the QR code for more information or email fran.peterkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7154.

COMMISSIONING OF COMMUNION MINISTERS

Following their participation in the formation for ministers of holy communion Cathy Keating, Pam Mullane and Paschal Somers are to be commissioned for service as ministers of holy communion. Pam and Paschal will be commissioned at the 10.30am Mass at Buninyong this Sunday.

CELEBRATING OUR STORY: 80 YEARS OF ST MARY'S



After 80 years of Catholic education and service, St Mary's School, Clarke Hill will be closing. We're forming a small committee to plan a special celebration of our school's history and legacy. If you would like to help organise this meaningful event, please let Clare know by Tuesday 1 September on 5334 5280 or text 0491734779.

UPCOMING DATES

Tuesday 1st September
Synodal Leadership formation

Thursday 3rd September
Baptism Preparation
Cathedral Hall 10.00 am and 5.30 pm
*

Ballarat East Pastoral Council meeting
Parish Hub 5.30pm

Friday 4th September
Caring Group
St. Alipius' Parish Hall 2pm

Wednesday 9th September
Ballarat East Parish Finance meeting
Parish Hub 7.30am

Thursday 10th September
Ballan RCIA Inquiry
St Brigid's 11.30 am
*

Bungaree Parish Leadership Team meeting
Dunnstown, Damascus @ St. Brendan's School
7.00pm

Tuesday 15th September
Ballarat East Parish Confirmation Liturgy
Damascus College 6.00 pm

Wednesday 16th September
Damascus Day Mass
11.15 am Damascus College

Thursday 17th September
Ballan Mecwacare Anointing Liturgy
10.00 am Ballan Mecwacare
*

St Brigid's Anointing Mass
11.00 am St Brigid's, Ballan

Friday 18th, September
Loreto College Gonzaga Barry Day Mass
9.15 am Loreto College

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

PARISH COUNCIL AND LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETINGS

In the coming weeks the Parish Council and Leadership teams of each of the respective parishes of the Ministry District will meet. Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council or Team can be brought to the agenda either through the Parish office or through one of the members. In addition to those who are ex-officio members, thank you to the following parishioners who serve:

Ballarat East Parish: Martin McGettigan (chair), Jan Cosgriff, Judy Glaubitz (Buninyong), Diane McKeegan

Bungaree Parish:

Bungaree - Damian Ryan (Chair) & Chris Frawley
Clarkes Hill - Andrew Miller Schnetzer, Dom Prendergast, Maurice Mahar
Dunnstown - Diane Reynolds, Barry Sheehan

Gordon Parish:

Ballan - Mark Conlan (chair) & Jim Leahy
Gordon - Joan Bourke & Shane Carey
Springbank - Brendan Maher
Welcome to Andrew Miller Schnetzer who has joined the Bungaree Parish Leadership Team from the Clarkes Hill community.

CARING GROUP

The next meeting of the Caring Group will be held at 2pm on Friday 4th September in the Ballarat East parish hall. Please bring a plate to share. Everyone welcome.

BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND - COLLECTION FOR RETIRED PRIESTS

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests who have spent a lifetime selflessly caring for others, and who deserve a happy and peaceful retirement. The Fund is currently supporting and caring for seventeen retired priests. This annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our retired priests. Your generous support has enabled us to continue 'caring for those who cared for us'. Contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible. Donation options:

Special envelopes are available for this collection, which will be taken up next weekend. Alternatively you can scan or click the QR code for CDF Pay, select your parish and select "My giving is for Retired Priests Collection".

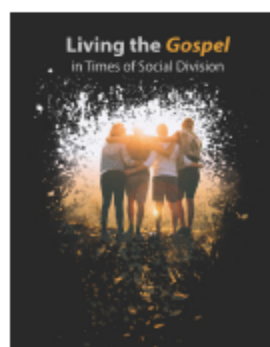


DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING AUDIT

This past week the Diocese of Ballarat has been audited by Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL). Auditors met with the Diocesan Professional Standards Panel and have audited the parishes of Star of the Sea Parish (Warrnambool, Koroit, Port Fairy), Ballarat Cathedral Parish (Ballarat, Ballarat Nth., Beaufort), Holy Trinity Parish (Linton, Redan, Sebastopol) and the Holy Family Parish (Swan Hill, Quambatook, Sea Lake). The role of ACSL is to help Catholic entities and organisations create and maintain a safe and nurturing environment for all who engage with the Catholic Church in Australia.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - AUGUST 30, 2026

