



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday March 14th, 2024

No. 6- 2024

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

PLEASE NOTE:

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

I hope that all our families enjoyed the three days of the long weekend. I believe many families sought relief from the heat at many coastal areas. Probably a very clever idea to get relief at the beach. I must admit I am enjoying the reprieve from the heat at present – the cooler weather and the cooling rain is definitely welcome as we return to work and school.

COMPASS

Our new comprehensive communication APP, Compass, is up and running and we are finally becoming more accustomed to using it. Could all families please ensure you have downloaded this APP onto your phones or other devices so that all communication is received. We have also included the First Aid notifications on the APP. Please note that should your child now attend First Aid, you will receive a notification via Compass to advise you of the reason. If you feel that your child needs your attention due to their injury, please feel free to contact the school. We do not contact parents for every visit a child makes to First Aid, we make contact for head/facial injuries or other serious injuries that we can see or know of. Unfortunately staff, whilst First Aid trained, are not doctors. We do not diagnose illnesses or injuries, we can only be guided by the students when they present at First Aid. We do our best and take our Duty of Care seriously, we look after the students whilst in first aid, but if the student says he/she is OK and can return to class, then we believe them. We are mindful that many families work and we try to minimize interrupting them whilst at work. However, if you wish to come and collect your child from First Aid then please feel free to do so, but please advise us that you are doing so.

Enrolment for Foundation Year (Prep) 2025

The enrolment period is now open and we are accepting enrolments for 2025. If any of our families have children starting school in 2025, could you please enroll as soon as possible. This will help us with offering places to new families. We have already had enrolment forms lodged for next year, which is very pleasing.

School Advisory Council

The first meeting of the SAC was held on Tuesday evening. We thank Mr John Ciccaldò, Mrs Tina Grandikis, Mr Ashutosh Porwal, Mrs Pamela Siluzzo and Mr Brian Walter who have agreed to continue on the Council. The first meeting always seems to take longer as we discuss our hopes and aspirations for the academic year ahead. Mrs Dianne Viola presented, on behalf of our Math and Literacy Leaders, the new learning directions for our English and Math Curriculum. These are based on the MACS 2030 strategic plan. In particular, we briefly looked at the Vision For Instruction Flourishing Learners position statement which governs our curriculum in Catholic Schools. (<https://cevn.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Melb/Learning-Teaching/vision-for-instruction>.) It was a great opportunity to provide some clarity on why we have changed our pedagogy and to better understand what is different and how it is being implemented. We are all on this learning journey together with the purpose of improving student learning and outcomes.

St Damians Parents Association (P.A.)

Thank you to all our families who have already supported our major fundraiser - the Fun Colour Run—which will be held next Friday 22nd March . There is no other fundraiser this term – no Easter raffle, no hot cross buns, nothing. Only the Fun Run, so please, if you haven't supported it yet, consider making this your big effort for the year. All the money raised is going directly into the purchase of resources for our students to use in the English program. As the books and other resources are extremely expensive, we need your support to make it happen. We have been given some resources as part of the Latrobe University project, but these are not enough for all the students (from Year Prep-6) to use. We need individual little white boards, white board markers, activity resource books for our seniors, decodable books for the juniors, charts, etc so that all the students have everything they need to help them learn.

We are very fortunate at St Damian's that we already have many quality literature resources which we will be able to use to supplement the program. However, we require the specific resources to ensure the program is delivered correctly and appropriately. We do not want to "make do". Our students deserve better! Your children deserve the best! Help us to ensure we give them what they need.

The P.A. Committee have been very busy! They have organised an event for adults to enjoy. A winery bus tour! Please see details in today's flyer attached to the newsletter. As there are only 57 seats on the bus, this is all that can be accommodated at present – so get in quick so you don't miss out. Bring along another couple and make it a foursome or simply come and meet new friends. This is a great way to connect with others in the community and have a really enjoyable day as well. Just to dispel people's confusion, apparently, another event has been organised by someone else in the school and circulated to some ladies.

Just to be clear – this second event is not a school event and NOT organised by the P.A. committee. It is not a Wine Tour, which is what the P.A., spearheaded by Danielle, have organised. I believe this second event has caused some angst as families felt it was being exclusive – this is not the way the P.A. operate I can assure you. Anything organised by the P.A. is advertised through the school newsletter and has my approval and we ensure it is inclusive of everyone. This second event is not a school event! Has nothing to do with St Damian's School and will NOT be advertised through the school. Our P.A. mums work very hard to provide engaging and inclusive experiences for all in our community and I am very grateful to them for all they do. This year, Mrs Romina Gusatto has taken up the role of President, taking over from Vivienne Pantelidis who held the position for two years. Vivienne did a great job and we thank her for all her efforts. Viv has stepped down from her role but is still involved in the committee. Romina with her P.A. team, which includes many hardworking and committed parents, is working very hard to ensure that our community has lots of opportunities to interact and build friendships as well as also raise funds for our school. In working together we can build a great school for your children. Come on the wine tour and have a fun and great day together.

No Newsletter Next Week

Please note that due to my attendance at the VACPSP (Victorian Association Catholic Primary School Principals) Conference in Lorne from Tuesday next week, there will not be a newsletter. I will return to school on Monday 25th March. In my absence Mrs Dianne Viola will be in charge. If you have any concerns please contact Mrs Viola. Thank you.

