



St Damian's Catholic Church

<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/bundoora>

f /Damian church

P.O. Box 63 (5 Settlement Road)
BUNDOORA, 3083

Fr Joseph Dong Tran PP
Dianne Stubbs
Parish Secretary
Telephone: 9467 2797
Email: bundoora@cam.org.au

WELCOME TO ST DAMIAN'S

WEEKENDS

Saturday Evening: 5.30pm

Sunday Morning: 8.00am & 10.00am

WEEKDAYS

Monday: no Mass

Tuesday: 9.15am

Wednesday: 9.15am

Thursday: 9.15am & Divine Mercy

Friday: 9.15am

First Saturday: 9.15am Mass & Divine Mercy

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5.00pm

BAPTISMS

1st & 3rd Sunday at 11.30am after Mass.

Preparation 1st Wednesday each month at 5.30pm in the Dunlop Room. Parents must contact the Parish Office to make necessary arrangements. One month notice is required.

ST. DAMIAN'S SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs Rosanna Piccolo

Telephone: 9467 8566

Email: principal@sdbundoora.catholic.edu.au

HOLY HOUR

One hour of Novena, Confession and Benediction after morning Mass on the first Friday of the Month.

MARRIAGES

Those intending to marry at St. Damian's should arrange to meet the Parish Priest at least 6 months in advance of the proposed date.

St. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

All enquiries: 1300 305 330

4th Sunday of Advent, 21st December 2025

THIS WEEKEND

Is 7:10-14

Rom 1:1-7

Mt 1:18-24

NEXT WEEK

Sirach 3:2-6

Col 3:12-21

Mt 2:13-15

PSALM

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

SRI LANKEN SINHALESE MASS

Wednesday 31st December:

New Years Eve Mass at 11.00pm

DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri 26th December: St Stephen

Sat 27th December: St John

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; His name will be Emmanuel God is with us.

Alleluia,

Recent Deaths: Sr. Rita Fitt (Sister of Good Samaritan)

Anniversaries: Jean May M, Charles M, Desmond M, Rebecca Sandras, Nicholas M,

Sick : Angelo Trinidad, Norma Frendo, Teresa Munoz, E. Cruz, B. Cruz, Lottie Constantino, Estellita Steven

CHURCH PRIVACY POLICY: In 2001, the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information, including health, collected from individuals. The Catholic Parish of St. Damian's Bundoora is committed to upholding the Privacy principles set out in the legislation.

Parish Financial Update and Looking Ahead with Gratitude (End of 2025)

Dear Parishioners of St Damian's Parish,

As we approach the end of 2025, I would like to share with you a clear and honest update on the financial life of our parish. Transparency is an essential part of good stewardship, and above all, this update is an expression of my sincere gratitude for your trust, generosity, and faithful support throughout the year.

When I arrived at St Damian's Parish on 6 October 2021, the parish was carrying a significant debt of \$600,000, incurred through the renovation of the presbytery and the extension of the parish office, which now includes several functional rooms. I am pleased to report that, through God's grace and your generosity, the outstanding loan balance has been reduced to \$137,782.00 by the end of 2025. Our current quarterly capital repayment is \$8,867.00, with interest payments of \$2,630.13, at an interest rate of 6.40%. With careful financial management and your continued support, I sincerely hope that we will be able to fully repay this loan by around 2027.

In addition to this progress, the parish church account balance as of 17 December 2025 stands at approximately \$114,000. This healthy position has enabled the parish to meet all its financial commitments while also investing in necessary improvements throughout the year.

During 2025, parish funds have been responsibly used for both immediate and long-term needs. These included the purchase of a Christmas Nativity set, replacement of all church lighting, installation of solar batteries, and Other essential parish improvements. We have also been able to cover all day-to-day operational costs, such as utilities (water, gas, and electricity), as well as wages for our Parish Secretary, Bookkeeper, and Sacramental Coordinator.

I am especially encouraged to report that our Thanksgiving offertory envelopes increased by approximately 20–25% this year. This is a very positive sign of the parish's financial health and a powerful witness to your generosity, particularly at a time when the cost of living continues to rise following COVID-19.

Looking to the Future: our parish will joyfully celebrate its 60th Anniversary on 26 September 2026. In preparation for this milestone, and following discussions with the Parish Pastoral Council, I hope to renovate the piety shop into a parish kitchen to better serve the hospitality needs of our community. The estimated cost for this project is \$40,000–\$50,000, and I trust that, with your support, this vision can become a reality.

Finally, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated volunteers, especially Chung (also known as Violet) for leading the cleaning teams, and the lawn mowing team, led by *Paul Bezzina*, with the generous help of *Ben Sacco*, *Laurie o'shea*, *Klaus Nagel*, and *Michael Mackowiah*. Thanks to your service, the parish saves significantly on maintenance costs.

Once again, thank you for your faith, generosity, and commitment to St Damian's Parish. I wish you and your families a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God keep you safe, well, and filled with peace.

Fr. Joe Dong Tran P.P

SAVE THE DATE



2025 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

- **FROM 16th –23rd DEC: 9 DAY NOVENA @ 7.00pm MASS/ NO MORNING MASS**
WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES:
6:30PM CHRISTMAS CAROLS & 7:00 PM MASS
9.30 PM CHRISTMAS CAROLS & 10.00 PM MASS.
- **THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES: 8AM AND 10.00 AM**
- **FRIDAY 26TH DECEMBER– NO MASS COMMUNION SERVICE ONLY AT 9.15AM**
- **NEW YEARS MASS: 1ST JANUARY@ 10.00AM MARY HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

ST VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL



For our Christmas offering we are requesting any of the following. The school children of St Damian's have been generous and we have received enough presents for small children.

