



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday March 7th, 2024

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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

PLEASE NOTE:

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

Today we held our whole school sports day on the oval. There was a buzz in the school as each team aspired to be the winners at the end of the day. A huge congratulations to Francis House (Red) for being the overall winners on the day. We also congratulate all the teams on their participation and especially their sportsmanship. We thank all the families who came to assist us yesterday, your support is greatly appreciated. The children really love seeing their parents and family members on the day and most especially love it when parents help with activities. A particular thank you to Mr Insolia for all the organisation and hard work to make the day a huge success and to all the students and teachers who helped. Well done to everyone. Until next year.

Open Days

Last Monday we held the second open day. We were very pleased with the number of families who came through to visit our school. There was a real positivity and keenness expressed with a number of new families lodging enrolment forms. It seems that everyone was very impressed with our new spaces and most especially with our student school leaders. These young people gave up their time for a second evening to come and conduct tours. Thank you to our student leaders for their enthusiasm and for the way they presented on the day and evening. Great work leaders. A thank you also to our staff leadership team for being in attendance over the two open day evenings and to the parents of our school leaders for bringing the children to be tour guides. Overall, two very successful Open Days.

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 is scheduled for next Tuesday March 12th at 7.30pm in the school.

P.A. Meeting

The next meeting of the P.A. is scheduled for next Tuesday March 12th. Everyone is welcome to come and join.

St Damians Parents Association (P.A.)

The excitement is building momentum for the Fun Colour Run to be held on March 22nd. This is the major fundraiser for the year. At the assembly on Monday afternoon our student Literacy Leaders did a great job promoting this initiative. We congratulate Prep M who currently have the most profiles and who won icy poles for their class. Great work Preps. The top five students with the highest sponsorship were also acknowledged at assembly. Thank you to all those families for your support and enthusiasm. Come on everyone else! We invite you to get on board and get as many sponsors as possible. The students were very excited to learn that they would be doused in colours on the day and that perhaps teachers may get 'slimed' if enough money is raised. (very brave teachers indeed!). The money raised will support the purchase of resources to complement the new Science of Reading initiative which we have undertaken this year. Please support this fundraiser for our school. Extended families and friends are also able to sponsor your child. The more money your child raises the better the prizes they will receive.

End of Term 1

The end of term coincides with Holy Thursday, which is the March 28th. 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 April 15th** at 8.40am.

School Closure Day

On **Monday 11th March** school will be closed for the Labour Day public holiday. **Thursday April 25th** is ANZAC Day a public holiday. **Friday April 26th** school is closed for a Time In Lieu day for staff to compensate for extra hours worked over the second term.

Prayer -

Heavenly Father, as we enter another week of our Lenten journey, guide us to the path that leads to you. Fill our hearts with gratitude, patience, strength, and peace as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, honestly admitting our shortcomings.

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.

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.

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.

Lenten Prayer

*Almighty and Everlasting God,
You have given us
Jesus Christ our Saviour as a model of humility.
He fulfilled Your Will by becoming human
and giving His life on the Cross.
Help us to bear witness to You
by following His example of service
and make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.*

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,

Our School Fun Run is coming up in just two weeks! Thank you so much for your support so far. We have already raised over \$8,000 toward our goal of \$15,000 . It's not too late to create a profile or start fundraising. Just jump on funrun.com.au to get started.

The greatest part of the event is if you are unable to donate yourself, you can share the link with trusted family, friends and colleagues.

The top 5 classes with the highest amount fundraised by the end of the week, will all receive icy poles!

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

We are so excited to see all the HAPPY KIDS & PROUD PARENTS on event day!

Thank you from the Parents Association