

Damascus Parish Bulletin

6th September 2026
23rd 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 the Holy Spirit

At the heart of synodality is trust in the Holy Spirit. Without prayer, synodality becomes mere strategy. With prayer, it becomes a path of grace.



What is National Child Protection Week (NCPW)?

NCPW is a national campaign that brings Australians together to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. It provides an opportunity to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect, share valuable resources, amplify children's voices, and encourage practical actions that support families and communities, and help prevent harm before it occurs.

NCPW reminds us that protecting children is everyone's responsibility - not just the role of specialists or government services. It encourages parents and carers, community leaders, service providers, policymakers, neighbours and young people to consider how our everyday actions and decisions can contribute to children's safety and wellbeing.

Register now for free webinars as part of National Child Protection Week 2026

Join NAPCAN for a series of free webinars as part of National Child Protection Week 2026, bringing together leading researchers, practitioners and young changemakers to explore the issues shaping child safety today. Topics across the series include turning decades of child protection inquiries into real reform, addressing the rise of manosphere content among boys and young men, building safe and meaningful youth participation, and more. You'll hear a diverse line up of speakers engage in meaningful discussions and provide practical insights. Register now and be part of shifting conversation to action this National Child Protection Week.

Find out more:

<https://www.napcan.org.au/official-webinars-2026/>



Children's Liturgy - Safeguarding Sunday

Next Sunday we celebrate Safeguarding Sunday, with this year's theme, "Love Protects." It is a wonderful opportunity for us as a parish community to reflect on our shared responsibility to create safe, welcoming and nurturing spaces for all children.

To mark Safeguarding Sunday, Children's Liturgy will be held at the 11am Mass at Nazareth and the 5pm Mass at St Therese. The sessions will be led by experienced teachers from within our parish community and will provide our children with an age-appropriate opportunity to explore the Gospel and the message of safeguarding.

We warmly invite all families to join us as we celebrate together and continue to build a community where every child is valued, respected and protected.

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:

Ezekiel 33:7-9

Responsorial

Psalm:

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Second Reading:

Romans 13:8-10

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20



Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths:

Anniversaries who are at this time: Kaz Kardel

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR COMMUNITY

Fr Kerry Cronin

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





DAMASCUS PARISH

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

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.