



St Damian's Catholic Church

Diocese: www.cam.org.au
Parish: www.stdamiansbundoora.cam.org.au

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

Fr Joseph Dong Tran PP
Dianne Stubbs
Parish Secretary
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WEEKENDS

Saturday Evening: 5.30pm
Sunday Morning: 8am & 10am

WEEKDAYS

Monday: no Mass
Tuesday: 9.15am
Wednesday: 7.00pm Mass & Novena
Thursday: 9.15am
Friday: 9.15am
First Saturday: 9.15am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 5pm and during monthly Holy Hour

BAPTISMS

1st & 3rd Sunday at 11.30am after Mass.
Preparation 1st Wednesday each month at 5.30pm in the Dunlop Room. Parents should 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 and Benediction after morning Mass on 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

THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT 17th DECEMBER 2023

READING

Is 61:1-2, 10-11
1 Thess 5:16-24
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

NEXT WEEK

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Rom 16:25-27
Lk 1:26-38

PSALM

My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God,
my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth
all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.

He fills the starving with good things, ends the rich
away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy.

My soul rejoices in my God.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASSES

Sat: 23rd Dec : Vigil Mass at 5.30pm
Sun 24th Dec: 8.00am & 10.00am
Sun 24th Dec: Christmas Eve 6.00pm & 9.00pm
Mon 25th Dec: Christmas Day 8.00am & 10.00am

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION!

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent
me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Recent Deaths : Dennis Carter, Joven Mercado

Anniversaries : James Lewis, Vito Garra

Sick:: Anita Gentile, Paul Long, Louisa, Virginia, Samuel Sughihto, Emman Paneda

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...)*

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

Gospel Reflection for 3rd (Gaudete) Sunday of Advent – Year B

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we enter the joyful embrace of the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, we find ourselves immersed in the exuberance of Isaiah's jubilation in the first reading. His joyful song echoes the divine presence in his life, celebrating the empowering touch of God: "The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me to..." It's a testament of gratitude for God's work in his life.

St. Paul's exhortation in the second reading further amplifies this joyous Sunday: "Be happy at all times, pray constantly, and for all things give thanks to God..." This progression calls us to rejoice, remain vigilant in prayer, and maintain gratitude, all crucial aspects as we navigate this glorious season of Advent. Our journey is ongoing; this Sunday's joy doesn't mark its end.

Once again, our Gospel revisits the prophecy and resounding call of St. John the Baptist, this time from St. Mark's account. Though different in authorship, the message remains steadfast: "The voice crying out in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord." Why this repetition on this joyful Sunday? It serves as an emphasis, a gentle reminder that amidst our rejoicing, our preparation continues. "It is NOT Christmas yet!" Today's joy anticipates the fuller joy Christmas will bring.

As we embrace the joy of today, let us wholeheartedly echo Paul's prayer: "May the God of Peace make you perfect and holy, and may you all be kept safe and blameless...for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...God has called you and he will not fail you." We await the arrival of Christ, the epitome of our joy and salvation, with assurance. For His promises are always fulfilled, affirming our faith and hope.

In this season of anticipation, let our hearts overflow with the joy of this Sunday, knowing that our journey toward Christ's coming continues. May this joy prepare us fully to welcome the birth of our Saviour. Amen!

Fr Joe Dong Tran P.P

Rosters for 23rd & 24th December 2023

Mass Time	Reader/Responder	Eucharist / Welcome	Piety Shop	Counters	Readers/ Responders Eucharist / Welcomers, ... Please gather together in the Sacristy about 15 Minutes prior to Mass. Eucharist Ministers— please remember that you are also welcoming parishioners & visitors & handing out the newsletter.
5.30pm	A. Favrin P. Cosgrove	W. Fernando Sr F. Hardy D. Mash	J. Noonan	G. Mee R. Mee	
8.00am	C. Love V. Smith	C. Love M. Sweetman S. Aldridge	M. Kmita	Supervisor G. Spiteri	
10.00am	B. Walter C. Manabat	N. Cardamone L. Careri P. Del Popolo	R. Sacco	 Ministries	

VIEW OUR NEWSLETTER EACH WEEK ON OUR WEBSITE:

WORDS OF THANK TO VOLUNTEERS

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for the **Thanksgiving Mass and Dinner, the Advent Retreat Last Week, and our recent Working Bees today.** Your presence and dedication made these events successful and meaningful. A special appreciation goes out to all who contributed their time and effort to cleanse both the interiors and exteriors of the Church during the Working Bees. Your collective work has made a significant difference.

Thank you once again for coming together and working tirelessly for our community.

Warm regards,

Fr. Joe Dong Tran P.P.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

20th December

Advent Gospel Reflection: Meeting, Every Wednesday after evening Mass from 7.00pm— 8.30pm

Friday 22nd December (CANCELLED)

Christmas Carols Prayer Service (CANCELLED)

Sunday 24th December

Christmas Eve Mass, Carols at 6.00pm Mass at 6.30pm

Christmas Eve Mass, Carols at 9.00pm Mass at 9.30pm

Monday 25th December, Christmas Day

8.00am & 10.00 am Christmas Mass

Saturday 30th December

Feast of the Holy Family, 5.30pm

Sunday 31st December

Feast of the Holy Family 8.00am & 10.00am

Monday 1st January 2024

Mary, the Holy Mother of God, 7.00pm Mass

During January normal weekday and weekend Masses

THE PIETY SHOP

Many beautiful Nativities are now available as are a variety of Christmas ornaments and cards in packets of five, eight or ten. Also in stock is the 2024 Columban Calendar at only \$10.00. The calendar would make an excellent gift for family and friends, and helps to support the Missionaries.

ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

Dear Parishioners,

The Archbishop Charitable fund has asked if we can open our hearts and provide assistance and relief for those in their homes in Ukraine or externally displaced to Australia and other countries. We have some Envelopes available in the Church foyer for any donations if you would like to assist.

Thank you.

CONDOLENCES TO MERCADO FAMILY

Dear St. Damian's family,

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of Joven Mercado's passing last Tuesday evening. Joven was a dedicated and cherished member of our parish community, serving diligently on various committees for many years. His presence and contributions have left an indelible mark on our hearts.

During this difficult time, our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Mercado family. May the Almighty grant them solace, comfort, and healing as they navigate this profound loss. May Joven Mercado rest in eternal peace.

For those wishing to pay their respects, viewings for Joven Mercado will be held at St. Damian's Church on December 21st and 22nd at 6:30 pm, followed by the Funeral Mass on December 23rd at 10:00 am.

For further details, please feel free to contact us at 9467 2797.

With heartfelt condolences,

BAPTISMS

This weekend we welcome into the family of St Damian's Leon & Dean MacManus who are being baptised. May God keep their family always in His Love



RCIA, RITE OF WELCOME & ANOINTING

Please warmly welcome and pray for PATTY who seeks to become a Catholic and REYV who wishes to complete his Sacraments of Initiation. Both are being presented this weekend at the Rite of Welcome & Anointing.

VOLUNTEERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

Dear Volunteers,

I would like to ask for your aids at either the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Please write your name down on the list located in the Church foyer.

ST VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL



For our Christmas offering we are requesting any of the following.

The school children of St Damian's have been so generous that we have enough presents for small children, but we would love to receive Retail Store Gift Vouchers for teenagers, this would be much appreciated.

Donations by cash and credit card would also be greatly received. All donations can be delivered to a container beside the Christmas tree in the Church. The gifts will be distributed among the needy in the Parish whose parents cannot afford to buy presents. There are many families doing it tough at present, so help would be much appreciated.

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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