

Damascus Parish Bulletin

19th July 2026
16th 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 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 the Church is embracing synodality now

The call to synodality is a response to the signs of the times. In a fragmented world, God calls the Church to witness communion, dialogue, and hope.



REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

'The Gospel', Pope Leo says, 'resounds where peoples meet.' Exclusion is not Christ's way – encounter is.

The Gospel 'falls silent,' the Pope warns, 'when each person makes him or herself an island, avoiding contact and cutting off exchange.' We must never presume another person to be darnel, unworthy to be counted among us.

Individuals and groups may exclude themselves from the Church, but we are not called to exclude them. 'There is no love of God without love of neighbour,' the Pope reminds us, 'and there is no neighbour if I do not draw near.' We are called to help the wayward and lost, not reject them.

This also applies at a societal level, regarding those with beliefs or cultures different from our own. 'It is time', the Pope states emphatically, 'to recognise and affirm that religious affiliation must never become a reason for discrimination.' The Pope implores us all to 'give spiritual, cultural, legal, political and economic expression to the civilisation of love.'

We might not all be lawmakers, but we can take up this call. 'The parish, in particular,' the Pope added, 'should be a community where, guided by the Gospel, we learn to welcome, accompany and integrate one another in a spirit of communion.'

(Quotes from Homily at Lampedusa, 4 July 2026: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2026/documents/20260704-lampedusa-messa.html>)

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First Reading:

Wisdom 12:13. 16-19

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Second Reading:

Romans 8:26-27

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 13:24-43



Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths:

Anniversaries who are at this time:

Bonifacia Salapa, Colin Williams, Barney Brady

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.





'Our girls' 2014



Returning 'graduates' 2026

REACH PAST. PRESENT. FUTURE

VIETNAM APPEAL 2026

25TH & 26TH JULY

In May, the current girls, the Sisters, visiting graduates of the project, Damascus parishioners, and Fr Linh gathered in Kon Tum to celebrate the life of Pauline Audley, one of the founders of the REACH Vietnam project. Together, they gave thanks for all that has been achieved since the project began in 2013 and looked ahead with hope to its future. Many of the young women who have returned for the celebration have completed tertiary education, are enjoying fulfilling careers, and, now in their late twenties, are beginning families of their own. Their stories are a remarkable testament to the life changing opportunities made possible through the generosity of Damascus parishioners and other supporters. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support and hope that, with your continued generosity, many more young women will have the same opportunity to build bright and fulfilling futures.

We hope that this may long continue,
thank you for your kindness,
generosity, and continued
blessings.



Archdiocese of Melbourne Catholic Development Fund
Damascus Outreach
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