

Damascus Parish Bulletin

9th August 2026
19th 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*

Saturday 15th August 9.30am

The Assumption of the
blessed Virgin Mary

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 a conversion

True synodality requires conversion of hearts, attitudes, and sometimes structures. It asks us to let go of habits that no longer serve the mission.



Dear Parishioners,

I'll be away from the parish again on Monday for a few days, but this time I'll be staying a bit closer! I and about 180 other priests from the Archdiocese will be in attendance at the annual Melbourne Clergy Conference, hosted by the RACV Club at Cape Schanck.

The guest speaker is Bishop Etienne Emmanuel Veto, an auxiliary bishop of Reims, France. The theme for the conference: *"Becoming a Catechumenal Church"*. The talks will be focused on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or the 'RCIA' as it is more commonly known. I can only surmise, but a bishop from France was likely sought after for the conference because of the significant increase of converts to the Catholic faith in France in recent years.

Up to 2022, the number of adults requesting baptism was around 4,000 people annually. At Easter last year, the church in France received 7,400 teenagers and over 10,000 adults into the faith by baptism, most of them young adults. Locally, we are seeing a similar growth in people wanting to become Catholic. Our RCIA program here at Damascus Parish already has 15 people expressing interest in attending the course, which will begin in early October. It is very exciting.

It will certainly be great to hear the bishop's testimony of the church's growth in his home country. I will also be very interested in how the church there is going about caring for and supporting these new Catholics. It is one thing to bring people into the church, but another to keep them!

I was in touch recently with a young fella from Melbourne who is currently in France studying for the priesthood. We spoke about this increase in the number of converts there. He told me that as good as it was, things aren't quite as good as the seem. What they are witnessing is that a not-so-small percentage of those converts received into the church stop practicing the faith within two or three years of their baptism. Is it the lack of support from their parishes after their reception into the church? Is it due to poor catechesis in their preparation? Is it simply that they found living out and practicing the faith too difficult in today's world?

Gaining an understanding of some of the reasons might help us build a course and a support program for our catechumens that will not only teach the faith, but that faith be received into fertile soil that will bear much fruit and fruit that will last.

In Christ,

Fr Joel.

In Fr Joel's absence next week there will be no weekday Masses.



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, 15 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.

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/sjfnc-carmody-round-2026>



First Reading:

1 Kings 19:9.11-13

Responsorial

Psalm:

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading:

Romans 9:1-5

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I hope in the Lord,

I trust in his word.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 14:22:33



Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths: *Bryan Murphy*
Anniversaries who are at this time: *Daniel O'Keeffe, June Cugola*

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