

# Damascus Parish Bulletin

7<sup>th</sup> June 2026  
The Most Holy Body  
& Blood of Christ

*A vibrant community, journeying with Jesus*

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**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



## Why listening matters in the Church

Listening is not a sign of weakness. In the Christian tradition, listening is an act of humility and faith. We believe that God can speak through the experiences, joys, and struggles of His people. Synodality reminds us that listening is a form of love and a path to wisdom.



Dear Parishioners,

A little over a week ago our new parish of Damascus passed the three-month mark. It has been an exciting start, with a number of changes and updates made to reflect our new home. Websites, letterheads, email addresses are just some of the many things that are all in the process of being renewed. Tracy and Melissa in the office are doing a stellar job keeping up with all that is required and more. I'm very grateful.

Something I flagged several weeks ago as part of our parish renewal was to form a Parish Pastoral Council. From my bulletin message on March the 8th:

*'The mission of the church is not just the responsibility of us clerics, but one we all share. And the church has means by which us priests can be supported in their life and work for the good of the parish. The Code of Canon Law states that: "If the diocesan bishop judges it opportune, a pastoral council is to be established in each parish; the parish priest presides over it, and through it the Christian faithful...can give their help in fostering pastoral activity." (Canon 536 -§1)'*

I have been parish priest of Grovedale, Torquay and Anglesea for almost two years, and that has given me a great opportunity to work with and get to know many parishioners across our three communities. The time has also allowed me to recognise the different gifts and talents of the people here, as well as those who might be willing to actively support me in my efforts to help our parish continue to grow.

I am pleased to announce that after prayerful discernment and a number of conversations with people across our community, Damascus now has its first parish pastoral council. I was pleasantly surprised and so thankful that almost every person I contacted didn't hesitate to accept the invitation to come on board. The enthusiasm was overwhelming and extremely encouraging. They will be more formally introduced in due time, but for now I ask you to offer a prayer for Kaya, Kevin, Bridget, Michael, Miri, Sarah and Karl who will make up the inaugural group. May God grant them wisdom and strength.

In Christ,

Fr Joel.

# Parish news

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## 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.



St Vincent de Paul Society  
VICTORIA  
*good works*

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](http://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](mailto:donation@svdp-vic.org.au)]

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

## Acacia Passionists family group - Grovedale

Our next gathering will be a BYO Fish & Chips (or your own choice) Luncheon with the theme "Stories of the Past."

Date: Thursday 18 June

Time: 12:30 pm

Venue: 80 Rossack Drive, Waurn Ponds

Come along for a relaxed afternoon of friendship, conversation, and shared memories. New members are most welcome. Please RSVP to Jenny on 0447 280 067 by 16 June.

## Living the Gospel

Meals are very important events. Not only do we physically need food and drink to keep ourselves alive, but we use meals to mark occasions and celebrate events: birthdays; weddings; dates; achievements; disappointments; reunions. There is a sacredness about gathering with friends and family and sharing a meal together. Stories are told; memories shared; the food is appreciated and more often than not there's a drink to accompany the meal. Treating such occasions with gratitude - as blessed moments of grace - is living out the Eucharistic reality of welcoming Jesus into our lives and seeking to be more like him.



## First Reading:

Deuteronomy 8:2-3.  
14-16

## Responsorial Psalm:

Praise the Lord,  
Jerusalem.

## Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

## Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** John 6:51-58



## Daily Readings

## PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

**Recent deaths:** *Winifred McCarthy*

## Anniversaries who are at this

**time:** *Helen Howarth*

## 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.

## Bulletin Notices

Please submit them by Thursday mornings.

Sign up to receive the weekly bulletin via email by visiting our website [damascusparish.com.au](http://damascusparish.com.au)