

*A vibrant community, journeying with Jesus*

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**Parish Office**  
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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



## Synodality and the laity

Synodality affirms that the Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of all the baptised. Lay people are not simply helpers of clergy; they are active disciples called to witness to Christ in families, workplaces, and society. A synodal Church takes this vocation seriously.



## REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

When Jesus calls his disciples into action, Pope Leo XIV explains, we can perceive 'the intimate connection between the words uttered by Christ and their dissemination throughout the centuries.' His call remains just as vital for us here and now as it did to the apostles back then.

'The Word of God,' the Pope elaborates, 'is not fossilised, but rather it is a living and organic reality that develops and grows in Tradition.'

The Word of God is more than words remembered or written, the Pope wants us to understand. The Word speaks to us through the unity of scripture and tradition. 'Thanks to the Holy Spirit,' the Pope adds, 'tradition understands it in the richness of its truth and embodies it in the shifting coordinates of history.' Christ, the Word of God, has entered human history in a unique and lasting way.

On this basis, the Pope encourages us to recall that 'Christianity, both as a communal experience and as a doctrine, is a dynamic reality, in the manner indicated by Jesus himself.' It is more than a memory, but rather 'a living reality that develops thanks to an inner vital force.' Such vitality should give us the confidence to get to work as Jesus wants, living the Gospel we proclaim.

*[Quotes from General Audience, 28 January 2026:*

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2026/documents/20260128-udienza-generale.html>] © Nick Brodie

## Rite of Enrolment for First Eucharist

This weekend, we warmly welcome the children and their families to our parish Masses as they continue their preparation to receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist in the coming weeks.

This weekend marks their Rite of Enrolment – a special and important step in their sacramental journey. During this rite, the children are formally welcomed by the parish community and receive a special blessing as they continue preparing to receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. It is a moment where the children, together with their families, express their commitment to this journey of faith and preparation.

As a parish community, we also acknowledge our role in supporting and praying for these children and their families throughout this time of preparation. We ask everyone to keep them in your prayers as they continue this special journey of faith.

## 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!

## 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.

## Garden Working Bee Saturday, 16 May 10.00am - 12.00pm

Jobs: weeding, pruning, sweeping, spreading mulch. We would appreciate the help of anyone who is available, even if you only have half an hour to spare. Please bring your own tools, particularly if you have a wheel barrow or fork to help transport and spread the mulch. Ring Steve on ph. 0422 287 011 if you have any queries.



## Acacia Passionist Family Group Grovedale

First activity for 2026 is a Movie held on two days due to lack of space.

Movie-- Mrs Caldicott's Cabbage War (British Comedy)

Venue -- Healy's 15 Rimbool Rd Grovedale

Time--Session One 1pm 20th May

Session Two 1pm 21st May

A cuppa will follow both sessions.

Please contact Jill (0427414070) asap to sort out numbers, etc.

## Receive the 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.



## First Reading:

Acts of the Apostles  
1:1-11

## Responsorial

### Psalm:

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

## Second Reading:

Ephesians 1:17-23

## Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 28:16-20



## Daily Readings

## 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.*



## 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.