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has released the second Social Justice Statement for this year ahead of Social Justice Sunday (August 30, 2026), "Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division". This statement invites us to see our current social climate as an opportunity to witness to the Gospel. The Church can and must be a sign of unity: a community where every person feels at home and all are encouraged to use their gifts to build a more just, peaceful and cohesive Australia. The Statement and more information can be accessed at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/service-and-agencies/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement-current/>. The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission will host an online webinar on Thursday November 12, 2026 from 6.30pm-8pm to celebrate the launch of the Statement. Registration details to be advised. The Statement and further resources are also available from this webpage.



'We are the body of Christ entrusted with a mission to act justly and work for justice in society, knowing that there can be no peace in our land without justice, especially for the most marginalised and vulnerable in our community.'

August 2026 Social Justice Statement

Embracing the Pain

Reflection on the Gospel

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

(Matthew 16:21-27)

Veronica Lawson RSM

Most of us know leaders who take themselves a bit too seriously. Some confuse their role or title with their significance in the scheme of things. Some look for privilege and an easy life, forgetting that leadership of anything worthwhile involves hard work, misunderstanding and opposition. The first part of today's gospel story presents Peter, who has just been declared the foundation rock of the church and given the "keys" of the kingdom or empire of the heavens, refusing to accept that Jesus' mission will involve suffering, even death. The reader is confronted in this story with the expansive rock face at Caesarea Philippi and invited to consider the friable character of the seemingly indestructible rock. Even rocks can be reduced to sand or gravel and a humbler mode of being.

For all its seriousness, there is something quite comical about this gospel story. Peter actually reprimands Jesus. Jesus then sets him straight in no uncertain terms. The "rock" becomes the leader of the opposition, a serious obstacle to God's purposes, a stumbling block. He is ordered back to the place where disciples properly belong, namely "behind" Jesus, "following" him. Matthew provides a striking contrast in this section of the gospel between Peter who "rebukes" Jesus and Justina, the Canaanite woman, who respectfully and persistently implores Jesus to see from a new perspective. Peter receives a decisive rebuttal, while the woman's plea is heard and she is praised for her great faith.

Peter's impetuous outburst provides the trigger for Jesus to invite his disciples to think about what they really want. Jesus is the teacher and the disciples are the students who have accepted the invitation to follow him. That means living out in their lives the pattern of his life.

If they want to be his followers, then they have to embrace the pain involved in his relentless program of teaching and of healing the sick and brokenhearted. They will also share the "glory". If they choose to put their own interests first, then they will surely lose themselves. It is ultimately a question of choosing life. Peter forgets this for a while and has to be reminded to be true to what he has previously professed. He is not very different from the rest of us. We too need to rethink our choices and to reorder our priorities from time to time if we want to find life. This week we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Creation. Our church, along with other churches, celebrates September 1 to October 4 (Feast of St Francis of Assisi) as a Season of Creation. At a time when life on our planet is seriously endangered, we might attend more closely to the urgent gospel challenge of living in ways that help to sustain the life of the Earth community. We bring into our celebration those affected by the climate crisis as we pray for the insight to live in right relationship with all that is.





NAVIGATORS TENNIS CLUB

OPEN DAY

12 SEPTEMBER 2026

All Ages Welcome!

TIME
10-11AM

WHERE
Navigators Tennis Club -
Gerald Mullins Reserve,
344 Navigators Road, Navigators.

Looking for a sport which develops
TEAM SKILLS,
HAND EYE CO-ORDINATION
and **HAVING FUN** playing a
great game.

If so come along and join us,
enjoy an egg & bacon roll,
juice or a cuppa and learn about
the options available and healthy
competition alongside other
community clubs.

RSVP - Rick
0427 097 008

*We look forward
to seeing you there!*

**FUN!
FRIENDSHIP!
FITNESS!
COMMUNITY!**



**FREE
COME AND TRY**

SOVEREIGN KNIGHTS BASKETBALL CLUB

Held at
Phoenix
Community
College.

Basketball
come & try
day for
all ages!!
Bring your
friends along.

