



## CELEBRATING *LAUDATO SI* AT ST ALIPIUS

St Alipius Parish School Ballarat East has chosen to make 2020 a year when we focus on Pope Francis' call for us all to 'care for our common home' in his encyclical *Laudato Si*.

Kirsten Murray, a generous and talented artist and St Alipius parishioner has gifted our community with an extraordinary mural which celebrates God's presence in the local bushlands.

Kirsten worked over a 12-month period transforming a tired old brick wall into a celebration of the wonder of God's presence in all creation.



Our students now walk through doors surrounded by images of life and beauty and are reminded every day to accept Pope Francis invitation to 'Discover God in all things'. Some of their comments can be read below:

This exquisite painting makes me think of the beautiful bush after the rain, with all the animals doing what they do without fear of being hurt. 'Discover God in all things' is a message of empowerment! It reminds me that God is in everything we do. *Emma Reed*

This elegant painting of the Australian bush makes me think deeply of the traditional owners of the land, the Wadawarrung people. The artwork shows the beautiful gum trees and all that crawls, climbs, jumps, or flies through the magnificence of God's creation. The message of it is to 'Discover God in all things'. This painting looks so realistic and alive, it looks like any of the animals could jump out at me at any second. Spectacular! Amazing! Thought-Provoking! Inspiring! *Grace Vermont*

This painting shows the majestic gum trees, remarkable animals and unique plants. I feel like I could reach in and touch them. "Discover God in all things!" This quote makes me feel warm in the heart. This painting makes me think that we should take things slower and take more notice of what's around us. When you notice the small things, it's empowering!  *Aoife Lewis*

"Discover God in All Things" Nature knows everything - from the sulphur-crested cockatoos in the tree-top canopies to the worms underground keeping the Earth healthy. Nature is another name for God and that is why we need to care for everything. We can't ever make anything as good as what God has created. *Judah Pelly- Gray*



When I look at this mural, I think of peace. I think of harmony. I think of life. "Discover God in All Things" so that when things seem bleak, there are signs of hope and rebirth and new life wherever we look - especially after the recent bushfires. *Jack Storey*

*Eileen Rice - Principal*

