

Damascus Parish Bulletin

28th June 2026
13th Sunday of Ordinary Time

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
Monday 29th June 9.30am
Mass of Solemnity Sts Peter & Paul

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



Is synodality slow?

Synodality may seem slower than top-down decision-making, but it often leads to deeper, more lasting renewal. What is discerned together is more likely to be embraced together.



Dear Parishioners,

Last Friday, on the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, more than 100 young altar servers were admitted into the Guild of St Stephen at the annual Mass for altar servers held at St Patrick's Cathedral. The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli and concelebrated by priests from throughout the Archdiocese. A couple of hundred friends and family members of the altar servers were also present.

The Guild of St Stephen is something that is dear to me. I first became an altar server at my home parish of Good Shepherd Gladstone Park at the age of 8, soon after my First Holy Communion. I continued to altar serve in different parishes up until I began my studies at Corpus Christi College seminary at the age of 22. I was a member of the Guild and it is something that help me discern my vocation very much. Being near the altar so often, and being encouraged by all the priests I served for, was a great inspiration for me to serve the church as a priest.

In 2018 I was invited to be part of the Guild as its assistant director for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Despite not thinking I was of any great help to the then director Fr Dishan Candappa, I was asked to take on the role as director in 2020 when he stepped away from the role to become the Vocations Director of Melbourne. I was very honoured. Despite the challenges of Covid, I managed to help run training days for parishes throughout the archdiocese and also help organise the annual mass at the Cathedral. It was very rewarding work.

I certainly haven't lost my enthusiasm for supporting and encouraging altar servers in parishes. For the past several months a number of our young parishioners and their parents have been asking whether being an altar server is possible at our parish of Damascus. It certainly is! George and Tony have been assisting every week at our 5pm mass for the past year or so. Young Chinuwa was so keen that he got toggled up on the day of his First Communion last Sunday to help prepare the altar and bring forward the gifts. It's wonderful to see.

I look to put out something in the bulletin in the coming weeks for those who are interested in joining the crew with some times and dates for practice and training. It would be great to see more of our young parishioners and their families serving that which is the very centre of our Christian life: the Holy Eucharist and the Mass.

With every blessing,

Fr Joel.

Bill Rebula receives - Australia prostate support group: Max Gardner award

Grovedale parishioner, Bill Rebula, was recently recognised for his outstanding service with Geelong Prostate Cancer Support Group. This award adds to the Order of Australia Medal he received earlier this year for his service to Prostate Support Group, Nazareth/Damascus Parish, St. Vincent de Paul and other groups.

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 cogtheatre@group@gmail.com OR 0413 398 528.

'Believe' Children's Retreat- Friday July 3rd 10:00am-12:30pm at Holy Spirit Church Hall, Manifold Heights. An opportunity for Grades 3-7 to encounter God's love through faith formation, fun, and fellowship. Run by Missionaries of God's Love seminarians. Bookings essential- via trybooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/DNJHL>. More info: Contact Risha or Gudrun 0406 230 580.





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.



First Reading:

2 Kings 4:8-11. 14-16

Responsorial

Psalm:

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading:

Romans 6:3-4. 8-11

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 10:37-42



Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths:

Anniversaries who are at this time: Helena Kardel

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