



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday September 9th, 2021

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The St Damian's School Community acknowledges that we come together on the ancestral lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS IS BETWEEN 8.30am TO 3.30pm ON SCHOOL DAYS.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

What a term we have had. We started the term feeling positive and hopeful that lockdowns were a thing of the past, only to have it rear its ugly head again. It is difficult to fathom that we have been in lockdown for five weeks now but there has not been any real impact on the infection rate. I know that this latest lockdown period has probably been the most difficult to manage as fatigue has set in for many of us. We long for the days when we can visit family and friends freely, worship as a faith community, shop leisurely, have a meal at a restaurant, engage in lots of activities and events and celebrate important family milestones with our extended family and friends. Today's announcement for regional Victoria has revived a glimmer of hope that perhaps in time – hopefully sooner, rather than later – we can also start to resume our normal lives once again. In the meantime, look after yourselves and look out for each other. Today is RU OK? Day – remember to ask someone who needs it – RU OK?

Father Vincent Retirement

As you are all aware, Father Vincent has been absent from the Parish since December last year due to ill health. Sadly last week we received a letter from him stating that his continued ill health has forced him to retire from his ministry. Father Vincent's letter is attached to this newsletter for your information. Father Vincent has been at St Damian's as PP for the past eleven years. He will be very much missed by his parishioners and our school community and most especially by the students who always loved it when he visited their classes. Hopefully we will be able to farewell Father appropriately when lockdowns end. It is fitting to thank him for all he has contributed to our school and parish and to celebrate his faithful ministry as Priest and PP. Fr. Chau Dong Tran has been appointed Administrator of the Parish and will take up this position in October. I am certain that everyone will make Fr. Dong very welcome.

NAPLAN

We have received the NAPLAN results from the testing that our Year 3 & 5 students undertook in May this year. Overall the students have done quite well with many students achieving extremely well. We need to remind ourselves that these students experienced an extensive period of time in lockdown last year and still managed to do well. Full credit goes to our students for their resilience and hard work in achieving such great results. I also need to acknowledge that parents have played a huge part in the success of their children. I am certain that many children benefitted from the support they received from their families with remote learning last year. The results certainly speak for themselves. In all of this we also must commend the efforts of their teachers and our LSO's who continued to provide a quality education and much support to enable the students to continue to grow in their learning. What a great team effort and home – school partnership. Congratulations everyone and well done to the students.

Onsite supervision

St Damian's is committed to supporting essential workers by providing onsite supervision for students who are vulnerable and/or have both parents working full-time. However, I just want to point out that the greater the number of students onsite, the greater the risk of students and staff being exposed to catching COVID. With parents attending workplaces there is a higher risk of being exposed to COVID. Parents can catch this virus from an infected co-worker and then bring it home. If students are unknowingly infected and attending school then they can pass it on to others who, in turn, bring it home to everyone else. With case numbers rising, there is a high risk that **this can happen at school** even though we are taking all necessary precautions. I am not writing this to alarm anyone, but to ask that you consider the necessity of sending children to school for supervision. As we know this Delta variant does not discriminate and children are as much at risk of contracting it as are adults. Should we have a positive case we will need to close the school and all in attendance will be required to be tested and quarantine for a minimum of 14 days. This will mean families will also need to quarantine and be tested.

Preparations for 2022 School Year

Thank you to those families who have already advised us that they will be leaving St Damian's at the end of the year. This knowledge assists us with planning for the 2022 year. If you know that you are not returning to St Damian's next year I ask that you please let us know asap. Knowing what movements we can expect helps us to plan better for next year. Thank you for your support.

Yesterday was Our Lady's Feast of the Nativity. Let us celebrate with joyful hearts the birth of Mary.



Father of Mercy, give your people help and strength from heaven. The birth of the Virgin Mary's Son was the dawn of our salvation. May this celebration of her birthday bring us closer to lasting peace. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, Your Son.

Amen

Continue to keep safe and well everyone.

Rosanna



St Damian's Catholic Church

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Dear Friends,

It took me extra effort and much longer time than usual to write this editorial. You would be surprised to read it as my last one for the parish newsletter. It has been over 6 months until now since the day I was taken by ambulance to the hospital for medical attention on a serious turn of my ill health. After that I had to leave the parish on sick leave for necessary recuperation in hoping for better.

During those days I received your messages of support and good health wishes, words of concern and encouragement, gifts and prayers. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you all for your kindness and thoughtfulness and loving care towards me.

Unfortunately, my physical health is not improving so I must make decision to resign from the parish ministry and to continue on my life journey as a retired priest (Pastor Emeritus). It is important and necessary to make way for a new parish priest to be appointed at St Damian's for pastoral leadership and companionship on our common journey of faith. It was difficult moment for me in facing such a tough decision, so with prayer I tried to seek to learn God's will at this turning point.

Reflecting on the past, I thank God for having given me a wonderful time here at Bundoora. It has been an enormous honour and privilege to have served St Damian's Parish and to be part of St Damian's catholic primary school for the 11 years. This is indeed a fairly large and diverse community with so many wonderful people who make up a uniquely great parish as such. I sincerely thank you for having walked with me on our shared journey of faith. I treasure all things I received from you through the moments of thick and thin of those years, especially your generous support and acceptance, your loving trust and warm friendship, your loving care and confidence.

