

# DAMASCUS PARISH BULLETIN

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

*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 unity

Walking together does not mean everyone thinks the same way. The Church has always held unity alongside diversity. Synodality helps us learn how to disagree respectfully, discern patiently, and remain united in Christ even amid differences.



Dear Parishioners,

You might have missed it, but last weekend I spoke about a couple of priest saints whose feast days we celebrated this past week. One of them was St Louis de Montfort. He left a great legacy, especially his writings on Our Lady and the benefits conferred by praying the rosary. Further to that, in order to help foster these devotions, he sought to establish groups and movements in Mary's honour.

One group that takes its inspiration from St Louis is the Legion of Mary. The handbook given to members of the Legion draws directly from his book, *True Devotion to Mary*. It is not only prayer that the Legion is devoted to, but service as well. The legion especially focuses on visiting families, the sick and the elderly, both in their homes and in nearby care facilities. It is a mission that is much needed in today's world where people are finding themselves ever more alone and isolated from their community.

I am pleased to say that we recently enrolled several parishioners into the Legion of Mary, which currently meets weekly at Nazareth Catholic Church in Grovedale. For this month of May - dedicated especially to Our Lady - the Legion will lead the praying of the rosary from 10:30am on Sundays, just prior to the 11am mass at Grovedale. I invite you to join them in this wonderful initiative, which I know will bear much fruit.

God bless,  
Fr Joel.

## Funeral for Fr Peter Foley

It is with deep sadness that we advise the passing of Fr Peter Foley, who entered eternal life on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April. Fr Peter served faithfully as a priest for nearly 64 years, generously dedicating his life to the service of God and His people. He will be remembered with gratitude for his ministry, compassion, and steadfast faith. The Funeral Mass for Fr Peter will be celebrated at St Bernards Catholic Church, Fryers Rd, Belmont on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 11am. All parishioners and friends are warmly invited to attend and to pray for the repose of his soul.

A livestream feed will be available from [kingsfunerals.com.au](https://kingsfunerals.com.au) <https://kingsfunerals.com.au/tributes/?funeral=uK09U>





**CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal**

This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August). CatholicCare Victoria works with those facing homelessness, those experiencing mental health challenges, families struggling with relationship problems, newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers, and those experiencing grief and trauma. This year, the Appeal aims to give hope and support to people experiencing homelessness. Our faith calls us to welcome the stranger and care for those most in need. Your compassion ensures individuals and families are supported with safe housing, practical assistance, and compassionate care as they rebuild their lives.

**Your generosity helps open the door to safety, dignity and hope. Please donate to CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.** You can donate using the appeal envelope available in our parish, donate online at [www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au) or call (03) 9967 2515. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible. *"For I was a stranger and you welcomed me."* (Matthew 25:35)



**Sunday Rosary**

The Legion of Mary is hosting a Sunday Rosary prior to Mass at Nazareth Church, offering a dedicated time to honor the Blessed Mother before every Sunday Mass starting at 10.30am during the month of May.

May is the month dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, all are encouraged to renew and deepen their devotion to the Holy Rosary—a prayer richly rooted in the Gospel and a source of spiritual strength.

This initiative reflects the Legion of Mary's commitment to promoting the Rosary, which is central to their devotion to Mary and to the life of the Church. All are warmly invited to join this weekly act of faith.

**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.

**The Break Open the Word Group** has not held "face to face" meetings since COVID 2020 until the present time. In lieu the group has "spiritual meetings" every Wednesday when the acting secretary sends out email to the eleven members. As per the usual personal meetings, the email includes the readings for the following Sunday mass and intercessory prayers for loved ones and friends of the members.

**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.



**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 6:1-7

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

**Second Reading:**

1 Peter 2:4-9

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:** John 14:1-12



**PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY**

**Recent deaths:** Fr Peter Foley  
**Anniversaries who are at this time:** Ann Meesen, Peter O'Toole

**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.