THURSDAY
27/08,
03/09,
10/09

**SCAN QR CODE
TO SIGN UP OR
EMAIL US!**

• 8 yo - 11 yo 4:30-5:30
• 12 yo - 16 yo 5:30-6:30

EMAIL:
admin@skbc.org.au

Sovereign Knights Basketball
Intention to play form

TERM 4 SPORTS!

SFX PRIMARY

STARTS WED 7TH OCT

WEDNESDAYS MULTI-SPORT

3:20PM - 4:20PM

11 WEEK PROGRAM, PREPS TO GRADE 6

BASKETBALL | BASEBALL | SOCCER | TENNIS | CRICKET

PICK UP 4.20PM AT FRONT OF SCHOOL

SIGN UP AT ANY TIME DURING THE TERM!

\$19 + GST PER SESSION

SPECIAL OFFER

SIBLING DISCOUNT!

1ST SIBLING PAYS FULL PRICE, ADDITIONAL SIBLING(S) 20% off

ENROL ONLINE

WWW.KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU/GREATER-BALLARAT

QUERIES: TEXT SEAN 0411 602 204

SPRING HOLIDAY PROGRAM

115 Barkly St - Golden Point - 3350

21 SEP - 2 OCT BALLARAT NETBALL ASSOCIATION

8AM - 5PM KINDER - GRADE 6 \$70 PER DAY

We're excited to be back for a fun-filled School Holiday program including lots of sports, awesome games & MUCH MORE!

SPECIAL EVENT DAYS

- SUPER DUPER DANCE DAY - WED 23RD
- FOOTY EXTRAVAGANZA - THUR 24TH Added Incurion Fee of \$25 for this day only
- SURVIVOR DAY - TUE 29TH
- KELLY SPORTS GAMES - FRI 2ND

WHAT TO BRING?

Bring along appropriate clothing, jacket, or sweatshirt, hat, drink bottle, and food for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

BOOK ONLINE NOW

WWW.KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU/GREATER-BALLARAT

BALLARAT@KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU | 0411 602 204

afterpay

30% OFF new balance selected New Balance gear

FREE HOT DRINK! THANKS TO PHEBE'S COFFEE SEP 24 & OCT 2

SUPER SPRING HOLIDAY PROGRAM

21 SEP - 2 OCT | 8AM - 5PM

BALLARAT NETBALL ASSOCIATION - 115 BARKLY ST - GOLDEN POINT - VIC 3350

KINDER - GRADE 6

WEEK ONE 21 SEP - 24 SEP

- MON 21ST SOCCER CRAZY GAMES DODGEBALL
- TUE 22ND BASKETBALL BADMINTON CRICKET
- WED 23RD SUPER DUPER DANCE DAY! **SPECIAL EVENT DAY!**
- THU 24TH FOOTY EXTRAVAGANZA! FREE HOT DRINK! **SPECIAL EVENT DAY!**

See you next week!

NOT RUNNING PUBLIC HOLIDAY

WEEK TWO 28 SEP - 2 OCT

- MON 28TH NETBALL FRISBEE DODGEBALL
- TUE 29TH SURVIVOR DAY! **SPECIAL EVENT DAY!**
- WED 30TH CRICKET TENNIS SOCCER
- THU 1ST BASKETBALL CRAZY GAMES BADMINTON
- FRI 2ND KELLY SPORTS GAMES! FREE HOT DRINK! **SPECIAL EVENT DAY!**

