



# St. Damian's Newsletter

5 Settlement Rd, Bundoora 3083

Ph: 9467 8566

Email: info@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Dear Parents and Families

As I sit in my office to write this newsletter I can hear the children playing and laughing. What a wonderful sound it is. The school has come to life once again and as Principal, I couldn't be happier! I have enjoyed visiting the classrooms and seeing the happy, smiling faces. I believe the children are also very happy to have returned and be with their friends and enjoy the interaction with one another. We now wait for our Year 3-6 students to return to make our school complete. Their return is also joyfully anticipated and I am certain that these students are also eagerly waiting to return to meet up with their classmates. Schools are happy, vibrant communities only when we have our students and staff on premises. We will feel complete when we are together again and we can return to normality.

### Staggered start and finish times

Our start and finish times are working well at present and I thank most sincerely all in our community, parents, students and staff, for your co-operation in working together. I understand that it is difficult for parents/carers to not enter the school grounds and to maintain a 1.5m distance from each other in the morning and afternoon and I am grateful to everyone for the effort in supporting us in this. These rules are in place as advised by Health and Government authorities and we are required to comply. When the Yrs 3 – 6 students return in just over a week, we will need to continue these protocols. Hopefully, it will not be prolonged and we will be allowed to relax these for next term. In the meantime, once again we thank everyone for their patience.

We just need to sort out a couple of things and then we'll be right. Could I just remind parents that they must not get out of cars. Unfortunately, this is also a directive from the Health Authorities that we are required to re-inforce. Parents are not permitted on school grounds, so can I please remind anyone coming from Plenty Road that only the children are permitted to come onto the school grounds. Adults may not go further than the boom gate. Also could we ask that parents remind children which gate to be picked up from at the end of the day so they know which way to go. Parents/carers must collect children from the gates. We will not be allowing any child to leave the school grounds unless we sight the adult with whom they are going home. This is important to ensure the safety of the children. Staff will not walk students out of the school grounds. Finally, please ring the school and let us know if you need to come and pick up the children early so we can let you in. As explained previously, parents are not meant to be on school grounds unless for essential purposes. We understand that picking up your children early may be essential, but it would help us if we knew to expect you. Thank you everyone for your patience and understanding.

### Rubrics sent home

On Friday we will be sending home two rubrics for parents and children to fill in. These sheets are a tool for parents and children to use to reflect on the remote/flexible learning journey that we have just experienced. It is important feedback for us and a great reflection tool for families to help review this learning time period. These rubrics will form the basis of the Learning Conversations to be held at the end of June. We ask that parents take the weekend to fill them in and then return them to school on Monday with the students. Please look out for these in your children's bags. We thank you for your time and appreciate your support.

### Reconciliation Week

This year's theme, "*In This Together*" resonates in ways which were probably not anticipated when chosen late last year. How apt that in these times we reflect that whether we are in a crisis or in reconciliation we need to work together.

*In 2020 Reconciliation Australia marks twenty years of shaping Australia's journey towards a more just, equitable and reconciled nation. Much has happened since the early days of the people's movement for reconciliation, including greater acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights to land and sea; understanding of the impact of government policies and frontier conflicts; and an embracing of stories of Indigenous success and contribution.*

*2020 also marks the twentieth anniversary of the reconciliation walks of 2000, when people came together to walk across the nation and show their support for a more reconciled Australia.*

As a FIRE Carrier School, we are committed to the Reconciliation journey. We believe that at the heart of this journey lie the foundations for relationships to be built between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We recognise that we all have a role to play when it comes to reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and futures.

## WAYS TO BE IN THIS TOGETHER IN 2020

*From online events, to films, book club, colouring-in, and learning something...here are some ways you can be #InThisTogether2020.*

- In Concert Together: Busby Marou, Alice Skye & Jimblah hosted by Christine Anu on Facebook Live and ABC Radio 9.05pm Friday 29 May
- Read your virtual copy of [Reconciliation News May 2020](#) on the reconciliation.org.au website
- [Download the poster](#) to display in your front window. Share a picture on social with tags: #InThisTogether2020 and #NRW2020
- Groove out or chill with our reconciliation channel on [Indigitube](#) during Reconciliation Week.
- Learn more about [Nikita Ridgeway's artwork](#), *Reconciliation, a continuing journey of growth and togetherness* for NRW 2020
- Read the [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#) and share with your friends
- Learn about the history of the [Reconciliation Bridge Walks](#), held across Australia 20 years ago
- Watch the documentary [In My Blood it Runs](#) via Vimeo
- Follow Reconciliation Australia on social on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#)
- Cook a dish using native ingredients from your local area and share a photo
- Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and enterprises
- Get creative and hold your own virtual NRW 2020 event with family and friends
- Stay safe and healthy, and be involved with your local community – because we are #InThisTogether2020.

