



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday March 18, 2021

No. 07 - 2021

**PLEASE NOTE:
SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS IS BETWEEN 8.30am TO 3.30pm ON SCHOOL DAYS.
FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Open Days

During our open day tours, we received much positive feedback regarding the senior students who conducted the school tours. Visitors complimented our students on the way they represented our school and on the way they spoke about our school community. Many visitors remarked positively on the fact that our school allowed students to conduct these tours. We are indeed very blessed to have such competent and eager student leaders. We thank each student leader who gave up their time to support our enrolment program, especially those students who will also attend the tours scheduled for this evening. We appreciate your willingness to be of service in your role as leaders. We also thank the families for allowing the students to attend tonight. Great work Leaders, thank you!

Harmony Day



Tomorrow we are celebrating Harmony Day. This special day serves to highlight the importance of the message that "Everyone belongs", reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness. Harmony Day is an annual event that celebrates diversity and promotes acceptance and tolerance. Our school community is indeed very diverse, but together we make our school family and community. I am sure that the students will have the opportunity to enjoy many fun activities tomorrow to mark this day. I thank Ms Beeby, our Wellbeing Leader for facilitating this day for our students.

Year 3/4 Camp

The students from Years 3 & 4 are heading off for their camp experience to Sovereign Hill next week. The Year 3 students will attend the same venue for activities and fun experiences and then heading back to Melbourne later in the evening. The Year 4 students will remain onsite to experience their first overnight camp. All the Year 3/4 teachers as well as Mr Watson will be attending the camp, however Mrs Anthony and Mrs Milana will be returning with the Year 3 students, therefore Ms Walsh and Miss Tran and Mr Watson will remain with the Year 4's. I am sure that all the students will enjoy a great camp experience.



School Education Board

I am pleased to inform our school community that we now have full representation on the School Board, this is wonderful and I am very grateful to each parent for taking up this role in our school. We welcome Mrs Pamela Silluzio as the Year 2 representative (Amira 2CD) and Bin Xin Huang as the Year 4 representative (Craigie 3/4T).

Morning Bells and Music

In order to help our students settle in calmly for the day and participate prayerfully in morning meditation, we will be playing the music in the morning at 8.35am. This will allow 10 minutes for the teachers to collect the students, take them to class and for the students to unpack and ready themselves for the day. It also helps the students to start the day a little more calmly. This also helps them to be better focused and not feel rushed. Meditation starts at 8.45am as usual.

Bishop's Visit

Bishop Curtin will visit all the Year 6 students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday 29th March. During his visit the Bishop will spend time with the students discussing the importance of the Sacrament. He will then meet with staff during morning tea. We look forward to welcoming the Bishop to St Damian's.

Confirmation & Presentation Masses

Presentations to the community of the students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation will be during the weekend Masses on Saturday 5.30pm April 24th and 10.00am on Sunday April 25th. The Sacrament will be conferred by Bishop Curtin on Sunday 2nd May. Please pray for these children as they take the next step along their Faith Journey.

End of Term

Term 1 will conclude on Thursday 1st April. As this is Holy Thursday the students will finish at **2.30pm** on this day. School will resume in Term 2 on Monday 19th April at 8.30am. On the last day of term, students are invited to wear casual clothes and to bring a gold coin to donate to Project Compassion which supports Caritas.

Caritas is the international aid and development agency of the Australian Catholic Church. Its work is based on the principles of social justice and promoting the dignity of every person. Caritas works with local communities in Australia and overseas on locally led development programs. Their mission is to work towards a world where all people may thrive. The theme this year is "**Strive to be more**".

Lent prayer

Heavenly Father,
 During this season of Lent,
Strengthen the relationships of students, families and staff.
Be with us, parents, families and future students.
Bless and empower all in our community with wisdom, courage, and faith.
Grant them hearts to serve their communities, strengthen their talents,
and follow after You all their days.
 In the Spirit of St. Damian our patron, we make our prayer
 through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 Amen.

*Have a great week everyone,
 Rosanna*

**Sacrament of Confirmation**

Please pray for our Year Six Students and their families as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 2nd May. In preparation for this special occasion, the Year Six Students will be exploring the gifts and fruits of the Spirit and reflecting on why we are called to renew our baptismal vows at Confirmation. As with all investigations into our faith, the students will explore Scripture stories and Church teachings. The students will also research a particular Saint whom they aspire to live like. We encourage students and parents to discuss the significance of the chosen Saint together.