I learn that Fr Chau Dong Tran has recently been appointed as Administrator of St Damian's Parish. He will take up this appointment on 6 October 2021. Please welcome him and I hope and pray that Fr Tran will enjoy support and love as much as I did. I am confident that with your unceasing prayer and involvement, St Damian's Parish will continue to be a strong community of faith in this part of our great Archdiocese of Melbourne. Be assured of my prayers for you and this Parish in the days ahead.

Fr Vincent Le PP



Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows – 15th September

Scripture references to Mary's sorrows are located in Luke 2:35 and John 19:26 – 27. Luke's passage narrates Simeon's prediction about a sword piercing Mary's soul and John's passage relates Jesus' words from the cross to Mary and to the beloved disciple.

Early Church writers interpret the sword as Mary's sorrows, especially as she saw Jesus die on the cross. Therefore, the two passages are brought together as prediction and fulfilment.

Saint Ambrose sees Mary as a sorrowful yet powerful figure at the cross. Mary stood fearlessly at the cross while others fled. She looked on her Son's wounds with pity, but saw in them the salvation of the world. As Jesus hung on the cross, Mary did not fear to be killed, but offered herself to her persecutors.

Reflection

John's account of Jesus' death is highly symbolic. When Jesus gives the beloved disciple to Mary, we are invited to appreciate Mary's important role within the Church and Catholic Tradition. We believe that Mary symbolises the Church and that John represents all believers. As Mary mothered Jesus, she is now mother to all His followers. Furthermore, as Jesus died, He handed over His Spirit. Mary and the Spirit unite in creating new children of God and are reflected in Luke's account of Jesus' conception. Christians can trust that they will continue to experience the caring presence of Mary and Jesus' Spirit throughout their lives and throughout history.

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader

Happy Birthday to the
following students who will
celebrate their birthday



September		
4th	Henry	2S
	Aiden	3/4A
6th	Aniketh	3/4A
7th	Michael	2T
	Kaini	2T
9th	Ava	Prep C
	Lucious	Prep C
	James	3/4W

ST DAMIAN'S PARISH

Booking Mass for the Weekend
Must be booked via Trybooking

Saturday Vigil: at 5.30pm
Sunday Mass: 8.00am & 10.00am are to be booked
under the heading Masses for 2021 and then please
select the day and time you wish to attend.

If you are unable to book via Trybooking please phone
the Parish Office on 9467-2797.

If you miss out booking please come to the church and
you can register in the Church Foyer.

Trybooking Link: www.trybooking.com/BNRPS

Writer of the Week

Ciyona - 1S
 Abi - 1C
 Charli - PG
 Ethan - PG

Charleigh - 3/4M
 Eva - 3/4W
 Olivia - 6S
 Mikayla - 6S
 Francesca - 6S

Congratulations to these students.
 Mrs Dragonetti and Mrs Lombardi

Creative Writing

Promises Are Meant To Be Broken

By Mikayla J—6S

I miss you, I miss you a lot. It is something that I don't admit often but right now I would've told you that I missed you. If you were still here that is. Days like this especially, take me back to the moment we first met. In the chilly breeze, by this old tree. Nothing has changed from that day I got to know you. The day I told you my dreams. We had gotten along so well it felt like we had been friends since birth. I still remember the way your eyes shined whenever I came to meet up with you here.

You should've told me you weren't going to be here forever or told me what was going on. Then I could've spent more time with you, taken you to places you've never been before, done stuff you've never done before. There are still so many things I wanted to show you. So many things I wanted to tell you. The moments we shared may not be that long, but those memories are forever preserved in the deepest parts of my heart.

Even the word forever comes to its own end. I smile slightly at the blazing sun, showering me with memories. "I have never once regretted meeting you despite the pain of you leaving. In our next life I would love to be with you again.

Perhaps it was fate. Perhaps we were destined to meet. Perhaps, we were destined to fall apart.

31st August, 2021.

ST DAMIAN'S READING CHALLENGE

Each child who participates in the reading challenge will automatically go into the draw for their year level raffle. The prize for each year level will be a \$30.00 book shop voucher. Good luck!

Are you ready for Book Week? The Reading Challenge is back!



Preps to Grade 2

Read up to 30 books
(picture books)

Grade 3 - Grade 6

Read up to 15 books
(mix of fiction and non-fiction)



Monster Mayhem!

Holiday Program Bookings Now Open!

We are so excited for our Monster Mayhem Holiday Program to kick off! The last few weeks in NSW and Victoria have been long and difficult, so we wanted to add a little excitement to everyone's lockdown. . .

Our Booking Mayhem Competition!

Families who book into our Holiday Program by 11:59 pm on Friday 27 August 2021 will automatically be in the running to win 1 of 5 prizes:

1. An iPad
2. A Craft Kit valued at \$150.00
3. Coles Voucher valued at \$100.00
4. Coles Voucher valued at \$100.00
5. Family Movie Voucher valued at \$65

Don't miss out! – follow the link below to book in your Holiday Program sessions.

If lockdown or restrictions impact your bookings, we will ensure that no out of pocket fees will be charged to you. Please get in early to secure your child's bookings and avoid missing out.

To qualify for the competition, simply make a booking for the upcoming Holiday Programs via our website or by calling our Customer Service team on 1300 072 410. Winners will be contacted on Friday 3 September by phone call and email.



Book Now

