



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday August 6th, 2020

No. 20 - 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Families,

The Government announcement on Sunday afternoon was certainly not welcomed but very expected given the daily count of infections. I am sitting here in my office with the door closed so that I can take off my mask, and am reflecting on the events of the past few weeks. At the end of last term we all felt a sense of optimism that perhaps some normality had returned and that as a country we had managed this disease admirably. So it was with a sense of dread and heartache that we heard the Premier's announcement back in July which put us into isolation once again. Last Sunday's announcement was an even greater shock as we went further into lockdown and our personal freedoms dramatically curtailed. I appreciate that this situation is very difficult for everyone. Families trying to juggle work and remote learning, grandparents and extended families who are separated from loved ones and can only connect via internet or phone. Those who have elderly relatives in aged care settings who may feel guilty over not being able to be with them and care for them, and of course hold grave concerns for their safety. Those who have sick family members and are separated from them and unable to hold their hand. The many who have lost jobs and livelihoods or have reduced incomes and face an uncertain future. The many front line workers – doctors, nurses, paramedics, hospital workers, etc- who put their lives at risk every day to tend to those who are ill as a cause of this virus.

There is no doubt that everyone's life has been disrupted and turned upside down in some way. But in all this chaos and uncertainty it is important for our mental wellbeing to find the positives and centre ourselves on these. It may be helpful to remind ourselves that we have much for which to be grateful. If we are well, then we can be thankful for our good health, for our healthy and happy children, for the love and support of our families, for the roof over our heads and the food on the table. We are able to enjoy entertainment at home via the internet or other mediums. We can sit in our back yards or entertainment areas and enjoy watching our children playing and, at times the warm sunshine on our backs and faces. We can garden, we can read, we can cook and bake, we can do anything in our homes. But most of all, we can enjoy being together in a safe space, which is probably the best thing of all. In this next week, try to find three (3) things that you are most grateful for and one (1) person you are grateful for in your life. Focus on these and it may help to support you in these very trying times.

Remote/online Learning

We are moving into our fourth week of remote/online learning. It has been challenging for everyone to adjust to our new way of learning and teaching. As you can appreciate, staff are also adjusting to online teaching as much as the students and families are trying to adjust to learning in this way. Remote learning is not our preferred way of working and certainly not how we trained to deliver curriculum. We know that students are obviously online for much longer periods than the previous remote learning period, but please remember that while they are online, they are with their teacher who is teaching explicitly. The whole class hangouts are also teaching opportunities where the students are also able to connect with the other students in their class. This is also important for the children's wellbeing, not just their learning. As we all try to frame a positive mindset around our new expectations it is important for us to remember that essentially we are focused on the children and trying to support their learning given we are operating under very difficult circumstances. Hopefully, remote learning will end on September 13th. This in effect is practically the end of Term 3. The two most critical terms of the year have been in isolation and with remote learning, so you can appreciate that we as teachers, are very concerned that our students have opportunities to further their learning. That is why we have gone down this path, this term.

Permitted Workers – Permit

As schools have been directed to reduce numbers onsite, we are only allowed to supervise students whose parents are **permitted workers** under the new Government guidelines. I thank all the families who have complied and produced permits. We have these on file in case we are audited. We are all bound to follow the Stage 4 restrictions which have placed us all in 'a state of disaster'. We know that families will appreciate that schools, just like any organisation, can be compromised if we flaunt the rules. We will of course continue to support families who have no choice but to attend their workplaces as well as any student deemed vulnerable under the Government guidelines. We would appreciate families advising the school if supervision is required and on which days. As we now hold **permits with work times specified**, we only need to be advised once, however if students are absent we would appreciate the notification. This will eliminate the need for us to contact families to chase up absentees.

School Board Meeting

New times call for new measures. Unfortunately the Board has not had the opportunity to meet as yet as we were expecting to be able to meet in the second half of this term. However, given the current situation, a meeting of the School Education Board has been scheduled for Tuesday 11th August at 7.30pm via hangout. This is the first meeting of the year. It will certainly be a very different experience for us as we navigate our way through this Stage 4 lockdown period.

