



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday May 16th, 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.
FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Dear Parents/Guardians & Carers

Winery Lunch

This Saturday is the winery lunch organized by our P.A. Thank you to all who purchased tickets to this fun event. I am sad I am unable to attend due to a family function. I wish all the attendees a happy and enjoyable day with family and friends.

Prep 2025

We will be conducting interviews very soon for Prep 2025 students and families. These interviews are an opportunity to meet the new families and students and to get to know them a little better. Through these interviews, we also learn more about the individual students and their needs, so they are an important part of the enrolment process. If any current family would also like an interview time to discuss their child's needs please let the office know so an appointment can be made. Again, a gentle reminder to any families who have a child starting Prep next year and have not yet lodged an enrolment form to please do so asap. If you know of anyone looking for a Prep placement for their child for next year please let them know of our school. Thank you for your support.

Before and After School

Could I please ask parents to encourage their children in the morning not to play with balls. A number of students have been hurt recently with balls bouncing and hitting them. The children should be lining up in the morning ready for their teacher to lead them into class. This ensures a calmer start to the day. I could also remind everyone that no ball games are to be played straight after school, as there are families and students walking out. People could be easily hurt by flying balls. Families are welcome to play ball games once the oval has cleared at 3.30pm.

Reports and Learning Conversations

It is almost that time of year again when we report to families on how the students have progressed in their learning. Teachers have been very busy assessing and writing reports. We will hold the Learning Conversations on **Monday 24th June from 8.30am – 5.00pm**. As usual this will be a **Pupil Free Day** students are not required at school on this day. Information on booking for the Learning Conversations will be sent home in a few weeks.

Staff News

Mrs Mary Karayannis (Year 2AB) will finish up at St Damian's at the end of this term. Mrs Karayannis joined our school in Term 3 last year as the Prep teacher, taking over from Mrs Annemarie Anthony who went on Maternity Leave at the end of Term 2 last year. We thank Mrs Karayannis for all her work over the four terms, she has been a wonderful addition to our school community and a positive staff member in her time here. Mrs Karayannis is off on adventures and travelling to Europe. We wish her safe travels and a wonderful holiday. Mrs Annemarie Anthony will be returning in Term 3 and sharing the Year 2 class with Mrs Bosinovski.

We also formally farewell Mrs Jenny Rubira at the end of this term. Mrs Rubira has been on leave since Term 3, 2022. Jenny has served the St Damian community as Deputy Principal for twelve years, working alongside both Mrs Helen Hannay, former Principal, and myself in that time. We thank Jenny for all she has contributed to the life of the school, for her commitment to the students and for her support of staff and families. We wish her all the very best for the future.

Last Sunday was Pentecost Sunday. The Feast of Pentecost is still important to Christians today because it represents the beginning of the Christian Church. It is a reminder of Jesus' promise that God would send the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is active as God's presence and power in the world. **So we pray:**

Lord, as we worship on Pentecost Sunday, give us a vision. Move us by your Holy Spirit. Bring good news to us all. Bring freedom and peace to broken people, and let us get a taste of Heaven here on Earth. Amen

Have a great week everyone, Keep warm

Rosanna

Faith News

Sacrament of Reconciliation Parish Presentation Masses

Please choose whichever Mass time suits your family best: this **Saturday 25th May at 5:30pm** or **Sunday 4th June at 10am**. The children do not need to bring anything with them. They will be invited to stand on the altar after the Homily and everyone present will be invited to pray for them.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Please pray for our Year Two Students who will be participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation next **Thursday 6th June at 7pm** in the Church.

Solemnity of Our Lady, Help of Christians – Friday 24th May

Since the Middle-Ages, the Church has devoted the month of May to Mary. We find strength when seeking Mary's intercession and gain confidence in knowing that God continues to act in the world. On all Marian feast days, we continue to celebrate Jesus Christ, for Mary's privilege is received from God. Whilst we continue to pray and practise charity, we can remain assured that our Prayers will be answered. With maternal love for us, Mary wants what is best for us as she urges, "*Do whatever He tells you*" (John 2:5). May we continue to lead others to know and love her Son too. May we feel empowered to turn to her in Prayer as we continue to love Jesus and others with a greater love.

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity – Sunday 26th May

This Sunday, we celebrate the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity.

While much of Christian art depicts the relationship among the three persons as triangular, the Early Church Fathers encourage us to envision the dynamic love relationship of the Trinity in a circular fashion. The early Greek term, *perichoresis*, literally means *going around*, suggesting a dance like movement where each person interacts with the other. The point of this dance is love. The dance, an open circle, invites all onto the dance floor, drawing us into the midst of the energetic flow of divine love. Saint Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, suggests some practice steps for the dance: rejoice, mend your ways, encourage one another, seek agreement and live in peace. We are not celebrating an esoteric doctrine from the past; we are celebrating One who is a dynamic relationship inviting us to be participants in this dynamism. In these ways, we help one another onto the dance floor, where we become one with the very source of grace, love and communion. *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.* 2 Corinthians 13:13

St. Vincent de Paul Annual Winter Appeal

Winter will soon be upon us. Therefore, the time has come for our School to once again, support the *St. Vincent de Paul Annual Winter Appeal*. With the rising costs of gas and electricity, many people are looking for alternative ways to stay warm in the winter months. In response to this need, our Social Justice Leaders are running a *Warm Up Winter Drive* in aid of Vinnies. Donations of items such as socks, beanies, hats, scarves, gloves etc. would be most sincerely appreciated. Please send these donations to your child's classroom anytime between **Monday 27th May** and **Friday 14th June**. Your donated items will be distributed to families in need. St. Damian's has a strong tradition of caring for those in need.

Prayer – Glory and Praise to the Most Holy Trinity

*Glory be to the FATHER,
and to the SON,
and to the HOLY SPIRIT.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.*

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader

St Damian's Parent Association

Please take note of the upcoming events organised by the Parent Association.

Term 2

**Saturday 25th May Lunch at Rochford Winery
Friday 28th June Casual Clothes Day**

Term 3

Friday 26th July Pyjama Day

All money raised to go to Asthma Australia.

Friday 30th August Father's Day Stall

Term 4

**Friday 25th October World Teachers Day Morning Tea
Friday 1st November Halloween Disco
Nov/Dec Christmas Raffle**