

Damascus Parish Bulletin

31st May 2026
The Most Holy Trinity

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 10.30am Rosary

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 requires humility

Walking together means recognising that no one has all the answers. Synodality invites humility—from leaders and from communities—so that the Spirit can guide us beyond our limitations.



Dear Parishioners,

Last week, Pope Leo XVI released his first encyclical, titled *Magnifica Humanitas*. Its full title in English is '*On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence*'. I haven't had time to read it fully myself, mostly down to the fact that the document consists of 42,000 words. To put it in context, the longest encyclical ever written was by Pope John Paul II. *Evangelium Vitae* was written in 1995 and was a little over 45,000 words. The shortest? Pope Leo XIII's *Quod Votis*. That was 348 words, which is roughly the length of this bulletin piece.

An encyclical is a letter from the Holy Father addressed to the entire Church. Because it is addressed to everyone, it is typically written in response to a topic or matter that is of concern to all the world, which this encyclical certainly does.

Magnifica Humanitas is a development on the church's Catholic social teaching. It is inspired and follows on the tradition set by *Rerum Novarum*, written by Pope Leo XIII in 1891. That encyclical dealt with the worker question, and specifically how the industrial revolution and capitalism challenged the dignity and value of the human person and their labour in an age of technological advancement. In this latest encyclical Pope Leo revisits that question, as the world witnesses a rapid acceleration in the development of AI and robotics.

Despite being written 135 years apart, the principle at work in these documents is unchanged: the world and its leaders cannot view progress in terms of material wealth and power, which only leads to violence and war. It needs to unite toward a common good that values the human person and their flourishing as its primary goal. These encyclicals highlight the truth that harmony and peace is not born of a radical change or development from above, but from the culmination of small and steadfast acts of love in the workplace, our communities and especially in the home.

Our own patron, St Therese of Lisieux put it so beautifully and succinctly when she said: "*Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, or even their difficulty, as at the love with which we do them.*"

In Christ,

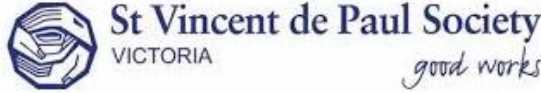
Fr Joel.

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!

SVDP Winter Appeal

As we step into winter, our thoughts turn to those for whom housing, food, bedding, petrol and finances may be increasingly difficult. As a parish we will be holding a St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal on the weekend of June 13/14th at Anglesea, Torquay and Grovedale masses.



There are a variety of ways you may be able to offer your support. There will be envelopes in the foyer if you would like to take and fill in the form with bank details; along with plate collections at each Mass for cash, forms or gift cards. Blankets may be left in the Box provided.

Phone donations: 13 18 12 [For a tax-deductible receipt please provide full name, contact number, email and postal address details.]

Online donations: www.vinnies.org.au/vic [Receipts automatically emailed to donors]

Direct Deposit:

Account Name: St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Gift Fund
BSB: 063 000 Account No: 1060 7556 Reference: W26 + Donor Name
[To obtain a tax-receipt email donation@svdp-vic.org.au]

With thanks, Beth and Bob on behalf of Torquay and Grovedale SVDP conferences.

REACH Vietnam

A group of parishioners, along with Fr Linh, recently returned from a moving visit to Kon Tum, where they witnessed firsthand the remarkable work of the Divine



Provident Nuns supporting ethnic minority girls through education and care. The visit highlighted the deep impact of our parish's ongoing support. To read the full story please find the overview here > [REACH Vietnam Trip 2026](#) or hard copies are available in the foyer.

Sunday morning Mass

Last weekend, a parishioner became unwell during the 9am Mass. We keep them in our prayers and hope they are recovering well and in good spirits. We are deeply grateful to the many parishioners and volunteers who responded with such care, kindness and compassion in that moment.

First Reading:

Exodus 34:4-6. 8-9

Responsorial

Psalm:

Glory and praise for ever!

Second Reading:

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 3:16-18



Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths:

Anniversaries who are at this

time: *Luxurio Salapa*

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.