

Damascus Parish Bulletin

10th May 2026
6th Sunday of Easter

A vibrant community, journeying with Jesus

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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



Why discernment is essential

Discernment is more than discussion. It is a prayerful process of seeking God's will. In a Synod, time is given to silence, prayer, and reflection so that decisions emerge from faith, not haste.



Dear Parishioners,

Last year, Archbishop Comensoli called a gathering of Aboriginal Catholics from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. He sent a letter to the priests of the archdiocese this week with some of his reflections from those meetings and his plans for the future. In short, the Archbishop assures us of his ongoing commitment to Aboriginal Catholic Ministry. He is, however, forming a discernment group which will consider the future direction of this ministry and how it can better reflect the needs and hopes of those it aims to minister to.

The letter got me thinking about the Catholic missions across our country, especially those in remote aboriginal communities. The church has done some amazing work over the years, stretching back to the earliest days of settlement.

The first formal mission to indigenous Australians was in 1843 on North Stradbroke Island, led by three Passionist Fathers. Sadly, after four years of isolation and extreme hunger, the priests had to pack it up without converting a soul. Soon after, in 1846, another mission was formed on the other side of the country by the Benedictines, led by Spanish priest Fr Rosendo Salvado. This was far more successful. Salvado was better equipped and managed to learn the ways and culture of the Yued people, who inhabited the land north of Perth. He was known to have great respect for the natives and did his best to protect them from the harsh treatment of local settlers and authorities.

One of the highlights of my Camino de Santiago in 2016 was visiting the Benedictine monastery from where Fr Salvado departed from before arriving in Australia. Providence had it that it was the Feast of St Benedict when our group passed through that town. I was able to offer mass in the main chapel there and the brothers brought out a first-class relic of St Benedict for us to venerate, his scapula bone. It remains one of my best memories.

After 170 years, Australia is still a tough mission. A priest mate of mine, Fr Dean Taberdo, serves in the diocese of Darwin. That diocese stretches over 1.3 million square kilometres, roughly six times the size of Victoria. It's mind boggling. Bishop Charles Gauci tends to the souls there with the help of 27 priests. Like in the earliest days, most of those priests are from religious orders. It seems an impossible task, but the love of Christ compels them on. Always remember that anything done for the love of God is never done in vain.

God bless,

Fr Joel.

Mothers Day

Good and Gentle God,
We pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life. You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings. Give them the strength to live and to be loved in return, not perfectly, but humanly.
Give them the support of family and friends as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children.
Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the trials of motherhood.
Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to you for help when they need it most.

Author Unknown



First Reading:

Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8.
14-7

Responsorial Psalm:

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Second Reading:

1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 14:15-21



PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths:

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.



Anglesea Combined Churches Service 31st May 2026

On behalf of the Anglesea Association of Christian Churches, Trinity Uniting Church is inviting the Anglicans, Catholic and Baptist congregations to join them at a combined Sunday service on 31st May 2026 at 10.00am followed by morning tea. Please come along and share our common faith and belief. We look forward to seeing you at the Uniting Church in Murch Crescent past the Anglesea Hotel towards the river. Everyone is welcome!



CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal

Thank you from CatholicCare Victoria.
CatholicCare Victoria is deeply grateful for the support of our parish during last week's CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. The generosity of our parish community means that CatholicCare Victoria can continue their mission; to empower communities and building strength and resilience, to enable everyone to reach their full potential and live life to the full. Your compassion and generosity ensure individuals and families are supported with safe housing, practical assistance, and compassionate care as they rebuild their lives. Thank you for helping open the door to safety, dignity and hope. For more information about CatholicCare Victoria, please visit: www.catholiccarevic.org.au

Sunday Rosary

The Legion of Mary invites all parishioners to join a Sunday Rosary before Mass at Nazareth Church during May, beginning at 10:30am each week. As May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, all are encouraged to deepen their devotion through the Holy Rosary. All are warmly welcome.



National Mass Attendance Count - May

During the month of May, parishes across Australia have been asked by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference to participate in a national count of Mass attendance. To assist with this, we have invited volunteers from each of our Mass services to help conduct the count. Their role is simply to record attendance numbers, and we thank them sincerely for their support. This initiative helps provide a clearer picture of parish participation across the country and supports future pastoral planning. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.