

Damascus Parish Bulletin

2nd August 2026
18th 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
Friday 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 requires humility

Walking together means recognising that no one has all the answers. Synodality invites humility—from leaders and from communities—so that the Spirit can guide us beyond our limitations.



It's been a minute since I've written a piece for the weekly bulletin. It was nice to take a couple of weeks of holiday earlier this month, heading over to Vietnam with some friends. It was a lovely trip. The people, food and places in Vietnam were all great. It was certainly nice to escape some of the cold coastal weather for the balmy waters of Da Nang Bay.

As a sports fan, the middle of the year can be a bit of a drag on the local level. Footy is well and truly on, but the season is long and everyone knows by now who has a real chance and what teams are just making up the numbers. Abroad it is a different story. Wimbledon, Tour de France, the British Open and, this year, the World Cup in the Americas. The tournament provided for a great festival, but gee it was frustrating to watch at times. Especially some of those last games.

The overly defensive mindset of some of these managers was a real killjoy. England go 1-0 up in the semi-final and then immediately go into their shell, attempting to keep Argentina goalless and eke out a victory. It backfires horribly, England concede two late goals and they get sent packing.

You would think that Argentina would learn from England's error when they played their final, but no. From the opening whistle they sit back with a heavy defence, sub on defenders to replace strikers throughout the game and after 90 minutes become the first-ever team to fail to record one shot on goal in a World Cup final. Some reported that their grand plan was to get to full time at 0-0 and then try to win a penalty shootout. Well, Spain are now the world champions.

There is a lesson in this. If you are overly fearful, too hesitant, highly pessimistic or just plain negative then you will lose in the end. The Lord teaches us this in the parable of the talents. The servants who take the initiative and confidently invest what they have ultimately reap the rewards and receive praise from their master. The servant who is afraid to even try – because he fears he might lose – ends up with nothing and is condemned for his insipid attitude.

We owe it to God and ourselves to try our best with what we've been given.

Bless,

Fr Joel.

REACH Vietnam Kon Tum Appeal

Thank you to all who have donated during the recent 2026 Appeal and to all who donate in coming months. Also at this time we have sent money to Sr Nhung for the 2026/27 school year that begins in about a month. This provides surety for current planning. Sr Nhung's letter below thanks us for our ongoing involvement. She references the new bathroom facilities that are now completed. As reported earlier, these were paid for by an extraordinary donation during our May visit, and reported previously. The project remains strong thanks to you. ~ Joe Annetts



"Dear Joe,
I have received the sum of \$343,697,869 VND the Parish sent for the care of the children. I am truly thankful for that. Please send my regards to everyone I've met, those who have visited us, as well as those who have been supporting the children that I have not yet met.

I am extremely happy this year because the children now have much better and cleaner facility and environment to live in. I carried out the following 4 improvements with the amount of \$150,000,000 VND:

1. Upgrade the toilet facility including installing additional septic tanks.
2. Built covered area for outdoor laundry as well as clothes hanging for drying.
3. Create a clean area for hanging dry school uniform.
4. Provide new floor and ceiling to the outdoor area, where we had music performance during your visit, for the children to use as outdoor study area, so the clean and tidy internal space can be used by the tutors as classroom for math and English tuition for the children.

This school year, the children are very pleased and happy when they get to stay in a newly renovated accommodation.

Thank you Joe and everyone in the Parish. Sister Nhung."



Shape the Future: Be Counted as Catholic this Census

Australia's national Census will be held on 11 August 2026. Catholics are encouraged to mark "Catholic" in the question on religion. In a time when some would seek to diminish the importance of faith, it is vital that the Catholic community be represented in our national statistics. Census data supports Church pastoral planning and contributes to government decision-making on health, education, infrastructure, and social services – guiding resource and funding allocations across Australia. By identifying as Catholic, you can help ensure that the contribution and needs of faith communities are properly recognised and considered in future planning and policy decisions.



St Joseph's Football & Netball Club Carmody Round Luncheon

Saturday 15th August 2026

Held at The Joey's Clubrooms
Drink on arrival Lunch by 63degrees Tables of up to 10.
MC Nick Maxwell former Collingwood Captain
Tickets \$40 available here:

<https://events.humanitix.com/sjfn-carmody-round-2026>

First Reading:

Isaiah 55:1-3

Responsorial

Psalm:

The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

Second Reading:

Romans 8:35. 37-39

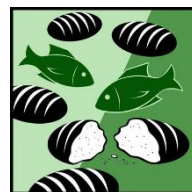
Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21



Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths: Lyn Biviano
Anniversaries who are at this time: Jozef Sowulewski, Alcira Moreno

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**

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