



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

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

The Epiphany of the Lord, 4th January 2026

THIS WEEKEND

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3,5-6

Mt 2:1-12

NEXT WEEK

Is 42:1-4, 6-7

Acts 10:34-38

Mt 3:13-17

SRI LANKAN SINHALESE MASS

Wednesday 31st December:

New Years Eve Mass at 11.00pm

DATES TO REMEMBER

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; and
have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

PSALM

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds.

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him.

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Recent Deaths: Francesco Carnovale, George Borg

Anniversaries: Vittorio Gizzi, Irma Gizzi,

Sick : Norma Frendo, Teresa Munoz, E. Cruz, B. Cruz, Lottie Constantino, Estellita Steven, Diana Whyllie

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.



Feast of the Epiphany – Reflection: “Following the Star”

The word Epiphany comes from a Greek term meaning *manifestation* or *revelation*. In the Feast of the Epiphany, the Church celebrates not simply the visit of the Magi, but something much deeper: God reveals Himself in Jesus Christ to all nations, to the whole world. The child born in Bethlehem is not only for Israel, but for every people, culture, and generation. Epiphany is the feast of a God who makes Himself visible and reachable.

A story is told of a traveller who got lost while crossing a desert at night. His map was outdated, his compass broken, and fear slowly crept in. Just when despair began to take over, he noticed the stars above him. He remembered an old lesson: while the road may change, the stars remain faithful. By fixing his eyes on the brightest star and walking steadily toward it, he eventually found his way to safety.

Life is often like that desert. Our plans fail, our certainties collapse, and familiar landmarks disappear. Yet God never leaves us without a light. On the Feast of the Epiphany, the Gospel reminds us that God places a star in the sky of every human life, inviting us to rise, to search, and to adore.

In Matthew 2:1-12, the Magi were not kings, priests, or members of the chosen people. They were foreigners, seekers, men attentive to the signs of creation. Yet they recognized something extraordinary: a star that spoke of God's presence. They did not ignore it. They left comfort behind, crossed borders, and followed a sign whose destination they did not fully understand. The Epiphany reveals a God who does not hide Himself, but makes Himself known to all who seek Him with sincerity.

This Gospel invites us to reflect on three things in our own lives: **First**, God still places a star in our lives. The star was not a detailed map; it was simply a light pointing in the right direction. God often guides us not through absolute clarity, but through gentle signs: a word of Scripture, a moment of peace in prayer, a faithful person we meet, or even a holy restlessness that refuses to settle for less. The real question is not whether God is guiding us, but whether we are attentive enough to notice His star.

Second, seeking Christ requires movement and courage. The Magi had to rise, to leave safety, and to face misunderstanding and danger. They even encountered Herod, a symbol of fear and false power. Following Christ today still demands courage: to move beyond comfort, to resist distorted voices, and to persevere when the star seems to disappear. Faith is not standing still; faith is a journey.

Third, a true encounter with Christ leads to worship and transformation. When the Magi found the child, they knelt and worshiped. They offered gifts, but above all, they offered themselves. The Gospel ends by saying, “They returned to their country by another way.” Anyone who truly meets Christ is changed.

The Epiphany reminds us that the star is still shining, the child is still waiting, and the journey is still open. May we have the eyes to see, the courage to follow, and the humility to kneel and may we, too, return home by another way, transformed by the light of Christ.

Fr Joe Dong Tran P.P

Roster		Counters 18/01/2025	COUNTERS 11/01/2026	Readers & Eucharistic Welcomers
Time	Readers			
5.30pm		G. Mee & A. Dokakis	P. Martino V.Zappa	Please gather together in the Church about 5 minutes before Mass. Eucharistic Ministers Please remember you are also welcomin Parishioners & visitor: & handing out the newsletter.
8.00am		Supervisor M. Jones	Supervisor	
10.00am			M. Sweetman	
		 Ministries		

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*

Thanksgiving Envelopes – Clarification

Dear Donors,

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2026.

I am writing to kindly clarify the use of the Thanksgiving offering envelopes that are collected each weekend. As you know, each envelope has **two sections**:

- one for the **Church account**, and
- one for the **Presbytery account**.

I respectfully ask that you please take care when placing your offering into the envelope and clearly indicate how the amount is to be allocated.

For examples:

- If you wish to give **\$10 in total**, shared between both accounts, please write clearly on the envelope: **\$5 for the Church and \$5 for the Presbytery**.
- If you place **\$20** entirely in the **Presbytery section**, we will understand that the full amount is intended for the Presbytery account.

This clarity greatly helps us with accurate and transparent accounting.

If anything is unclear, please feel free to speak with **Fr. Joe Dong** or contact the **parish office**.

Once again, thank you very much for your continued generosity and kind support for both the parish and myself. May God bless you and your families abundantly in the coming year.

With gratitude,

Fr. Joe Dong Tran P.P

Parish Office Notice – Annual Leave

Dear Friends in Christ,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2026!
May the New Year bring you peace, love, happiness, and good health.

I would like to inform you that Dianne, our Parish Secretary, will be on annual leave from **Thursday, 1 January 2026**, and will return to work on **Tuesday, 20 January 2026**.

During this time, if you need to contact me, please be aware that I may not be able to answer phone calls or emails immediately, and there may be some delay in responding.

Parish Office phone: **9467 2797**

Email: bundoora@cam.org.au

Thank you very much for your understanding and collaboration.

With every blessing,

Fr. Joe Dong P.P.

NOTICE TO VOLUNTEERS:

Minister Rosters for January -

No formal rosters for the holiday season.

Please see Fr. Joe Dong
or Sacristans prior to Mass to Volunteer.

Thank you!



St Damian's Church Bundoora



Zone ID: C2000010970

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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Hours:

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

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