

Damascus Parish Bulletin

16th August 2026
20th 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 and leadership

Leadership in a synodal Church is not about control but about service. Leaders create spaces where gifts can emerge and flourish.



REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

Dining with around two hundred poor and vulnerable people in the Borgo Laudato Si', a garden inspired by Pope Francis' teaching on care for creation, Pope Leo showed the world's media that the state of the earth and the welfare of vulnerable people are entwined. Care for one goes in hand with care for the other.

Pope Leo opened the event with remarkable unscripted words. 'I have come without a prepared speech,' he said, 'but with hunger. A hunger for justice, a hunger for genuine charity.'

The Pope expressed his 'hunger for a Church that truly knows how to open its doors, to welcome and receive everyone. A Church where there is love for all, where no one is an enemy, and where we all know how to live in reconciliation, forgiveness, and peace.'

'Whenever we come together,' he emphasised, 'whenever we share this spirit of encounter around the same table - the one table where Jesus is also present with us - we are truly building a different world: a world of hope, a world that is light.'

'Let us work together', he concluded, 'and always strive to live this experience of Church, of justice, of peace, and of love.'

[Quotes from Greeting at "Lunch with the Pope", 11 July 2026:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2026/july/documents/20260711-pranzo-castel-gandolfo.html>]

© Nick Brodie

Nick Brodie is an Australian historian and writer who is currently Dean of Academic Studies of Jane Franklin Hall in Hobart. A graduate of the Australian National University, Flinders University, and the University of Tasmania, he is the author of several books on Australian history and numerous essays on historical, political, and religious topics. In 2017 he was awarded the Bruce Mansfield Prize for the best article in the Journal of Religious History. He is currently studying Theology.



The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. Brochures with more information can be found around the church. Online (direct debit or credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating and can be made by clicking the banner above. You can also donate via the supplied campaign envelopes or anonymously via cash directly into the collection plate during the campaign weekend – 15/16 August.

On behalf of the **Anglesea Association of Christian Churches** St Christopher's Catholic Church, 72 Bingley Pde Anglesea, is hosting the Anglican, Baptist and Uniting congregations at our Saturday evening mass on 29th August 2026 at 6pm. Please come along to share our common faith and belief at our Eucharistic celebration. A light meal will be available to share afterwards in our church community room. We look forward to welcoming and gathering with you.

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

All parishioners are warmly invited to celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary with Holy Mass on Saturday, 15th August, at 9.30 am at St Therese Church, Torquay. We look forward to gathering together to honour Our Lady on this special feast day.

Parish BBQ - Sunday 16th August following the 5pm Mass there will be a barbeque. Please feel free to stay and enjoy a bite to eat.

ACACIA Passionist Family Group Grovedale

Next activity is a luncheon at the Waurin Ponds Hotel.
Date Wednesday 26th August Time 12 Noon RSVP for catering purposes 24/8 contact Bob Bowker 0407569747 or Jenny Shanahan 0447280067 Friends and /or new members invited.



Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation

On Saturday, 15th August, our Confirmation candidates will joyfully celebrate the sacred Sacrament of Confirmation. This special occasion marks an important step in their faith journey as they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and are strengthened in their relationship with Christ and His Church.

Let us keep our candidates in our prayers as they embrace this beautiful moment of faith, commitment and witness, and may the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen them as they continue to live out their faith each day.

First Reading:

Isaiah 56:1.6-7

Responsorial

Psalm:

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Second Reading:

Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28



Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths:

Anniversaries who are at this time: Charles Geaney

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