

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 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 and the margins

A synodal Church pays attention to voices often overlooked: the poor, the wounded, the disaffected, and those who feel distant from the Church. Their experiences matter, and their stories can teach us where renewal is most needed.



Ss John Fisher and Thomas More

Dear Parishioners,

This Monday, June 22nd, the church celebrates the feast day of Ss John Fisher and Thomas More. These men are 16th Century martyrs during the Reformation period in England, at the time of King Henry VIII. Thomas More was a lawyer, judge and politician, and rose to become Lord Chancellor of England until his imprisonment and death. John Fisher was a bishop and cardinal of the church. The cult and devotion towards these great saints has grown in recent times. With More the patron saint of politicians and John Fisher being a bishop who stood up to civil authority, their story is resonating ever more strongly with us living at a time when the Church and state are increasingly at odds with one another. I include an excerpt here from a sermon given by one of my favourite Catholic writers and preachers, Monsignor Ronald Knox, on Fisher and More. It goes as such:

"I want to seize on one splendid quality about them; their utter independence of mind. You see, the really curious thing about the English martyrs is that there are so few of them. Here you have a completely Catholic country which in a matter of twenty years or so goes Protestant, and nobody seems to mind very much. Why weren't all the other people martyrs too? And the answer to that question you can give in four words: MOST MEN ARE SHEEP. You can get them to accept anything, by bluffing them, by bullying them, by applying soft soap when it's needed. But there are a few of the important people in any generation who can't do that. They are not stupid enough to be hoodwinked by propaganda. They are too honest to be bribed by preferment. And they have just that touch of hardness about their minds which won't consent to sacrifice principle for the sake of general peace and calm. You can do nothing with such people, except martyr them. Such were St John Fisher and St Thomas More."

Knox goes on to encourage his hearers to adopt a similar independent mindset to that of Fisher and More. To learn to distrust yourself the moment you find yourself saying things and thinking things merely because other people around you are saying them. I'll leave you with a rather sobering line from the end of Knox's sermon: *"If you become a yes-man you likely won't lose the faith, but you'll be a passenger; you'll be no use to the Church, when she wants you."*

God preserve us from being useless passengers.

In Christ,

Fr Joel.

First Holy Communion This Weekend

This weekend we welcome the remaining Year 4 students from our parish primary schools, along with students from local non-Catholic primary schools, as they celebrate their First Holy Communion. Over recent months, these children have been preparing for this important milestone with the support of their families, teachers, catechists and parish community. We congratulate all of the children and thank everyone who has assisted them on their journey. Please keep these students and their families in your prayers as they celebrate receiving the Eucharist for the first time.

menALIVE reUNION

Sunday 5th July at St Mary McKillop Church Bannockburn

For information, and to register for the event use the link or the code:

<https://forms.gle/CaguM9YTFtE24pyK8>

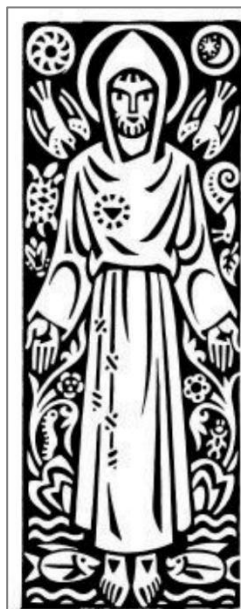


Baringbah Family Group Lunch

Our JUNE function is a Lunch set down for 12.15 Sunday 28th at The Sands restaurant, Sands Blvd, Torquay. If you are planning to attend, please notify Brian or Agnes Walsh (0432 366 177, 0434 009 917) no later than Tuesday 23 June.

Donation Receipts

If you would like to request a receipt for your donations, please visit the [Damascus Parish website](#). Click on the **Donate** button and then select the **Request Donation Receipt** link. Please provide your email address and the required date range. Your donation receipt will then be emailed directly to you. If you require any assistance, please contact Melissa at the Parish Office, who will be happy to help. Please note that donations made anonymously cannot be included in donation receipts.



St. Francis of Assisi

♪ SHOWCASE ♪

Calling all performers!

To celebrate the **Franciscan Jubilee Year**, COG Theatre is hosting a musical showcase highlighting the life of St Francis of Assisi.

Expressions of interest welcome!

If you are a performer, technician, administrant or are just eager to get involved, please contact cogtheatregroup@gmail.com OR 0413 398 528.

First Reading:

Jeremiah 20:10-13

Responsorial

Psalm:

Lord, in your great love, answer me.

Second Reading:

Romans 5:12-15

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also be my witness!

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 10:26-33



Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths:

Anniversaries who are at this time: Dorothy O'Keeffe

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR COMMUNITY

Rosie Armitage

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.

Bulletin Notices

Please submit them by Thursday mornings.

Sign up to receive the weekly bulletin via email by visiting our website damascusparish.com.au



For Yamikani*, getting to school means walking long distances in pain, often without enough food or strength to make the journey. For many families in vulnerable and remote areas like rural Malawi, education has become an impossible choice. But there is hope. Led by Fr Matthew Semba, a new primary school is being built, offering children a safe place to learn, grow, and look ahead with renewed possibility.

This World Mission Month, you are invited to share in this mission, standing with families as they rebuild their lives and create a brighter future for their children.

A collection will be taken up the first weekend of July, 4th & 5th.