



St. Damian's Newsletter

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Families



This week has been a particularly sad one for us as a community as we remember Helen Hannay who passed away in the early hours of Saturday morning. Helen served as Principal of St. Damian's from 2010 until her retirement in 2014. Previous to this she was Principal of Holy Trinity in Eltham for a number of years. Helen gave many years of faithful service to Catholic Education and was held in very high regard as an education leader by all who knew her. Many of you who knew Helen would remember her as a very stylish, gentle and caring person. She gave of herself selflessly and always considered the wellbeing of staff and students in everything she did. Sadly, Helen was only able to enjoy a short retirement, however she and her husband, Peter, made the most of this time travelling together and spending time with family and friends. We will remember Helen as an esteemed leader and wonderfully loyal and generous friend to many, especially the staff of St. Damian's and her wider friendship group within Catholic Education. We remember Peter, her husband, her family and close friends in our prayers and offer them all our support and love during this very difficult time.

Online Learning at St. Damian's

As we continue with remote learning we are becoming more confident with its usage and continue to support our students with much success. We have received very positive feedback with the way our school is managing this challenge. Our staff make contact with their class on a regular basis and continue to monitor student learning via the different platforms. Teachers and Learning Support Officers make contact with students on a needs basis and continue to plan in teams to ensure consistency of learning practice. This is a very new way of working for all of us – teachers, students and parents and we acknowledge and commend everyone's efforts as we work in partnership for the benefit of the students. I congratulate all staff, students and parents alike on what is being achieved during this remote learning period. Hopefully, it will come to an end soon and we can safely resume our normal mode of operation. In the meantime, thank you for working with us and keep up the positivity.

Just a gentle reminder, that remote/online learning is still considered 'school'. Therefore we ask that **all students** are dressed and ready for the day when the first hangout begins. We have noticed some students still in pajamas, this is not appropriate. It's obvious the students are not able to concentrate as they are still half asleep and not ready to begin the day. We also recommend that students use the devices in an area where parents can see them and know that they are being safe. Students learning whilst still in bed or locked away in a bedroom is not appropriate for primary aged students. When on hangout with the teacher and class, everyone is able to see into the home or space. Please ensure that this area is one that is conducive to learning. Younger siblings should not be on the hangout, or being noisy in the background as this is the check-in time for learning and sets the day's work for the students. In the same vein, we ask that pets are not running around, can be seen are being noisy or being patted whilst the hangout is being conducted. Could we also ask that parents, if watching the hangout, please not interrupt the teacher on the hangout as this holds up all the other students. This online learning period is an opportune time for students to develop independent skills and take ownership of their learning. Becoming responsible for managing their learning is an important skill. We ask that parents encourage students to email their teachers if they have any questions or concerns about their work rather than parents doing this for them. This way, teachers can get a picture of where children are at. We also ask that parents be mindful that there are 25 students in a class and it is overwhelming for a teacher to receive numerous emails from parents each day.

If parents are needing to ask clarifying questions, please do not interrupt the morning hangout but perhaps ask the teacher to remain on line at the end of the hangout. However, as stated earlier it would be better for the children to seek clarification. Students should be following a normal school day routine with appropriate breaks and if work is not completed by the end of the day, **they** need to communicate this to their teacher.

Teachers are working extremely hard at the moment trying to meet the needs of all their students in this very foreign landscape. Staff know exactly what needs to be done and so if parents have any suggestions for improvement, please contact me via email. I am more than happy to receive your feedback and then discuss with the teaching staff. From the feedback received from our community, in comparison to other schools our teaching staff are doing an exceptional job and we should be acknowledging and thanking them. Thank you for understanding.

Year 6 Bomber Jackets

The Year 6 jackets have arrived and are in the school office waiting to be collected. Parents please call the office to arrange a time to pick it up. I know that the Year 6's will be eager to receive their jacket.

Father Vincent's Gospel Reflection – 4th Sunday of Easter

Dear Friends,

This Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday'. Jesus in the Gospel tells us about the qualities of a good shepherd who loves and cares for his sheep. The good shepherd is first and foremost concerned with the welfare of his sheep, even more than his own welfare. Obviously Jesus is the Good Shepherd who loves and cares for us. It is consoling to know the depth of his love when he freely and willingly went through passion, death and resurrection to save us and prepare for us the gift of eternal life.

