

IN THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL WE PRAY FOR:

Our Sick: Juan Ortiz and those of our community.

Recently Deceased:

Repose of the Souls: Silvia Santos & Johnny Aqbuya and those whose anniversary occur about this time and those whose names are on the memorial wall.

Church
Cleaning

Saturday 1st March — Spanish Community

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable young people.

St Dominic's Community holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children as a fundamental responsibility of the church. This commitment is drawn from, and inherent to, the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and dignity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel. A cultural of safety within the Church ensures that children can actively and fully participate in the life of the Church and realise their potential in a faith community. **We are committed to upholding the safety and dignity of each child and young person and ensuring that they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment in our Church.**

For those families with children, they are very welcome, and if your children become unrest during the celebration of the Holy Eucharistic, please use the Children Room on the side of the church, you can still listen to the homily from there.

THANKSGIVING OFFERING ONLINE TO: ST DOMINIC'S CHURCH BSB: 083 347 ACCOUNT NUMBER: 67441 1404

PLEASE TYPE YOUR THANKSGIVING
ENVELOPE NUMBER WHEN YOU DO
THE TRANSACTION.

The Parish has the facility of
**EFTPOS DEBIT, VISA CARD
and MASTER CARD.** This is a
good option for those who do
not carry cash and would like
to contribute to the church.
**The set up is of: \$5.00;
\$10.00; \$20.00 and \$50.00**

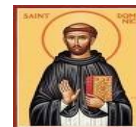


Live Your Best Life in Love...

A Marriage Encounter weekend is for you...

Every married couple deserves this very special weekend.
Time-out to nurture your most precious relationship away from daily distractions.
The two of you will come away from your weekend feeling more deeply connected
and with tools to help keep the passion alive. No group sharing required.
The weekend is based around Catholic values. Couples of all faiths are welcome.
Please check our website for more details and to book your special weekend:
Our next weekend is: 25-27 April 2025 at St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South.
Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday afternoon around 4:30pm
Information/Bookings: Please phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or
Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwwme.org.au

ST DOMINIC'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



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PARISH PRIEST: Fr Peter Njau, CSSp; Email: njau2560@gmail.com

PARISH SECRETARY: Ana Miriam Guardado

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 8.00am-2.00pm

ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL—PRINCIPAL: Ms Alison Bretag, PHONE: 03 9309 4146

PARISH MASS TIMES

Sundays: 6.00pm Vigil Mass (Saturday evening)
9.00am 1st & 3rd Sundays: Vietnamese Mass
9.00am 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays: English Mass
11.00am: English Mass
1.00pm: Spanish Mass

Weekdays: Tuesday to Saturday 9.00am Mass

Morning Prayer of the Church: Tuesday to Saturday at 8.25am

Rosary: Tuesday to Sunday before Mass.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Wednesday from 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Benediction: Every Friday following the 9.00am Mass.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Tuesday to Saturday before or after Mass.

Baptism Information/Preparation: Every First Sunday of the month at 3.00pm.

Anointing of the Sick: Every Third Friday of the Month at 9.00am Mass.



Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year C

23rd February 2025

First Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23
The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand
against you.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8
R/ The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry
the heavenly image.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38—Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS: Sirach 27:4-7; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

The radical teaching that was begun in last week's gospel as the beatitudes and woes is continued in this week's challenge to be forgiving, compassionate and generous in the same way that God expresses abundant love. As with the blessings and curses of the Beatitudes passage, this teaching continues the challenge to act against cultural and social expectations. Who would be surprised if you were to express hatred for an enemy or for someone who hates you or treats you badly? But Jesus tells his disciples to **love** their enemies and to **do good** to those who hate them. His instruction is contrary to the 'normal' way of doing things – and that's exactly the message Jesus wanted to convey! Rather than a spiteful, vengeful God who keeps score and punishes wrongdoing, Jesus presents a compelling image of a God of unbounded compassion and abundant generosity.

