

# DAMASCUS PARISH BULLETIN

19<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

*A vibrant community, journeying with Jesus*

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**Parish Office**  
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43a Surfcoast Highway  
Torquay VIC 3228

*Damascus Parish is a welcoming and inclusive community that 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 and bishops

Bishops remain shepherds and teachers of the faith. Synodality does not weaken their authority; rather, it enriches their ministry by grounding leadership in prayerful listening and communal discernment. A bishop who listens walks more closely with his people, as Christ the Good Shepherd does.



Dear Parishioners,

I apologise to those of you who don't know one end of a club from the other, but I'm going to talk about golf again. The Masters, arguably the world's most prestigious golf tournament, was run and done this past weekend at Augusta National Golf Club. Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland won it again, only the fourth player ever to win it back to back. He was a deserving champion, but I wasn't rooting for him. Cam Young (a mass going Catholic from New York) was tied for the lead going into the last round. It would've been great to see him win his first major. Australian Jason Day was near the top of the leaderboard through all four rounds but unfortunately fell away on the Sunday and didn't figure. Oh well.

What was impressive about Rory's win was the way he did it. He is known as being the best in the world at the long game. He hits it a mile off the tee and often dead straight. What has let him down in past major tournaments has been his short game. Well, last week he was ranked near the bottom of the field in driving accuracy, hitting it in the trees every other hole. What kept him at the pointy end of the field and ultimately winning the trophy was his putting. There's a nice lesson in this.

All of us have our strengths and gifts that God has given us and I firmly believe that all of us should discern where our talents lie and use those for the glory of God. As a church we are called to work together, each doing our own part to build up the Kingdom. Fraternal charity is necessary for our own and each other's salvation.

That being said, morally we are not let off the hook in our personal call to holiness and a life of virtue. It is important for us to recognise our faults and weaknesses and seek to improve in those areas. I'm not saying that those who are interested in art and cooking need to brush up on their calculus and chemistry. These are incidental. But if we have a tendency for procrastination and laziness, that will require some attention. If we find ourselves quick to anger and the use of spiteful words, that needs correcting.

No matter how strong we are in certain areas, a weak link will bring about our breaking. Working on that which we aren't so good at might be needed if we're going to win out in the end.

Bless,

Fr Joel.

**REACH Vietnam** - I recently wrote to Sr Nhung to offer our Easter greetings. I took the opportunity to ask how the ethnic minority community around her is faring with the invasion of Iran. As she notes, while for us it is mainly an inconvenience, for them it is an existential threat. - Joe Annetts - This is her reply

*"Hi Joe, Regarding the ethnic minority families, they are facing quite harsh living conditions due to the impact of the war on fuel prices, which have led to increased prices of fertilizers, food, and transportation costs for long-distance routes...everything is increasing, while the prices of agricultural products they produce like cassava, sugarcane, and coffee are falling. This means lowered income and increased expenses, this is greatly impacting on the lives of the poor. As for the care of the girls at Phuong Quy, we are also affected by these price increases. We hope the war will end soon and life will return to normal. The Sisters and children are also very much looking forward to meeting everyone. I pray that the trip will be safe for everyone. Best regards, Sister Nhung."*

**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>

**YMG - YOUNG MEN OF GOD MOVEMENT CONFERENCE 2026**

**POWER**

**GO DEEPER, GO STRONGER, GO FURTHER**

A men's weekend getaway to power-up mid year, deepen in faith, strengthen brotherhood, and grow in leadership. A power-packed line up of inspiring speakers, fellowship and food. Give God permission to lead you on the path of authentic, Christ-centered living.

*He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Isaiah 40:29*

FR MAHIR MURAD | SAMUEL CLEAR | JOSH ANGRISANO | FR MICHAEL LAST, MGL | FR KEN BARBER, MGL | JONATHAN & KAREN BOYLS

**17-19 JULY**  
BELGRAVE HEIGHTS CONVENTION CENTRE, MELBOURNE  
RESIDENTIAL RETREAT (FRIDAY 6:00 PM TO SUNDAY 3:00 PM)

**REGISTER SOON**  
EARLY BIRD \$250 (TILL 12TH APRIL)  
STANDARD \$300  
PRIESTS/RELIGIOUS \$200

**OPEN TO ALL MEN 18 AND ABOVE**

@YMGMOVEMENT | 0426897764 - FR. TERRENCE  
YMGMOVEMENT.ORG.AU | 0406727276 - BR. AARON

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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.



**Parish groups** - what has your group been up too lately, do you have any news to share with the parish? Please submit any pieces by Thursday to have it included in the weekly bulletin.

**First Reading:**

Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Lord, you will show us the path of life.

**Second Reading:**

1 Peter 1:17-21

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 24:13-35



**Daily Readings**

**PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY**

**Recent deaths:**  
Geraldine Costa

**Anniversaries who are at this time:**

**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.