School Building Program

We are now at the documentation stage and are awaiting a Town Planning permit through Whittlesea Council. Unfortunately due to the new tighter restrictions, the Architectural firm we are consulting with has had to adapt and reduce their onsite staff as well. This will cause some delays to our processes and it looks as though our timeline has been extended. We are still hoping to go to tender before the end of this year.

Gospel Reflection – 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 9 August 2020

Mt 14:22-33

Dear Friends,

The spread of the Covid-19 Virus is getting worse with more people infected and more deaths recorded. So, Stage 4 restrictions are now in place in Victoria. People have lost jobs, businesses closed and movements limited. Our hope is put to the test and our spirit is severely challenged. The days ahead look uncertain and our minds obviously wonder when all these difficulties will come to an end. We are all getting tired of hearing and reading the daily report of the increasing rate of positive cases and we are afraid of the risk of getting the infection and its deadly consequences. Yes, we are worried and we are not sure of what the future of our lives, our families and our world will be. Nevertheless, we should remain strong in faith, steadfast in hope and hold our heads high because God is still in control of world events. The Gospel of this Sunday is a story of faith that is tested in a real life situation. While Jesus is in the hills alone to pray, Peter and other disciples set sail in a boat to get across the lake of Galilee during the night. They confront the stormy weather and battle against the heavy waves. In that moment of difficulty and despair, Jesus comes to their rescue. Walking on the water he calls them and tells them not to be afraid. When Peter tries to do the same, walking across the water, his faith let him down. As long as Peter keeps his focus on the Lord, everything goes well. As soon as he worries about the wind, he begins to sink. Jesus has to reach out to help him, "Man of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Mt 14:32). Perhaps this is what faith means: keeping our focus on the Lord, regardless of the turmoil around us, trusting that he is always near to support us. This kind of faith is more an encounter with God than it is a belief about God. It is more an experience of the divine presence itself, than an acceptance of the dogmatic statement about it. There are times when the waves of misfortune: sickness, family tragedies and financial problems, seem to engulf us. There are times when our faith is deeply tried and we feel like giving up in despair. Then it is, that Jesus, who loves us more than we shall ever know, says to us: 'Do not be afraid. I am with you always.' Let's continually pray for ourselves, for our loved ones, for our world and for all those who are involved in the great fight against the Virus Pandemic and for the post Covid-19 Day to come sooner with joy and peace.

Fr Vincent Le.

Have a good week everyone and keep safe and well.

Rosanna.



Enrolment Applications Welcome

Applications close Friday 9 October 2020
for Year 7 2022

Upcoming Virtual Tours

- Wednesday 12 August
4.30pm - 5.30pm
- Monday 17 August
9.00am - 10.00am

Book a place online
<http://www.olmcheidelberg.catholic.edu.au/enrolments/college-tours>

Enquiries:

Merri O'Halloran - College Registrar
T: 9459 2511
E: mohalloran@olmc.vic.edu.au



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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.

Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord – 6th August

During Ordinary Time in the Church's Liturgical Year, we are invited to behold the transfiguration of Christ. The white light that shone from Christ suggests a divine splendour that is beyond human comprehension. The transfiguration was a moment in time when Jesus' divine glory broke through His humanity and shone with a brilliance that was blinding. Jesus' glory is often proclaimed within the psalms:

*The heavens are telling the glory of God;
 and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
 Day to day pours forth speech,
 and night to night declares knowledge.
 There is no speech, nor are there words;
 their voice is not heard;
 yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
 and their words to the end of the world.*

Psalm 19

Sometimes we experience powerful moments of connection with God or with other people. Sometimes this might be through a special experience of nature; a meaningful retreat experience; a powerful sense of being 'in tune' with another person; a reflective prayer experience; or some other significant experience. The temptation when we have these experiences is to wish that we could remain in the experience. The challenge, however, is to take that experience back into the everyday of our lives – changed by it without remaining in it.

