

DAMASCUS PARISH BULLETIN

5th April 2026
Easter Sunday

A vibrant community, journeying with Jesus

Parish Priest Fr Joel Peart joel.peart@cam.org.au
Parish Secretary Tracy Ford tracy.ford@cam.org.au
Finance officer Brian McMahon brian.mcmahon@cam.org.au
Parish Office surfcoast@cam.org.au

Parish Office
03 9412 8444
43a Surfcoast Highway
Torquay VIC 3228

Damascus Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Damascus Parish acknowledges the Wadawurrung people as the traditional custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

St Christopher's Church

Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass
Tuesday 9.30am Mass

St Therese Church

Sunday 9am Mass
~~Sunday 5pm Mass~~
Wednesday 9am Rosary
Wednesday 9.30am Mass
Friday 9am Rosary
9.30am Mass
followed by prayers of adoration

Nazareth Church

Sunday 11am Mass
Thursday 9.30am

CONFESSION

St Christophers Church

Saturday 5.30pm–6pm

Nazareth Church

Sunday 10.30am–11am

St Therese Church

Sunday 4.30 pm–5pm

HOME VISITS

If there are any parishioners who are sick or housebound and would like to receive communion or a home visit please make contact with the parish office: 9412 8444



Synodality is not new

Synodality is not a modern invention. From the earliest days of the Church, Christians gathered to pray, listen, and discern together. In the Acts of the Apostles, the Church faced difficult questions and resolved them not through power struggles, but through prayer, dialogue, and trust in the Holy Spirit.



Dear Parishioners,

Alleluia! Happy Easter to you all. I pray that this greatest of feasts is one of much joy and the source of great strength for you. May the risen Lord live in your hearts always. I want here to share with you parts of the sermon by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, on the occasion of Palm Sunday. The good cardinal has been an unbelievable witness to the world, boldly proclaiming the Gospel amidst great suffering and persecution of his people. He was at the centre of controversy this past week, when he and two brother priests were barred by Israeli police from visiting and celebrating mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Holy City. It was the first time in centuries that mass was not celebrated at this site on the day marking the beginning of Holy Week. Undeterred, they proceeded to offer the holy sacrifice on the site of the Mount of Olives. God bless them.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are here at Gethsemane, the place where Jesus, having reached Jerusalem, paused and wept. His gaze did not rest on the majestic walls or the splendor of the Temple; it penetrated the heart of the city he loved. In this afternoon of Palm Sunday we gather without a procession, without palms waving through the streets...(but) we are certain that the Crucified and Risen One does not cease to walk among us.

Today Jesus weeps once more over Jerusalem. He weeps over this city, which remains a sign of both hope and sorrow, of grace and suffering. He weeps over this Holy Land, still unable to recognize the gift of peace.

Jerusalem, the Holy Land, is not merely a geographical place; it is the beating heart of our faith. Every stone here speaks of salvation; every hill bears the memory of the God who chose to draw near. To live faith in this land means to accept the contradiction it embodies: the place of resurrection is also the place of Calvary; the place of God's embrace is still scarred by much hatred.

Yet the same Jerusalem that rejected the Prince of Peace has also witnessed the empty tomb. War will not erase the resurrection. Grief will not extinguish hope. Brothers and sisters, may our journey of faith, even today, be a journey of hope. And may our lives, even amid the harshness of the present moment, bring the love of Christ and his light wherever darkness seems to prevail."

Amen!

Fr Joel.

RCIA welcomes We warmly welcome our newly received members, Atticus, Maddisyn, Rebecca, Glenn & Maddisen, who entered into full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil on Saturday night. This sacred celebration marks not just a moment, but the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith, grace, and belonging. As a parish community, we rejoice with you, give thanks for your “yes” to God, and commit to walking alongside you as you continue to grow in faith and love.

Easter Sunday
4 - 5 April 2026



Happy Easter from all of us here at Caritas Australia!

Thank you for your continued support through Project Compassion. Your generosity is helping to empower the world’s most vulnerable communities, enabling them to overcome challenges and lift themselves out of poverty. There is still time to donate!

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.



Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413. Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

menALIVE (a national Catholic Ministry for Men)

May 2nd - 3rd, 2026. Cost: \$50 pp - includes workshops, morning & afternoon tea, lunch & dinner on both days. Register by April 27th. For more information and details you can visit: <https://bannockburn.menalivevic.au>

Building the Synodal Way Together

As we enter the Easter season, we are invited to continue growing as a Church that listens, learns, and walks together. The Synodal Way calls each of us—clergy, religious, and lay—to participate actively in discernment and dialogue, guided by the Holy Spirit.



In the coming weeks, we will focus on deepening our commitment to:

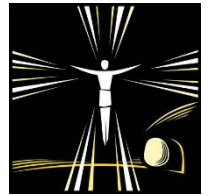
- **Listening with an open heart** to the experiences, hopes, and concerns of others.
- **Engaging in meaningful conversation**, grounded in respect, humility, and prayer.
- **Strengthening our sense of communion**, recognising Christ at the centre of our shared mission.
- **Discerning pathways forward**, so that our parish and wider Church can respond more faithfully to the needs of our time.

Reflection question: How can we deepen our understanding of synodality in our parish life?

The first meeting of the Diocesan Synod Commission will be held on Thursday 9 April. We ask for your prayers as we gather to discern and plan for the work of the Synod. If you would like to become involved in the preparation toward the Melbourne Synod please email: Synod2026@cam.org.au

First Reading:

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-37



Responsorial Psalm:

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Second Reading:

Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20:1-9

Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths: Fr Grant O'Neill

Anniversaries who are at this time: Martin Sheehan

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR COMMUNITY

Our thoughts are with those who are unwell at this time.

Please submit a consent form to have a loved one prayed for.



Parish Presbytery

For any urgent pastoral need outside of office hours please call the presbytery on 9412 8443

Office Hours

Our hours are: **Tuesday - Friday, 9am - 3pm. Closed Public Holidays**

Outside of these hours, please leave a message and one of the staff will contact you when they are next in the office.