A photographer has been booked so if your family wishes to order ceremony photographs, please fill in the order form which was sent out by Strike-a-Pose photography and return to the School by Wednesday 24th March.

Lent

Lent is a time of reflection and renewal. It is a time for Christians to consider how they live the Word of God and to renew this living. The Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are one way in which Christians embody the values of justice, compassion and generosity and the giving up of oneself.

Inspiration from Pope Francis

To those who 'wish to see Jesus,' to those who are searching for the face of God, we can offer three things: The Gospel, the Crucifix and the witness of our faith, poor but sincere. The Gospel: there we can encounter Jesus, listen to Him, know Him. The Crucifix: the sign of the love of Jesus who gave Himself for us. And then a faith that is expressed in simple gestures of fraternal charity.

Angelus Address, 22nd March 2015

Lenten Reflection

We all know times when it seems that darkness has swallowed us up, when we feel weighed down by sorrow and despair. The notion of "hope", seems hollow and a long way off. *How then, do we step into the Light? Can we even see that Light exists somewhere, anywhere?* The darkness is a reflection of our attempts at self-sufficiency, and our lack of trust in the mystery of God, always present and always bringing life out of darkness. Perhaps the first stage of stepping into the Light, is simply to accept the darkness, and to allow God to transform us into Light.

Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary – 19th March

Saint Joseph lived a life of choosing to trust in a God who understood everything perfectly, especially when nothing made sense. For example, when Mary told him that she was pregnant, the only sensible conclusion that he understood was that the father was another man. However, Saint Joseph's trust in God overrode his sensibilities. He was open to be corrected when his assumptions were wrong.

Saint Joseph lived a practical faith, continually seeking God's will, choosing to follow his guidance even when it didn't make logical sense. It carried him through the difficult journey to Bethlehem and the search for a room when Mary went into labour. It saved the family when Herod sent soldiers to kill the baby. It kept them safe in Egypt until the time was right to return home. It helped him and his wife cope with losing their twelve-year-old in the crowded city of Jerusalem.

May we follow Saint Joseph's example and remember that we can trust God in everything. Even the most confusing, or the most worrisome, or the most catastrophic events are not fearsome when we realise that God is trustworthy.

Social Justice - Project Compassion

Throughout the Lenten Season, our School and Parish Community is reminded to pay attention to the care of others. We are invited to support a Caritas initiative, Project Compassion, to help others and ensure that we consider their wellbeing. Catholic Social Teaching directs our attention to the most vulnerable members of our society. Christ's presence in today's world is made known when we reach out in love to those in need.

This year's theme for Project Compassion is 'be more,' referring to the words of El Salvadorian priest and martyr, Saint Oscar Romero, 'Aspire not to have more, but to be more.' This simple idea serves as a reminder of the actions people can take to 'be more' for our world, and help make a difference in the lives of others. It is a timely message, given that this year, owing to complications resulting from coronavirus, rates of extreme poverty are set to rise for the first time in twenty years.

Each class has a Project Compassion collection box and we are encouraging students to make donations, no matter how small, throughout Lent. A donation box is also located at the Main Office. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and Project Compassion will issue you with a receipt on completion of a donation form. Donation forms are available on each Project Compassion Box, many of which are located near the Office. Thank you for your ongoing support of this worthy cause. Please remember to return all Project Compassion collection box donations to the school by Friday 26th March.

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader



What is Harmony Week?

It is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community.

Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world and we should celebrate this and work to maintain it.

Harmony week is about **inclusiveness, respect and belonging** for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set core of Australian values. These values that we try to instil and maintain at St Damian's.

Harmony Day at St Damian's Primary School will be celebrated on Friday 19th March

On this day, students are invited to come dressed in clothing that reflects their cultural background. If they don't have cultural attire to wear they are invited to wear the colour orange.

SRC (Student Representative Council) News

Dear parents and guardians,

This year we will be developing our vegetable garden and some of our year levels will be investigating how things grow as an inquiry unit. If you shop at Woolworths and are not planning to use the current promotion 'Discovery Garden Pots of Fun' we would appreciate any donations. If you are able to donate any 'Pots of Fun' could you please send them to school with your child/children? Our SRC members will collect and store the pots for use later this year.

We will keep you informed of our projects through the newsletter.