Today is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We pay our attention to and pray for all women and men in our homes, schools, parishes and workplaces, who are called to live faithfully their own vocation as a single or married person, widow or widower, religious brother or sister, or as a lay or ordained minister. Every baptised person is called to live a holy and faithful life like Jesus, our model and our companion. It is not easy to talk about vocations especially priestly and religious vocations when our minds are overshadowed by the stories of sexual scandals and abuses. So it is a greater challenge for us to speak about God to a disbelieving society by our own lives in the model and example of a good shepherd. What Emily Engel of Gainesville, Florida, America wrote some years ago in the Time Magazine are encouraging and enlightening: *'My faith is not based on the idea that every priest is perfect. My faith is in God and in a Church that does far more good than evil. And my faith remains strong. I continue to pray for the victims of the abuse, for the abusers and for the Church as a whole.'* The triumphant Church is only realised in Heaven. On this earth we are only a pilgrim Church on the way to perfection throughout daily effort of conversion and purification, courageously and faithfully giving witness to Jesus who suffered, died and rose again for our new life and our salvation.

We are living in a difficult time at the moment, not just because of the impact of the coronavirus outbreak and its deadly infection, but the shortage of priests in service in our Archdiocese. I learn that currently twelve parishes are without their own parish priests and the number of priests approaching 75 years old, age of retirement, is increasing. In a way to say you are lucky if you have your own parish priest as a community leader. The Archdiocesan Authority is considering options to respond to the challenges. One is that, *'Because the shortage of priests, there are parts of the Archdiocese could be seen or created as local groups or clusters of parishes which in effect share a joint mission because of the nature of the area.* It is possible but it is not the same as we all agree. Nevertheless, it is only our human effort and it is not the first time in the Church history. It is the challenge and not the dead end. God's way is not our way. Let us pray for God's guidance as we are confident that there will be 'light at the end of the tunnel'. **Fr Vincent Le PP**

Enrolment for Foundation Year (Prep) 2021 & Tours

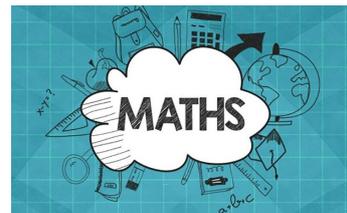
Enrolments for Prep 2021 are now open. We are getting a trickle of interested parents coming through the school on tours. Hopefully this will pick up as we approach the cut-off date for enrolments. Offers are usually made in early June. Parents who have children starting school next year, please ensure that your enrolment forms have been lodged. These can be found online on our website, or alternatively picked up from the school office.

Keep safe and have a good week everyone.

Rosanna

Shout out to the KIDS.

Everyone is applauding everyone but our children. These little heroes have stayed indoors more than they've ever known in their lives. Their whole worlds have literally been turned upside down. All these rules they've never known. A life they couldn't have imagined. All the things they love like sports, being with friends, going to school, or just being kids have all been taken away from them. Adults talking about others becoming unwell, news reporting death after death. Our poor children's minds must be racing. Every day they get up and carry on despite all that's going on. So here's to our little heroes: today, tomorrow, forever.



MATHS COMPETITION

Yesterday, 21 students from Years 5 and 6 were chosen to participate in an online maths competition run by the Australian Maths Trust. The students had 1 hour to complete 14 questions which were based on computational and algorithmic thinking. The students worked really well under exam conditions and said that it was a challenging but fun test. We congratulate all of the students who participated and we wait anxiously for the results.

If any families would like to try out some of the questions, please email me at Carmen.Bruce@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au and I will share the links with you.

Carmen Bruce
Mathematics Leader



Instrumental music lessons offered with a live tutor online are being offered in term 2 by Primary Music Institute for our school community.

Lessons are streamed live with a fantastic tutor. Students participate in lessons from home. Please enrol online and the team will contact you to coordinate a suitable lesson time: www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au

All lesson prices, instrument details, age group restrictions etc are provided as part of the enrolment process. Older siblings and parents can also enrol - just ask the team when discussing lesson times.



ENROLMENT

Limited places available for Year 7 2021.
Enrolment applications for Year 7 2022
closing 21 August 2020.

For information please contact our College Registrar:
03 9433 0203 or registrar@loyola.vic.edu.au

VIRTUAL TOURS

Visit our website and explore our campus through a virtual tour, then meet our Principal live online to answer all your questions.

Tuesday 5 May
Wednesday 13 May

Friday 22 May
Tuesday 26 May

TO REGISTER FOR A VIRTUAL TOUR VISIT

loyola.vic.edu.au/bookatour



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