In this passage we find one version of the Golden Rule that appears repeatedly throughout the gospels (as well as most other religious traditions): 'Treat others as you would like them to treat you.' It is followed up with a comment that it takes no effort to treat well people whom you like – anybody can do that. The challenge is to treat people you don't like as you would like to be treated yourself. In a society that had very strict rules about the way to treat different people and clearly established boundaries between different groups, this was a tough ask by Jesus. Bear in mind also that there was an occupying army in the country and Jesus was encouraging the people to treat even their enemies, the Romans, with love, compassion and forgiveness. This was a radical and challenging teaching!

Historical Context – In the midst of oppression

What a powerful message Jesus delivered to people who were subjugated and oppressed by an invading army. It would have been easy, and somehow 'natural', for the people of Palestine to hate the Roman occupiers and to seek revenge upon them. How confronting then for Jesus to say, 'love your enemies'! He tells the people that the way to live God's way in this situation was to be compassionate towards the oppressors; that when they rob you of your cloak to present them with your shirt as well. To do otherwise is to become like the oppressors themselves. Meeting hatred with hatred never ended hatred.

Scriptural context – Compassion

The compassion of God is a very strong theme that runs through the Gospel of Luke. Throughout the gospel, the compassion and mercy of God is emphasised and a defining feature of the gospel is the number of healings and parables that relate to people who were regarded as the outcasts of society. In this gospel, Jesus is the embodiment of God's compassion. Jesus wants all people to experience first hand the abundant love God holds for them. Today's gospel passage is a reminder that when we experience God's compassion we are also called to show it to others.

Different View – Turn the other cheek

Presenting your other cheek when someone has already struck you is usually seen as a pacifist action. However, a completely different interpretation can be made. If a man were to strike an inferior, it would be as a backhand strike – only equals fought with fists or open hands. Having been struck on one cheek with a backhand, offering the other cheek makes it impossible to again be struck with a backhand. The only option for the striker would be with an open hand – as equals fight. So, turning the other cheek can be interpreted as claiming your status as an equal.

Project Compassion 2025 United Against Poverty



As we approach the Season of Lent, Caritas Australia reminds us of our Christian vocation to Unite Against Poverty. During Lent, we are called to be good news for the poor. Project Compassion is a wonderful way to do this. In this Jubilee year come together and Unite Against Poverty.

Please take Project Compassion Box or Envelopes that are available in the church and bring them on Palm Sunday with your donation. Thank You!

Free household items for somebody in need– please call Fiona on 0497103810

Ash Wednesday 5th March 2025

Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God and marks the beginning of the penitential Lenten season. It is commonly observed with the ashes and fasting.

Please bring the blessed palms from last year and leave them in the box at the entrance of the church.



Being pilgrims of hope in the world

St Mary of the Cross Mackillop used to say: 'We are but travellers here.' For the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on what it means to be pilgrims of hope: a people who are not only travellers here but walking in joyful anticipation of 'the heavenly goal to which we have been called' (SNC §25). Pope Francis believes that, in today's world, hope suffers; that too many people have been robbed by cynicism and despair. During Jubilee 2025, he wants everyone to have 'an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ' (SNC §6). Only this hope—born from knowing that nothing can separate us from God's love (Rom 8:35-39)—can breathe life back into weary souls. This hope is not optimism. It is not a forced positivity in the face of hardship and evil. It is a grace from God, a trust in the Lord's promises: that he is good, that he is merciful, and that we are journeying towards the one who says, 'Look, I am making everything new' (Rev 21:5)



LENT 2025 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, BRUCE DOWNES

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed!

For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE and you can sign up here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent> - Go to BruceDownes.org for more information.

St Dominic's School Hub Activities

For those who would like to participate in any of the activities, please see more information in the Church Foyer.

ST DOM'S CARE—Financial donations and food are accepted to assist the poor in our community, but please CHECK THE EXPIRED DATE, we cannot give any food that has been already expired. Thank you.