



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St. Damian's Newsletter

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Thursday October 31st 2024

A message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians & Carers

Thank you to all our families for supporting our Art Show/Math Night last Thursday evening. It was a resounding success and there was a real buzz in the school. We received many positive comments from both families and students. There was truly something for everyone to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who came and supported, a big thank you to the parents who volunteered at the sausage sizzle and most importantly a huge thank you to Ms Beeby and Mrs Bruce, who co-ordinated and organized the event together with all the staff who worked on the night. Great community event!

This Friday we are looking forward to another great community event. The Halloween Disco starting at 6.30pm and concluding at 9.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there dressed in your scariest costumes (or not, it's up to you). Come along and join the fun.

We are all looking forward to the long weekend beginning this Friday. **Monday 4th November is a school closure day and Tuesday 5th November is a Public Holiday (Melbourne Cup)**. I hope that all our families enjoy the four-day weekend and rest up in preparation for the last sprint to the end of the year. There are only six weeks left of the school year! That is a very sobering thought.

All Saints Day/All Souls Day

November 1st is All Saints Day. While Halloween is widely celebrated in the United States, for many people in other Christian countries the two days following 31st October are publicly and privately more significant. In a practice dating back centuries, the Roman Catholic Church observes these two days as a time in which the living commemorate the dead. November 1st is All Saints Day, a feast day observing the lives of the many saints for whom there is no specific feast day during the year. The following day, November 2nd, marks a day of prayer for, and remembrance of relatives and friends who are no longer living. Masses are usually attended and offered for the repose of their souls. Mass will be celebrated here at St Damian's on Friday evening to commemorate All Saints Day.

P.A. Meeting

The P.A. Annual General Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 19th November** at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome to come. It would be great to have some more members join this group. It is a great way to build connections and relationships within the community and support the school at the same time.

Foundation (Prep) Orientation Session

The fifth and final session is on **Wednesday 13th November** from 9.30am until 10.30am.

School Closure Days

Please note that **Monday 2nd December is a pupil free day** to allow staff to plan for the 2025 school year. Students are not required at school on this day. Please Note there will not be a newsletter next week due to the short week.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the example of the Saints. Please help us to follow in their footsteps, and yours, Jesus Christ. Please help us to devote ourselves and all that we do, to Your glory, and to the service of our neighbours. Amen.

And we pray for our family and friends:

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Have a great week everyone.

Rosanna

Faith News

Sacrament of Eucharist

This term, our **Year Four Students** will be participating in the Sacrament of Eucharist on **Saturday 23rd November at 2pm**.

Sacrament of Eucharist Parent/Child Evening

Please note, the Presentation Sisters will be conducting a **Sacrament of Eucharist Parent/Child Evening** in the Hall **this evening at 7pm**. At least one Parent/Guardian from each family is strongly encouraged to attend this evening with their Child to assist them in preparing to participate in the Sacrament.

Sacrament of Eucharist Reflection Day

Our Students will be participating in a **Sacrament of Eucharist Reflection Day** here at School on **Thursday 7th November**. All Year Four Students are invited to wear casual clothes on this day.

Sacrament of Eucharist Parish Presentation Masses

Sacrament of Eucharist Parish Presentation Masses will take place on **Saturday 9th November at 5:30pm and Sunday 10th November at 10am**. Please choose whichever date suits your family best. You do not need to tell the School which Mass you will attend.

Solemnity of All Saints – Friday 1st November

The Catholic Church established feast days to celebrate our oneness in faith. On All Saints' Day, we celebrate every martyr and holy person recognised by the Church and sanctified by Christ. Importantly, we have all been sanctified by Christ. According to Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount, our sainthood begins when we give our total trust in God; when we strive to be meek and humble; when we hunger for righteousness; when we are merciful to others; when our hearts are pure and holy; when we seek peace and harmony; and when we accept persecution for not only righteousness' sake but for Christ's sake. In this way, we allow God to transform us and lead us toward sainthood. Through our words and deeds, may we be counted among the saints. The evangelist Matthew reminds us to "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven" (Matthew 5:12).

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day) – Saturday 2nd November

This Saturday, we commemorate All Souls' Day. The Church has encouraged Prayer for the dead from the earliest times as an act of Christian charity. "If we had no care for the dead," Augustine noted, "we would not be in the habit of praying for them." Yet pre-Christian rites for the deceased retained such a strong hold on the superstitious imagination that a liturgical commemoration was not observed until the early Middle Ages, when monastic communities began to mark an annual day of Prayer for the departed members.

In the middle of the 11th century, Saint Odilo, abbot of Cluny, France, decreed that all Cluniac monasteries offer special Prayers and sing the Office for the Dead on 2nd November, the day after the Feast of All Saints. The custom spread from Cluny and was finally adopted throughout the Roman Church.

The theological underpinning of the feast is the acknowledgment of human frailty. Since few people achieve perfection in this life but, rather, go to the grave still scarred with traces of sinfulness, some period of purification seems necessary before a soul comes face-to-face with God. The Council of Trent affirmed this purgatory state and insisted that the Prayers of the living can speed the process of purification.