30% OFF new balance selected New Balance gear

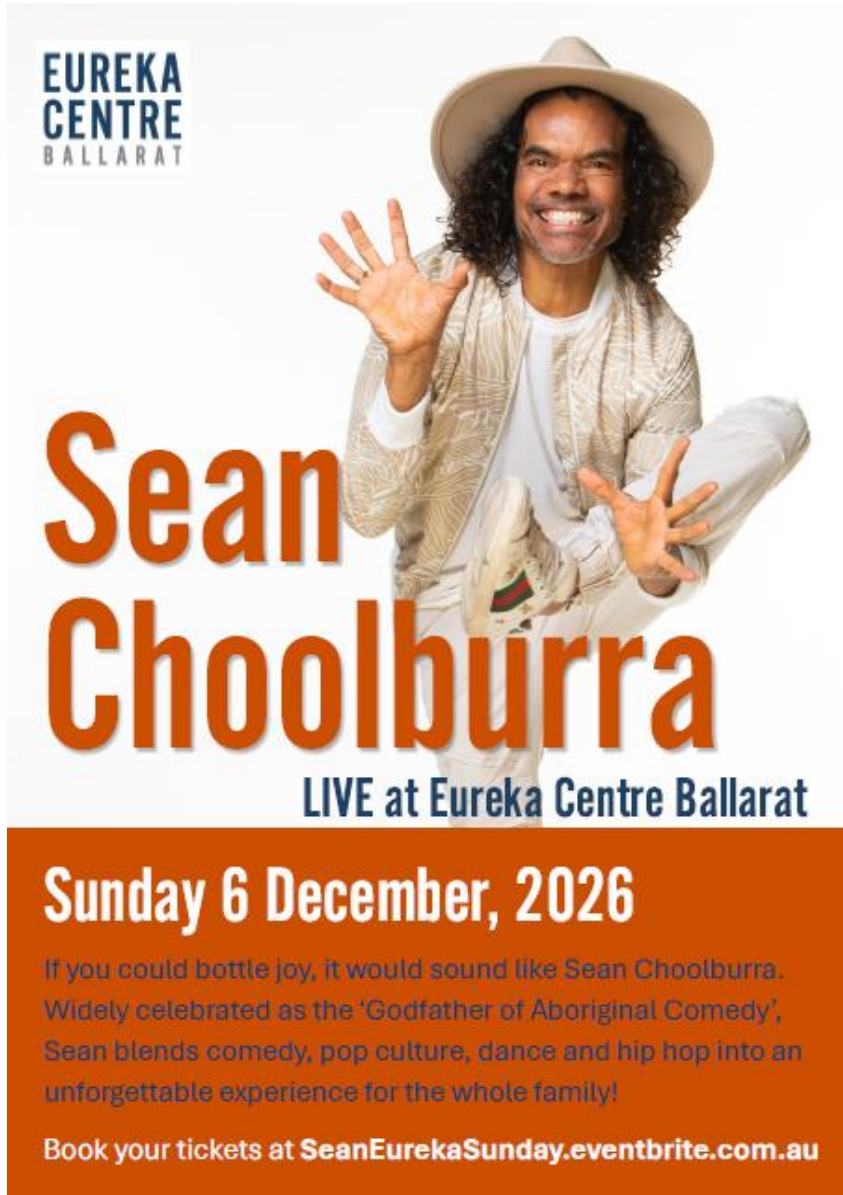
BALLARAT@KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU

0411 602 204

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BOOK NOW AT WWW.KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU/GREATER-BALLARAT

St. Francis Xavier Primary School is a Child Safe School called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition. Through the mission of Jesus within the Mercy tradition, we are called to action in pursuing fullness of life for all.



EUREKA CENTRE BALLARAT

Sean Choolburra

LIVE at Eureka Centre Ballarat

Sunday 6 December, 2026

If you could bottle joy, it would sound like Sean Choolburra. Widely celebrated as the 'Godfather of Aboriginal Comedy', Sean blends comedy, pop culture, dance and hip hop into an unforgettable experience for the whole family!

Book your tickets at [SeanEurekaSunday.eventbrite.com.au](https://seaneurekasunday.eventbrite.com.au)

Hello from Eureka Centre Education team! We are excited to share with your school community some information about our upcoming family day, Eureka Sunday, on Sunday 6th December.

Eureka Sunday is a free event for local families to enjoy. The day includes free face painting, Storytime and balance play activities with Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre (BALC) gymnastics team.

More information on the day's events can be found on our website here:

[Eureka Sunday Community Day - Eureka Centre](#)

As part of the day's celebration, Sean Choolburra will be performing two 50-minute comedy, dance and hip-hop performances at 10:30am and 1:00pm.

Sean is widely celebrated as the 'Godfather of Aboriginal Comedy', and one of Australia's most engaging and dynamic performers. You might recognise him as the voice of Maynard in 'Bluey', a guest presenter on 'Play School', or from the hit ABC series, 'Black Comedy'.

Tickets to Sean's shows are \$10 for all, with children under 2 years old admitted without a ticket if they remain seated on an accompanying adult's lap.

Bookings at <https://seaneurekasunday.eventbrite.com.au>