

DAMASCUS PARISH BULLETIN

12th April 2026
2nd Sunday of Easter

A vibrant community, journeying with Jesus

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Parish Office

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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

**Who participates in a Synod?**

A Synod involves the whole People of God: bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful. Each has a distinct role, but all share responsibility for the Church's mission. Synodality does not blur roles—it helps each vocation flourish in service of the Gospel.



Dear Parishioners,

Happy Easter! It was wonderful to celebrate the most solemn and beautiful days and liturgies with you this past weekend. Thank you again to all of you and those that assisted for making them so prayerful and joyful.

With all that is going on, it is easy to overlook one of the most exciting aspects of the Easter triduum. That is, the receiving of new souls into the family of God through baptism and confirmation. We were blessed as a parish this year to have three people receive baptism at the Easter vigil and two more be confirmed into the Catholic faith and our church. Congratulations to Maddisyn-Jayne, Atticus, Maddisen, Glenn and Rebecca! We look forward to Pentecost too when four more people will be welcomed. Of your generosity, please pray for Emma, Mary, Ashley and Eliza who will be received have their baptism strengthened and receive the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of Confirmation. Praise God!

These events are not isolated. Our Archdiocese of Melbourne just witnessed over 550 Catechumens go through the RCIA program, which I'm told is something of a record number. Throughout the western world, the number of adult converts to the Catholic faith is well on the rise. France has just seen over 20,000 teenagers and young adults taken into the fold over Easter. Diocese throughout the US are also seeing all time high converts, many from Protestantism. In New Jersey the number was 1700 this year, a 72% increase over the number in 2023. Detroit had just under 1500, the highest in 21 years. In Los Angeles, more than 8,500 adults were expected to enter the church these past days. It's an exciting time to be part of the Church!

Many are trying to put a finger on why this might be the case. Sociologically, the factors that are leading to this are varied and numerous. Of course we know that it's the Holy Spirit, the light of Christ and the love of God that draws souls to himself. I think that as the world - at every level - becomes a more dark and cold place, that light of Christ only burns more brightly. These souls and many more are coming to realise that the only one who offers what their hearts are truly yearning for is the love of the one true God, made known in the person Jesus Christ.

With every blessing,

Fr Joel.





**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Caritas Australia sincerely thanks you for your generous support of Project Compassion this Lent. If you still have your Project Compassion box or donation envelope at home, please return it next week at Mass. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps to bring hope and opportunity to people experiencing poverty and injustice.

Together, we are Uniting Against Poverty and walking alongside vulnerable communities as they build stronger, more sustainable futures.

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*.

THANK YOU!



**UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY**
this Lent



First Reading:

Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

Responsorial Psalm:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Second Reading:

1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Daily Readings

Receive your bulletin via email

By scanning the QR code, you can quickly sign up to receive the bulletin online, ensuring you stay up to date wherever you are. This approach helps reduce paper use and printing costs while providing a convenient and accessible way to keep informed.



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>

**REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate
Undoubtable Wounds**

Thomas was granted the gift of seeing the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was invited to touch them. Responding, he simply cries out: 'My Lord and my God.'

Thomas does not declare his belief in the Resurrection as such. That was all too apparent. Rather, he declares his faith in the *identity* of the risen Jesus Christ: 'My Lord and my God.'

Pope Francis used to say we can *only* join Thomas in this faith by touching the wounds of Christ. Those wounds are to be found in the body of someone wounded. This can be in a myriad of ways.

We have to bend down and touch those wounds in whatever means of healing is available to us. Otherwise we simply engage in philanthropy at a distance. We end up believing in a semblance of God, but not God embodied in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ always bearing his wounds.

Sometimes we struggle with our faith - after all, it is an astounding claim that Jesus of Nazareth is God embodied for us. You, or any other person intrigued by Jesus, are invited to touch the wounds of Christ and let the patience of God take care of the timing of the response of faith.

We could pause for a moment, praying to be counted amongst those who receive the Blessing promised to those who have not seen the Risen Lord as such, but who touch his wounds and proclaim, 'My Lord and my God.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

**PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO
HAVE PASSED AWAY**

Recent deaths:

Anniversaries who are at this time: *Nicholas Dreesens*

**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.