(extract from Reconciliation Australia website)

### Father Vincent's Gospel Reflection – Gospel Reflection for Pentecost Sunday, 31 May 2020

Dear Friends,

The Feast of Pentecost we celebrate today marks the end of the Easter Season. In Greek language the word 'Pentecost' is "pentecostes" which means "fiftieth." This Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles. Its name is taken from the fact that it comes fifty days after Easter. Originally it was a Jewish festival, and has been observed in the Christian Church since the first century. In the past it was called Whitsunday (White Sunday) from the common practice of giving solemn Baptism on that day to the candidates who were dressed in white baptismal robes.

The Feast also commemorates the official inauguration of the Church by the apostolic preaching of St. Peter, resulting in the conversion of 3000 people to the Christian faith. Pentecost is thus the official birthday of the Church. (Acts 2:41)  
The evidence of the Holy Spirit is recorded in all three readings of the Mass today: The arrival of the Holy Spirit, "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech." [Acts 2:4]; Being baptized in the Holy Spirit, "In the one Spirit we were all baptized..." [1 Cor. 12:13a]; And being sent out with the power of the Holy Spirit, "As the Father sent me, so am I sending you. After saying this Jesus breathed on them and said: Receive the Holy Spirit." [Jn. 20:21-22]

In the Creed we profess our faith that 'the Holy Spirit is the Lord and the giver of life.' With the Holy Spirit in our lives we all become life-givers. On this Feast of the Pentecost we celebrate our own gifts, ministries and works given by the Spirit to serve and to bear witness to God's saving love in the world.

As the restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic have been slowly lifted through stages, all schools and colleges now reopen to welcome back teachers and students of different grade and year levels for the work of teaching and learning. All places of worships are allowed to gather gradually 10, 20 and more in times for community worship and prayers. Nevertheless we should continue to be careful of the harmful infection of the virus, to keep necessary distancing and hygiene measures for our health and the safety of all and to eliminate the spread of the deadly virus. Yes, there are signs of hope and new life around us. So we can join with the psalmist to pray, 'Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth'.

**Fr Vincent Le PP**

### Foundation Year 2020

Enrolments will close at the end of the month for our Foundation Year class of 2020. If there are current families who have not submitted their enrolment forms, we ask you to do so as soon as possible as we are now about to send out offers of places.

### Baby Congratulations

We offer our warmest congratulations to the Gao family on the safe arrival of their newest family member and baby sister "Claire" for Lucas (PA).

*Keep safe and have a good week everyone.*

*Rosanna*

## Faith News

### Online Mass

Each weekend, Father Vincent is celebrating Mass online. Weekly Mass can be accessed via the St Damian's Catholic Parish Bundoora website, Live Streaming link at <https://stdamiansbundoora.cam.org.au/index.php/live-streaming>. Mass can also be accessed directly via the St Damian's Parish Bundoora YouTube page or via the St Damian's Parish Bundoora Facebook page. All are welcome to join in the celebration.

### Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Last Sunday, we celebrated the Ascension of the Lord and the Easter season is almost at an end. For the past six weeks we have been proclaiming, "Jesus is alive, He has conquered death, go and tell everyone!" The Ascension is not about Jesus leaving us. Rather, it is a celebration of the passing of the baton from Jesus to us. The risen Lord is now present in His people and it has now become the mission of the Church, us, to carry on the work of Jesus.

*We, through Baptism, have been given a share in this mission – to be heralds of the Good News and ambassadors for Jesus. We have not been left alone in this task, for the risen Lord works in and through us by the power of His Holy Spirit.*

*Father Vincent Le PP*

### Pentecost Sunday

This Sunday, we celebrate The Feast of Pentecost. Pentecost concludes the Easter season and celebrates the sending forth of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles. The sending forth of the Spirit marks the beginning of the Catholic Church and as such, is the 'birthday' of the Church. We are called, as followers of Jesus, to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our everyday lives.

**Mary-Ann Wright**  
**Religious Education Leader**