

Damascus Parish Bulletin

30th August 2026
22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

A vibrant community, journeying with Jesus

Parish Priest
Parish Secretary
Parish Admin
Parish Office

Fr Joel Peart joel.peart@cam.org.au
Tracy Ford tracy.ford@cam.org.au
Melissa Gubic melissa.gubic@cam.org.au
surfcoast@cam.org.au

Parish Office
03 9412 8444
43a Surfcoast Highway
Torquay VIC 3228
damascusparish.com.au

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 is demanding

Walking together takes patience, time, and effort. But the Gospel has never promised an easy path—only a fruitful one.





PARISH MISSION

St Therese Catholic Church

43a Surf Coast Hwy, Torquay VIC 3228

PARISH MISSION NIGHTS

**Monday 7 September –
Wednesday 9 September**
7.30pm – 8.30pm each evening

Night 1 — God's Love

Discover the depth of God's love for you.

Night 2 — God's Mercy

*An opportunity to personally
encounter the mercy of Jesus.*

Night 3 — God's Healing

*A special healing service, inviting
Jesus to bring healing into our lives.*

Each evening will include **John Pridmore's** testimony and reflections, music, Scripture, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

John Pridmore grew up in East London and faced difficulties from a young age, eventually becoming involved in stealing and violence and spending time in detention and prison. Despite later finding success and wealth, he realised these things did not bring true happiness. A powerful experience led him to reflect on his life and discover Christianity, beginning a journey of faith and transformation. John now shares God's message of love, forgiveness and mercy with young people and communities around the world, encouraging others to find hope and a new beginning through God's grace.

EVERYONE WELCOME

Come and encounter the love, mercy and healing of Jesus.

John's story is ultimately one of conversion, mercy and hope — a powerful testimony that no life is beyond the transforming love of God.

Social Justice Sunday 2026

In a tradition reaching back to 1940, the Australian Catholic Bishops release major social justice statements each year in time for Social Justice Sunday. Through this tradition they contribute to the development of local Catholic Social Teaching. The statements encourage the Catholic community to reflect and act on social, economic and ecological issues. They remind us of the social dimension of the mission of the Church. To read the full [Social Justice Statement](#).

If you've ever felt called to become Catholic, now is the time to take that next step. **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)** is a welcoming journey where you can explore the Catholic faith, ask questions, and grow in your relationship with God. Whether you're ready to become Catholic or simply curious to learn more, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to the parish office and begin your journey of faith with us.

Real Caring - Supporting You to Age Well

Real Caring is a locally owned and operated provider of tailored, in-home care services for older people across the Geelong, Bellarine, Surf Coast and Golden Plains regions. Their compassionate approach is designed to support safety, independence, dignity and quality of life, helping older people remain living comfortably in their own homes and connected with their community. For more information or to enquire about support, visit realcaring.com.au

Parish Working Bee - Saturday 19th September

We are calling on parishioners who are able to lend a hand at St Therese Church on Saturday, 19th September from about 9am, as we work to clear the area behind the church in preparation for our Memorial Garden. There are plenty of overgrown trees and ground scrub to be removed, so all helping hands are welcome. We may also need a mulcher and one or two trailers. If you can assist with equipment or simply give your time, please have a chat with Fr Joel so he can coordinate the morning.

Online information session on the permanent diaconate

The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged from 30 into their 50's, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate.

Online Diaconate information meeting

Tuesday, 22 September 2026 beginning 19:00 - 20:00 Location: via ZOOM. Attendance will be by invitation. Express your interest by emailing Deacon Kevin Pattison Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au

In the week before the session the ZOOM link will be sent to those who have expressed interest.

First Reading:

Jeremiah 20:7-9

Responsorial

Psalm:

My soul is thirsting
for you, O Lord my
God.

Second Reading:

Romans 12:1-2

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ enlighten the eyes of our
heart, that we might see how great is
the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27



Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths:

**Anniversaries who are at this
time:** Monica Baker

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