We are the ones who today possess the prophetic message; we are the present day eyewitnesses of Christ's majesty. We too have moments when we might behold His glory and hear the voice proclaiming His identity, but we need eyes of faith and ears that are open.

Solemnity of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop (1842 – 1909) – 8th August

Saint Mary simply wanted to serve the poor wherever she found them in her native Australia. She took the name Mary of the Cross and her life was a series of trials and tribulations. Saint Mary was encouraged by God's love shown through the pain of Christ's cross. She dedicated her life to poor children wherever there was need and wherever her Congregation was needed.

Saint Mary faced many conflicts but what mattered to her most were people and the heart which is open to love and to be loved. Wherever she went, she met children in schools, visited prisoners in jails and encouraged the Josephite sisters who taught in schools and cared for poor children. She saw each human being as important in God's eyes and her meetings with each person always spoke of God's love.

Saint Mary was humble and tough, practical, prayerful and persistent. Like Jesus, she walked with the poor and weak, those on the fringes of society, the unfed and the unloved. May we, like Saint Mary, see the value in each person we meet, not because of what they have or who they know, but because they are human beings. May we be inspired by her life and her words: "Have courage no matter what your crosses are" and "There where you are, you will find God" (Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop).

Family Activity - We have all we need in abundance

During the COVID-19 lockdown, we have seen many people sharing what they have with others. Recently, people have been making masks and sending them to vulnerable people. Other people have been sharing their food or have been doing shopping for neighbours who have not been able to go out.

Perhaps this week you might like to gather as a family and let each person talk about what they have in abundance. Make a list and write down how you can share your family's abundance with others during the coming weeks.

**Mary-Ann Wright
 Religious Education Leader**



August		
7th	Leonard	1/2B
	Irene	PA
8th	Justin	5S
	Antonio	1/2J
9th	Maiya	1/2S
	Francisco	1/2S
10th	Lucas	PA
	Henry	6G
11th	Isaac	1/2B
	Oskar	1/2B



Online Music Lessons- Term 3

Direct to your home via video link to our tutor



Lessons still available for Term 3 !

- Primary Music Institute now offer online instrumental music lessons – a fun, flexible option that students can access from home whilst they are learning remotely this term. All you need is an instrument, and an internet connection!
- Lessons are held once per week. Only \$18.50 per child per small group lesson (for 30 minutes)
- Private lessons (1-on-1) and pair lessons (max 2 students) are also available
- Instrumental music can improve your child's school results – including for reading, maths, coordination, IQ, abstract reasoning, performance confidence... and is great fun!
- Please **ENROL TODAY** via PMI's website

P: 1300 362 824 E: admin@primarymusicinstitute.com.au www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au

Stop the Spread of Coronavirus!



**BUY YOUR TICKETS AND SUPPORT
ST DAMIAN'S
THE COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE
3 x NEW SUZUKI BALENO TO BE WON!!!!!!**

4th and 5th Prizes \$1000 Coles Myer Gift Cards

6th to 14th Prizes \$500 Coles Myer Gift Cards



\$2.00 Per Ticket

To purchase tickets please fill out the form and return with money to parish office.

Tue - Thurs 10.00am to 3.00pm & Friday 10.00 am to 1pm

or via post to : PO Box 63, Bundoora 3083

Tickets can also be purchased by emailing the Parish Office at

Bundoora@cam.org.au or Phone 9467-2797

Thank you for your support

\$1.50 of each ticket sold goes directly to St Damian's Parish

*Please detach and send the payment
The Combined Catholic Parish Raffle*

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address : _____

Postcode: _____ Phone: _____

I would like to purchase _____ tickets @ \$2.00 each

Direct Deposit: BSB: 083347 585071188 (please put name in narrative for deposit)

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Thank you for supporting St Damian's Bundoora—9467 2797