End of Term 1

The end of term coincides with Holy Thursday, which is the 28th March. Given that this is the first day of the Holy Triduum, we will conclude school at 1.35pm. Students will be dismissed at this time to allow staff the opportunity to begin their Holy Week preparations. Term 2 will begin on Monday 15th April at 8.40am.

School Closure Day

Thursday 25th April is ANZAC Day a public holiday. On Friday 26th April school is closed for a Time In Lieu day for staff to compensate for extra hours worked over the second term. Monday 6th May is a school closure day. Staff will be engaged on working with Ingrid Green on developing their R.E. Programs. Students are not required at school on this day.

Prayer -

**May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us. May the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us. May your Salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and for evermore.
Amen.**

*Have a great week,
Rosanna*

Faith News

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 help us, as Christians, to embody the values of justice, compassion and generosity.

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.

Social Justice - Project Compassion

Throughout the Lenten Season, our School 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. 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 22nd March.

School Closure Day

On Monday 6th May, our Staff will be participating in a Religious Education Professional Learning Day facilitated by Ingrid Green in order to support them in their Religious Education Program. Please note, Students are not expected to be at School on this day.

Solemnity of Saint Patrick (c. 415 – c. 493) – Sunday 17th March

On Sunday, we celebrate the Solemnity of Saint Patrick. Saint Patrick's humility and courage guided his life and he became instrumental in winning most of Ireland for Christ. Prior to the fifth century, Ireland's background was predominantly pagan. After being consecrated as a bishop at the age of forty-three, Saint Patrick continued in his lifelong desire to proclaim the Good News. He ordained many priests, divided Ireland into dioceses, held Church councils, founded several monasteries and continually urged his people to greater holiness in Christ. What distinguishes Saint Patrick is the durability of his efforts. When we consider the state of Ireland when he began his mission work, the vast extent of his labours (most of Ireland) and how the seeds he planted continued to grow and flourish, we can only admire the kind of man Saint Patrick must have been. The holiness of a person is known only by the fruits of his or her work.

Catholic Education Week – 10th – 17th March

This week, Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne are celebrating Catholic Education Week. The theme for this year's celebration is *In the Light of Christ*, celebrating life, faith and education. Tomorrow, as part of the week's celebrations, our Student Leaders will be attending Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, followed by a **Concert in the Park** at Treasury Gardens. Please keep our Students in your Prayers as they represent St Damian's on this joyful occasion.

Saint Patrick's Day Prayer

*I arise today
Through the strength of heaven;
Light of the sun,
Splendour of fire,
Speed of lightning,
Swiftness of the wind,
Depth of the sea,
Stability of the earth,
Firmness of the rock.*

*I arise today
Through God's strength to pilot me;
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's hosts to save me
Afar and anear,
Alone or in a multitude.
Christ shield me today
Against wounding
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.*

*I arise today
Through the mighty strength
Of the Lord of creation.*

**Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader**

PARISH NEWS

ST. DAMIAN'S PARISH 2024 HOLY WEEK PROGRAM

HOLY THURSDAY, 28th MARCH

7:30 PM MASS of the Lord's Supper followed by the Adoration.
(Please return your Project Compassion Boxes & Envelopes)

GOOD FRIDAY, 29th MARCH

10:00 AM Ecumenical Stations of the Cross followed by a morning tea in the Dunlop Room

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

3:00 PM at St Damian's Church.

HOLY SATURDAY, 30th MARCH

6:30 PM EASTER VIGIL (**NO MASS** at 5:30pm)
(Blessing of Fire and Paschal Candle ceremony in front of the Church)

EASTER SUNDAY, 31st MARCH

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Masses



ST DAMIAN'S 2024 LENTEN TIMETABLE

@. LENTEN PRAYER MEETING:

Each Wednesday straight after 7pm Mass
Wednesday: 6, 13, 20 & 27 of March.

@. LENTEN REFLECTION EVENING

With Rev. Fr. Phuong Vu - Friday 8th of March at 7 -8:00pm

@. STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Each Friday straight after 9:15am Mass - 16th February & 23rd; 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd March.

@. LENTEN RECONCILIATION:

1st & 2nd Rites on FRIDAY 15 MARCH at 7:00pm



Dear St. Damian families,

One week to go before the Crazy Colour Day. If you are yet to do so, please sign up at funrun.com.au.

DRUM ROLL PLEASE! The class winners of icy poles are Prep M, 4B, 6GC, 5M and 3SR.

As of this morning we have fundraised \$11,767.00.

Great work to everyone who has raised money so far, we are so appreciative! Let's see if we can hit our target of \$15,000. The more we raise the more teachers get slimmed.

If your able to volunteer on the day, please sign up at <https://signup.com/go/TzUqxfx>

Event Details:

Friday 22 nd March 2.30pm School Oval

What to bring:

White t-shirt

Old runners

Shorts that can be coloured

Water bottle

Towel

Change of clothes

Thank you from the Parents Association

UPCOMING PARENT ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Friday 22nd March—School Fun Run

Thursday 28th March Casual Day - Gold coin Donation to Caritas Christi - Finish at 1:35pm

Tuesday 7th May—Mothers Day Stall

Saturday 25th May—School Community Winery Tour to Rochford Wines