

Damascus Parish Bulletin

5th July 2026
14th 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
Wednesday 9am Rosary
Wednesday 9.30am Mass
Friday 9am Rosary
9.30am Mass
followed by prayers of adoration

Nazareth Church

Sunday 10.30am
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

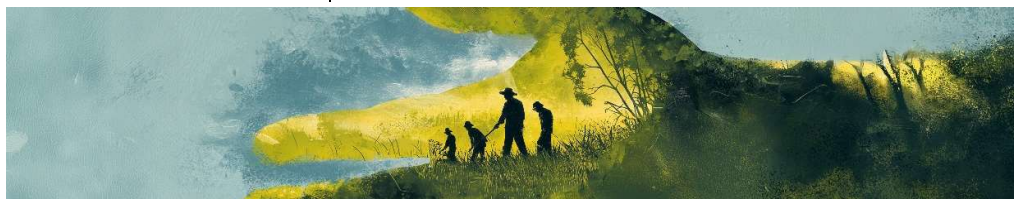
HOME VISITS

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 Eucharist

The Eucharist is the heart of synodality. Around one table, many are gathered as one Body. What we celebrate sacramentally must shape how we live communally.



Dear Parishioners,

I was at dinner with a family the other night when I asked those at the table if they were aware of the controversy this week surrounding the Society of St Pius X (SSPX). The youngest at the table said that it had popped up in her timeline, but she didn't know what it was all about exactly.

In 1988 in Ecône, Switzerland, Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre incurred an automatic excommunication for consecrating four bishops without papal approval. The Code of Canon Law is very clear: "No Bishop is permitted to consecrate anyone as Bishop, unless it is first established that a pontifical mandate has been issued" (Canon 1013). Lefebvre had already distanced himself from church hierarchy by establishing the SSPX in 1970, with the aim of preserving traditional Catholic practices, and in opposition to the pastoral and liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council. Despite the group being formally suppressed in 1975, they continued to expand worldwide. The unfortunate effort by Lefebvre in 1988 marked the formal schism.

Since then, the Church has reached out to the SSPX in various ways. Immediately after the excommunications in 1988, Pope John Paul II established the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter (FSSP). This gave members of the SSPX the chance to remain in full communion with the Catholic Church, whilst continuing to celebrate the Traditional Latin Mass. In 2008, Pope Benedict lifted the excommunications on the remaining consecrated bishops (although they still had no formal authority). In 2015, Pope Francis extended to the fraternity the faculty to hear confessions in all places and to all faithful, indefinitely. Small steps they are, but steps nonetheless on the path to reconciliation.

Sadly, that path ran up against a brick wall on Wednesday. Pointedly and rather provocatively staged at the same location in Switzerland, Bishops Alfonso de Galarreta and Bernard Fellay consecrated four new bishops to the Society without papal mandate and against the will of the Supreme Pontiff. Up until the day, the Holy Father was imploring the group not to go through with the act. Alas, they did.

Schism is considered a special sin as it is an attack on the unity of the Church which is united in the person of Jesus Christ. And Christ is not to be divided (1 Corinthians 1:13). St Augustine put it most bluntly: "The sacrilege of schism surpasses all wickedness...It is not easy for there to be anything more grievous than the sacrilege of schism, because there is no just necessity for severing unity".

Pray for the Church.

In Christ,

Fr Joel.

Weekday Masses

I will be taking some leave over the next couple of weeks. The weekend masses will be supplied by both visiting and local priests, which is great. However, there will be no weekday masses in our parish from July 7 to July 18. Please see below some weekday mass times at our neighbouring parishes:

St Bernard's Belmont: Tuesday and Friday at 12 noon. Wednesday and Thursday at 9:30am.

Our Lady's Ocean Grove: Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15am.

St Mary's Basilica Geelong: Tuesday through to Saturday at 10am.

Bless,
Fr Joel.

First Reading:

Zechariah 9:9-10.

Responsorial

Psalm:

I will praise your
name for ever, my
king and my god.

Second Reading:

Romans 8:9. 11-13

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of
heaven and earth; you have revealed
to little ones the mysteries of the
kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30



Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths:

**Anniversaries who are at this
time:**

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

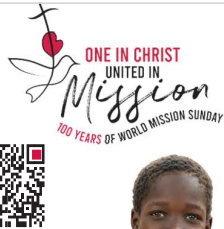
Our hours are: **Tuesday - Friday,
9am - 3pm. Closed Public
Holidays**

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.

Special collection this weekend July, 4th & 5th.

REACH Vietnam - Pauline Audley who was the instigator, with Fr Linh, of this project, died late last year. When the group was in Kon Tum in May, we celebrated a memorial Mass for Pauline, with Sr Nhung, her fellow nuns, the current girls and about 30 of the 64 "graduates" from the project. It was a lovely Mass which you can watch via the following link
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_oTPjHR3YM The REACH appeal for this year is on 24th and 25th July. This year, due to the impact of inflation we are raising our contribution for food by 20%. We continue to rely on your generosity for this remarkable work to continue

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL - WINTER APPEAL

A very big THANK YOU to Damascus parishioners for your wonderful response to our Winter Appeal. We received an excellent response in the way of cash, vouchers, bedding and online deposits. Your support gives us renewed vigour to go out and help those in need.

Bob Healy (Grovedale) and Beth Humphries (Torquay)

ACACIA PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP GROVEDALE

Morning tea is our next activity as follows:

Hosts Sim & Dick Tjahjadi

Tuesday 14th July

Venue 7 Natika Crt Grovedale

RSVP 12th July-- Sim 0419170845

New members and visitors welcome.

Rosary at Nazareth Church

It was wonderful to have the Legion of Mary lead the rosary at Nazareth Church over the month of May to honour the month dedicated to Our Blessed Mother. It was also encouraging to see a number of parishioners getting to the church a bit earlier to pray with them! The Legion members are happy to continue leading this beautiful prayer on the first and second Sundays of the month from here on. On the other weekends the choir will be there preparing to lead our community in prayer. God bless you all for supporting prayer and worship in our parish.
Fr Joel.