

Damascus Parish Bulletin

24th May 2026
Pentecost 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
Parish Admin	Melissa Gubic	melissa.gubic@cam.org.au
Parish Finance	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 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 begins locally

Synodality is lived first in parishes, schools, families, and communities. When people feel heard and valued locally, the Church becomes more credible and more missionary.



Dear Parishioners,

We give thanks to God that this Sunday our parish welcomes four new members into the Catholic Church. I invite you to pray for Emma, Eliza, Ashley and Mary who through the laying of hands and holy anointing will receive the Holy Spirit in a most powerful way. And following that, be fully initiated into the Catholic faith through the reception of Holy Communion for the first time.

It is very fitting that this sacrament is being celebrated on the feast of Pentecost, as the sacrament of Confirmation will be for these candidates a *personal* Pentecost. Just as the disciples in the upper room that day, these women will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit for the strengthening of their souls and the building up of the church. Just as our Confirmation has done for us!

A question that is sometimes asked is how Confirmation really differs from baptism. In that sacrament, the church teaches that the Holy Spirit in our hearts and souls. What more does Confirmation add to that?

One of the greatest theologians of our church on the sacramental life - St Thomas Aquinas - asked the same question. It was held by him that the gift of the Holy Spirit is given to us little ones at baptism for our *own* sanctification and to have a share in the divine life with God. It is for us. Confirmation gives us the Holy Spirit with all the gifts and strengths that it does to yes - strengthen that baptism and infuse the virtues even deeper in our souls - but more especially *for the service of God and of our neighbour*. It is for the good of others.

Just like the apostles - after that day of Pentecost - courageously and boldly proclaimed the Good News of Jesus Christ, so we after our Pentecost are called to do the same. To be evangelists, to be witnesses to the goodness of God in the world. From the words of Jesus himself:

"But when the Counselor (the Holy Spirit) comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness to me; and you also are witnesses, because you have been with me from the beginning."
(John 15:26-27)

In Christ,

Fr Joel.

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

This weekend marks the final weekend of the National Mass Attendance Count being conducted across parishes throughout Australia by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

As part of this final count, parishes are asked not only to record overall Mass attendance numbers, but also to gather age demographic information from the congregation. To assist with this, a brief show of hands may be requested shortly after Communion, each church community may carry this out slightly differently depending on the size of the congregation.

Please be assured that this information is collected purely for statistical and pastoral planning purposes only. We are not asking for your exact age, only broad age group categories.

We sincerely thank our volunteers for their assistance and all parishioners for your cooperation and support throughout the month of May. The information gathered helps provide a clearer picture of parish participation across Australia and assists with future pastoral planning.

70th Wedding Anniversary

We congratulate Betty and Brian Walsh as they celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary this weekend. We give thanks for this wonderful milestone and wish them every blessing on this special occasion.

Faith and Light Geelong Community 2026

Christian sharing for people with disabilities, their families, carers and friends.

You are warmly invited to our next gathering.

Tuesday 26 May 2026 Welcome from 1.30pm - 4.30pm

at St Mary's Parish - Hibernian Hall, Yarra Street

Celebrating **PENTECOST** with friendship, faith sharing, music and afternoon tea.

RSVP to **Tricia O'Keeffe** on 0414 672 267 by 25 May.

Thank you. www.faithandlight.org

First Reading:

Acts of the Apostles
2:1-11

Responsorial

Psalm:

Lord, send out your
Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of
your faithful and kindle in them the
fire of your love

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20:19-23



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.