We would love to receive Retail Store Gift Cards for teenagers this would be much appreciated. Donations of cash & credit card would also be greatly appreciated. All donations can be delivered to the container besides the Christmas Tree in the Church.

The gifts will be distributed among the needy in the Parish whose parents cannot afford to buy gifts. There are many families doing it tough at present so we will appreciate the help. All Donations to be received by 21st December 2025.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand, the WURRUNDJERI People. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon the land.

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable young people

As required by law, we as the Church and Parishes have a moral, legal and ethical responsibility to care for, and promote the wellbeing of children and young people, and protect them from harm or abuse. Therefore while in church or on parish grounds: **Please ensure you know exactly where your child is if they're not beside you. *Please accompany your child (16 years and younger) if they need to leave the church for any reason (eg: going to toilet or car, etc...) *Children should never be alone in the car park or playground. *Please keep valuable personal belongings with you (purses, glasses, phones, etc...) and double check before leaving your seat, even briefly during Communion*

REFLECTION – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) THE THEME: EMMANUEL – GOD IS WITH US!



A small child was once afraid to sleep alone during a stormy night. The thunder was loud, and the darkness frightening. Finally, the child whispered, "Mom, can you stay with me?" The mother replied, "I'm here. You're not alone." The storm did not stop, but the fear slowly disappeared. Nothing changed outside, yet everything changed inside, simply because someone trustworthy was present.

As we arrive at the end of Advent, the Church proclaims this simple but life-changing truth: we are not alone. God is with us.

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, the mood of the liturgy shifts. The strong calls to repentance give way to quiet contemplation of the mystery surrounding the birth of Jesus. All the readings draw us close to the moment when God enters human history - not with noise or power, but through faith, obedience, and trust in the Holy Spirit.

In the first reading (Isaiah 7:10–14), the prophet speaks to King Ahaz, who is threatened by powerful enemies. Isaiah urges him to trust the Lord, even offering a sign. Though Ahaz refuses out of false humility, God gives a sign anyway: "The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." God assures His people that He is with them, even when fear and danger seem overwhelming.

In the second reading (Romans 1:1–7), St. Paul proclaims Jesus Christ as the Son of God, born of the line of David yet filled with divine power. Paul reminds us that this Emmanuel is not an idea or symbol, but a real person who brings grace and peace into our lives.

In the Gospel (Matthew 1:18–24), St. Joseph faces a painful mystery. The Blessed Virgin Mary is with child, and he does not understand how. In silence and compassion, he decides to divorce her quietly. Only when the angel appears in a dream does God reveal His plan. Joseph listens, trusts, and obeys. By welcoming Mary and her Son, he becomes a guardian of Emmanuel - God with us.

Three points for daily Christian living:

- 1. Trust God in times of fear.** Like Ahaz or Joseph, we face enemies: sin, addiction, illness, conflict, uncertainty. Emmanuel reminds us that God is present even when solutions are not yet clear.
- 2. Make space to listen.** Joseph heard God in silence and sleep. Advent invites us to slow down, pray, and allow God to speak into the mysteries of our lives.
- 3. Welcome Christ into daily life.** Joseph welcomed Jesus into his home; Mary treasured God's work in her heart. We are called to welcome Christ into our families, decisions, and struggles.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, let us open our hearts to the Holy Family of Nazareth. With Emmanuel among us, we need not be afraid today, tomorrow, or in the year ahead. Amen!

Fr Joe Dong Tran P.P

Roster 20th & 21st December

Time	Readers	Eucharist/ Welcome
5.30pm	D. Whyley A. Favrin	Sr. Felicity L. Gooneratne T. Garcia
8.00am	L. Starvaggi O. Carvalho	V. Smith M. Sweetman C. Love
10.00am	J. Venturini N. Matthews	E. Jones P. Del Popolo R. Sacco

COUNTERS

TUES 30TH DEC

W. Fernando
V. Zappa

Supervisor

G. Spiteri



Readers & Eucharistic Welcomers

Please gather together in the Church about 5 minutes before Mass.

Eucharistic Ministers

Please remember you are also welcoming Parishioners & visitors & handing out the newsletter.

St Damian's Parish Prayer

Lord, our God, your parish family thanks you for the faith we all share.

Make us a people who care for one another and may we have a genuine concern for the wider community.

*Help our parents to give good example;
Give our children the grace of love and respect.
Fill our youth with wisdom, hope and vision;
Their Leadership is the future of our Church and our Nation.
To our sick—grant health;
To those of advancing years—serenity;
And to those in sorrow—your peace and joy.*

*Lord, our God, deepen our love and strengthen our faith.
Jesus, nourish us with your Word and Eucharist.
Holy Spirit, direct us in all we do and help us to say always:*

"Lord, it is good for us to be here."

This is our home, be with us as we continue to build your kingdom on earth.

St Damian Pray for us

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15 Plenty Rd Bundoora- around the
back of St Damian's Primary
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Hours:

Mon to Fri 8am to 6pm
Saturday 9am to 5pm

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