Thank you for your support
Mrs Rubira and the 2021 SRC



SPORTS

St Damian's Sports Day 2021



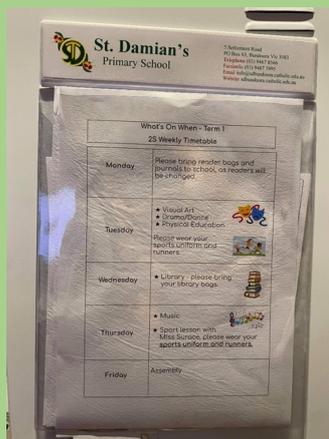
St Damian's Parents and Friends



The St. Damian's Parent Association will be holding an Easter Raffle on Thursday 1st April. Each classroom will be allocated an Easter prize to raffle. We are asking for donations of Easter eggs and/or Easter items (such as Easter colouring books & arts and crafts) for prizes.

Each student that donates towards the prize will receive **1 complimentary ticket** into the Easter Raffle. **Please clearly print your child's name and class on the donation bag to receive the complimentary Raffle ticket.**

Easter Raffle donations are due no later than **Thursday 25th March**. Raffle tickets cost \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. Raffle tickets will be sent home with students. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 1st April 2021.



Fridge Magnet Sleeves

Parents Association are selling clever **Fridge Magnet Sleeves** for families to buy for \$8 each or two for \$15. Please support us this year. Order forms are available at office.

Casual Clothes Day

Casual clothes day will be on the last day of Term 1- **Thursday 1st April 2021**.

Gold coin donations to go to Project Compassion.

For over 50 years, Project Compassion has been raising vital funds to help those facing poverty and injustice in our world.

Your donation will help vulnerable families to build brighter futures for themselves.

Thank you so much for your support.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

Due to Covid Restrictions, Second Hand Uniform shop has been closed. We will be available for the school community by "appointment only" on **Friday mornings** between 8.45am and 9.45am until restrictions ease.

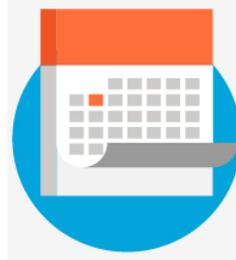
Please email stdpfcommittee@gmail.com for appointment. Cash Only.

Happy Birthday to the following students who will celebrate their birthday



March

19th	Noah	Prep G
	Chiara	1M
	Sera	2T
	Olivia	6S
22nd	Alisha	2C
	Elsa	3/4T
24th	Alessia	2C
	Chelsea	2S
	Daniel	2S
	Kristy	Prep M
25th	Dean	6C



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term 1

March

Monday 29th Confirmation Reflection Day—Year 6

April

Thursday 1st End of Term 1

Term 2

April

Monday 19th First Day of Term 2

St Damian's 2021 Lenten Timetable

LENTEN PRAYER MEETINGS with Pastorelle Sisters

Tuesday Evenings: 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Pastorelle Sisters Convent: 5 Nash Court Bundoora

(Tuesday, 16, 23, 30 March)

Bookings required due to Covid-19 as limited spaces

Please Contact: Sister Neila on 0411361081 to make a booking.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday Evenings 7.30pm to 8.00pm

(12th, 19, 26th March)

PRAYERS OF ADORATION with Pastorelle Sisters

Thursday Evenings:

Pastorelle Sisters Convent: 5 Nash Court Bundoora

Bookings required due to Covid and limited seats

Please Contact: Sister Neila on 0411361081 to make a booking.

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION 1st Rite

Saturday Evenings 5.00pm to 5.30pm (before Vigil Mass)

Weekday Mass Times: 9.15am

If you would like to attend a Weekend Mass : Saturday Vigil 5.30 pm or Sunday 8.00am or 10.00 am Mass please book via the Trybooking Code or register with the QR Code outside the Church Foyer with your Phone. Any enquires please contact the Parish Office 9467-2797 .

<https://www.trybooking.com/BNRPS>

Thankyou from Fr Vincent

I would like to thank everyone for all the Prayers and Good Wishes and all the lovely messages & gifts and 70th Birthday Cards from the children in our school , for my 70th Birthday. I miss you all and please keep me in your prayers while I'm on sick leave. **Fr Vincent Le PP**



TheirCare
Where Kids love to be!

**The place to be these
Autumn Holidays**

**Autumn
Holiday Program**

**Welcome to
the Jungle!**



Animal Antics



Volcano Science



Movie Time



Mindful Moments