



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday March 28th, 2024

No. 7 - 2024



St Damian's Easter Bonnet Parade 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.

Thank you to the P.A. on a very successful Colour Fun Run held last Friday. By all accounts it was a great school event and the students enjoyed the day immensely. A huge thank you to all our families for your support and most especially for helping us achieve our fundraising goal. The money will be put to good use as it will go towards the purchase of resources for our Science of Reading program. Thank you so much everyone!!

On Monday night we held an information session for families of students in Years 1 & 2 to explain what is happening with the new reading program. The session was fairly well attended and some great questions came up on the night which we were able to discuss. As stated on the night, change is always difficult as everyone is challenged with different ways of doing things. The Science of Reading is a proven methodology based on years of research. We are very excited at St Damian's to be able to offer it to our students so that they can reach their potential. Here is a link to a very interesting article about a school in NSW that has already implemented this approach. Interestingly, the school has a large enrolment of students with various needs, notwithstanding this they are experiencing great success for their students.

At St Damian's we always aim to provide our students the best learning opportunities possible.

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-26/disadvantaged-public-primary-school-naplan-reading-writing-wins/103576686?utm_source=abc_news_app&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_campaign=abc_news_app&utm_content=other&fbclid=IwAR0UJARdonJPUTUeQcum-Kz0nOgOlel4whVjuYsH-6UwOVueVf62b9O1v-g

Holy Week Prayer Services

Last Sunday was Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. We remember the time when Jesus re-entered Jerusalem after spending forty days in the desert. Upon entering the city, the people were very excited to see him and welcomed him by bringing him a donkey to ride and lay palms on the road for him to travel on. He was welcomed with a red carpet as it were, however four days later, he was betrayed by Judas and handed over to the Chief Priests who accused him of treason. He was crucified but as foretold, rose from the dead three days later. The day we celebrate as Easter Sunday. It is a story told and retold each year, but what is the crux of this story – the Passion of Christ – is love. God's love for humanity that he would allow His Son to die to redeem all people. Through this sacrifice of love we are given the opportunity for eternal life and to be with God.

Today, our students marked the events of Holy Week with a School Prayer Service which included, prayer, song and reflection. The students, under the guidance of their teachers, re-enacted and reflected on the events of Holy Thursday and Good Friday. The students were amazing in their presentations and most reverent in their portrayal of Holy Week. When we return from the holidays we will join together once again to reflect on the events of Easter Sunday. Please note that **Easter is this Sunday 31st March.**

Uniforms Term 2

As term two begins in April, the weather may be variable with some warmer days experienced as well as some cooler days. For the remainder of April, the students may wear either summer or winter uniform to suit the weather. Please do not mix summer and winter uniform. It is one or the other. From 6th May, which is week four of term two, all students will be expected in full winter uniform.

School Closure Days

Thursday 25th April is ANZAC Day a public holiday. **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.

Term 2 will begin on **Monday 15th April** at 8.40am.

Prayer -

Lord Jesus, We praise you in this Easter season. Change our lives, change our hearts to be messengers of Easter joy and hope. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord forever. Amen.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Easter. Enjoy a restful holiday and I look forward to seeing you all next term. Keep safe

Rosanna

Faith News

St Patrick's Day Mass

Congratulations to our School Leaders who represented St Damian's at the St Patrick's Day Mass this year. They displayed deep reverence and excellent leadership both in the Cathedral and afterwards at the Treasury Gardens.



The Easter Triduum

The contemporary Catholic Church has reclaimed the ancient Christian practice of the *Triduum*, the Great Three Days.

On Holy Thursday (this year, 28th March) we enter into the Triduum as we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

The Triduum continues through Good Friday, culminates in the Easter Vigil and concludes with Evening Prayer on Sunday, Easter Sunday (this year, 31st March).

The Great Feast of Easter begins on Easter Sunday. It is a day of overlap between the Triduum and Easter. Easter Sunday is both the final hours of the Triduum and the first hours of the Easter Season.

The Easter Season is a period of fifty days that begins on Easter Sunday with the week-long celebration of the Octave of Easter and concludes with Pentecost Sunday (this year, 19th May).

During the Easter Season, the Church rejoices in the Resurrection and the Ascension of the Lord, and the bestowal of the Spirit. It is a period of renewal and commitment to that same mission taken up by the early Christian communities.

For those who have been newly initiated, it is a time to reflect on their experiences and is oriented towards spiritual growth and entering more fully into the life of the community.

Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord – Monday 8th April

You will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you will name him Jesus

Luke 1:31

The Annunciation of the Lord commemorates the angel's announcement to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus, the Messiah. Secular society is often goal and success oriented. This commemoration reminds Catholics to recognise and rejoice at the beginning of God's work in a person's life rather than merely celebrating their accomplishments. We can celebrate beginnings by welcoming a new believer who professes faith in Christ. In solidarity, may we heed the Scriptural call to welcome the stranger among us. Perhaps we can take the time to write a note of encouragement to someone who has chosen to listen to God's Word. May we grasp every opportunity to celebrate the beginnings of God's work in the lives of others.

Social Justice - Project Compassion

Please remember to return all Project Compassion collection box donations to the School. Thank you for your ongoing support of this worthy cause.

A Prayer for Easter

Eternal God,

*The night is brighter than the day
because it is filled with the light of
Christ's Resurrection from the dead.
May all the Baptised live their lives
of faith with Easter joy.*

*Renew us, O Lord, in faith, hope and love.
As we look forward to Christ's Resurrection
from the dead, may He change our lives
and transform our world, both now and forever.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

May God Bless you and keep you and your family safe throughout the Easter Season and the School term break.

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader



Dear St. Damian families,

Wow – what a day! We hope everyone had the BEST DAY EVER at the Color Fun Run!

Thank you to everyone who made the day special! Especially all the teachers who were slimed.

A big thank you to the teachers, volunteers, and parents on the day. We raised a total of **\$23,254.50!!** We couldn't have done this without everyone's help.

Please keep a look out for prize ordering which opens today.



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have more books to catalogue, so if you are able to assist on Wednesday 17th April, please inform us via email. Please note, that you will require a current Working With Children's Check. Thank you in advance for your support.

Kind Regards,

Angela Lombardi - angela.lombardi@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au
Julie Cannatelli—julie.cannatelli@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au

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

FAMILY TOURS TERM 2 DATES



Discover a World of Opportunities at Parade College



Term 2

- Tuesday 23 April
- Tuesday 30 April
- Wednesday 8 May
- Tuesday 14 May
- Thursday 23 May
- Thursday 6 June
- Friday 14 June
- Wednesday 19 June

■ Tours commence at 9:15am and conclude at 10:45am

Visit www.parade.vic.edu.au to book a Family Tour today

School Crossing Supervisor positions now available

Enjoy the benefits of permanent part-time work!

There are so many great reasons to join the City of Whittlesea team as a Crossing Supervisor:

- Join the City of Whittlesea's active social club and attend organised events
- Starting hourly rate of \$33.24 (work 40 weeks but be paid for 52 weeks a year)
- Work 15 hours per fortnight during school terms (Annualised salary paid 12.6hrs per fortnight)
- Paid public holidays that fall during school terms
- 11% superannuation and pro-rata sick leave
- Receive on-the-job training and uniform is provided
- Reduced price memberships available at Mill Park Leisure and Thomastown Recreation & Aquatic Centre
- Health & Wellbeing Programs available

TO APPLY



Complete the application form on the reverse side of this flyer or online at www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/schoolcrossings

For further information please contact the School Crossing Team on 9217 2170 or email school.crossing@whittlesea.vic.gov.au