Prayer to the Saints

*Oh, Saints of God who lived, loved, died and rose as did Jesus.
Be our companions that we may be large in thought, word and deed.
Bringing peace, joy, love and compassion to our lives and all around us.
To God be glory in Christ Jesus throughout all generations,*

forever and ever. Amen.

Mary-Ann Wright
Religious Education Leader

COMPASS

Dear Parents, with a recent security upgrade at MACS, there have been issues with data reintegration with Compass over the last week or so. We want to thank parents for letting us know they were having issues connecting so we could follow up with MACS and Compass. The issue should now be resolved but if anyone is having ongoing issues, please do not hesitate to contact the office so that we can troubleshoot the issue for you. Thank you



Prep C	Patrick Nguyen	For always using the correct punctuation in his writing. Keep it up!
Prep M	Ethan Yapa	For excellent listening during floor time and working well with others.
Prep W	Jacob Bao	For his wonderful participation in analysing a variety of texts.
1M	Archie Pavone-Locklier	For writing a fantastic story using the 'igh' grapheme!
1S	Carina Shi	For consistently applying learnt strategies when reading and writing new words and always striving to do her best.
2AB	Jonathan Bao	For working really hard on his biography of his mum, Alva. Well done!
2C	Ashlea Lin	For doing her best to explain strategies used to solve maths problems.
2Y	Xavier Karnezis	For trying your best to follow all classroom expectations and focusing on your learning.
3B	Alice Wu	For trying your best to focus and extend yourself during learning. Well done!
3M	Kelvin He	For doinh his best to complete learning tasks on time, especially during writing sessions!
3SR	Aarav Bhalla	For staying focussed on tasks, continuously doing his best and always helping others succeed. Great job, Aarav!
4B	Elsie Cutajar	For your outstanding preparation, motivation and organisation in leading the Loomband Fundraiser.
4C	Tristan Razif Bigtas	For his amazing attitude towards learning and always trying his best!
5AT	Madeleine Vlahopoulos	For her positive attitude toward learning tasks and producing a fantastic piece of writing! Great job!
5M	Stephen Trikilis	For consistently coming to school with a positive attitude and always ready to take on new challenges.
5R	Shuhao Zhang	For consistently delivering high quality work, relishing challenging maths tasks & showing determination to improve daily. Impressive effort.
6GC	Alessia Prosenik	For always working so hard to give your best. You demonstrate a positive attitude towards all aspects of school life!
6S	Justin Wilam	For being a positive and proactive learner who always works hard and does his best. Well done!



TUCKSHOP NEWS

Please note that the Tuckshop will be **CLOSED** on Thursday 7th November

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

The Secondhand Uniform Shop is open each Friday 9-10am.

Find some great value Summer Uniform items for Term 4...
(located up the hill from the office). Cash only.

All sales from these items go back into the School toward resources.



ArtSplosion

Wow! What an evening **ArtSplosion** turned out to be! Thank you to all of the families that could spare the time to come and make such a memorable night. It was action packed and the St Damian's community came together to celebrate the learning of our very talented students.

A huge thank you to the P&F for the BBQ and the parent volunteers who helped make the night a true success. Thank you to the teachers and learning support officers for their support and to Mrs O'Leary for the amazing performances.

If you haven't already given us feedback, please spare a minute to fill in the survey. It will help our next show in 2026 be even better!

Here is the [LINK https://forms.gle/SbRypZuzC2xaHeaEA](https://forms.gle/SbRypZuzC2xaHeaEA)

Many thanks

Carmen Bruce (Maths) and Charissa Beeby (Art)

**A thankyou
to our Sponsors**



coles



**Bundoora
Square.**



Bakers Delight







Year 6 Market Day

Thursday 28th of November

11:30am – 4:00pm in the Hall



The Year 6 students invite St Damian's school community to support their small businesses at the Year 6 Market Day.

Students will have the opportunity to visit the stalls between 11:30 – 3:15. Businesses will remain open to the school community from 3:15 – 4:00pm.

Make sure you don't miss out on our incredible products for sale! (Cash only)

When was the last time you felt **really alive?**



God is glorified
when men are
fully alive
St Ireneus

MEN'S WEEKEND

The menALIVE Men's Weekend is an opportunity for men to explore what makes them feel fully alive. The experience of the weekend is powerful and dynamic and many men are inspired and encouraged with a new sense of purpose and mission. The weekend is organised by men in your local community and conducted by an experienced team of menALIVE leaders. It is suitable for all men from 18 years of age.

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 November

**St Martin of Tours Parish Community Centre
1 Silk Street, Rosanna, VIC 3084.**

For more information, scan the QR Code,
visit <https://rosanna.menalivevic.au>
or contact:

- John O'Connell, 0429 596 948, johnoc@optusnet.com.au
- James Theseira, 0478 403 070, theseira888@gmail.com



Scan me



The purpose of menALIVE is to bring men together, to renew their faith in God, and to encourage them to become an active force within the Church.

www.menalive.org.au