

Damascus Parish Bulletin

13th September 2026
24th 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 Scripture

From Abraham's journey to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, Scripture is full of stories of God walking with His people. Synodality places us within that biblical story.



Dear Parishioners,

It was great to see many of you attend our parish mission over the past week. I had heard much about our mission leader John Pridmore but never met him or heard him speak myself. It was great to finally do so. Hosting him here at Damascus Parish over these past days has been both very edifying and highly entertaining.

A parish mission can be aimed at a number of things but there are traditionally a few hallmarks. They are preached over a series of days, with the expectation that all the talks and sermons are attended to reap the full benefits. They are to bring home to us some of the harder truths of our faith: the reality of sin and our need for God's mercy. The obligation we have to prayer and to foster lives of virtue. One of our older parishioners was recalling the parish missions he recalls from yesteryear: Redemptorist priests banging on the pulpit going full fire and brimstone! Fear was the primary motivator - which is one way to get people to act - but it's imperfect at best and falls short of the true Gospel message, which is one of love.

The beauty of John's talks was that he didn't point the finger and wag it at us. He pointed it at himself. He didn't rant and rave but simply told his own story. I could read in the Catechism that to persist in grave sin and be unrepentant would lead me to perdition. But to hear a man speak of the utter fear he felt as his heart was giving way, certain that he was destined for hell and crying out to God makes that truth very real. I might know our faith teaches that that all mortal sins of which we are conscious of must be recounted by us in sacramental confession. But to hear John speak of the joy and love he felt after being reconciled to God through this sacrament has me keen to go again as soon as possible!

The power of the Gospel and the beauty of our Catholic faith was there to see and hear in the life of John. It was a great reminder to me, and I'm sure to all those that attended the mission, of how blessed we are to have our faith.

In Christ,

Fr Joel.

Children's Liturgy - Safeguarding Sunday

This 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.

Working Bee - Next Saturday, 19th September

We are calling for any parishioners who are able to lend a hand at St Therese Church next Saturday, 19th September, from about 9am for a working bee as we begin clearing the area behind the church in preparation for our new Memorial Garden. There are plenty of overgrown trees and ground scrub to be removed, so all helping hands are very welcome. We may need a mulcher and a trailer or 2 to help with the clean-up. If you have a spare green waste voucher they may also come in handy. If you can assist with equipment or simply give your time, please have a chat with Fr Joel so he can coordinate the morning.

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.



First Reading:
Sirach 27:30 - 28:7
Responsorial
Psalm:

The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

Second Reading:

Romans 14:7-9

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35



Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths:

Anniversaries who are at this time:

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

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF St Therese School

You're Invited

We are excited to invite all current and past families and staff to join us at this celebration.

We hope you can join us as we celebrate 40 years of St Therese Primary School.

celebrate40@sttorquay.catholic.edu.au

Honouring the past. Celebrating the future.

FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2026
PAST & CURRENT FAMILIES AND STAFF

9.30 AM MASS	Join us for Mass in the school hall. All are welcome.
11.15 AM - 12.50 PM OPEN DAY	Visit classrooms and explore our school. A wonderful opportunity to reconnect, look back and see what's new!
2.15 PM ASSEMBLY IN THE HALL	In the afternoon, join us for an assembly in the hall featuring guest speakers and student presentations.

☕ Morning tea will be supplied on the day.

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2026
OFFSITE CELEBRATION FOR ADULTS

7.00 PM
TORQUAY BOWLS CLUB

We invite you to join us for an evening of celebration, connection and memories.

- ♥ Finger food included.
- ♥ There will be a DJ and a band to entertain us.
- ♥ All current and past staff and parents are invited.

Tickets are now available
<https://www.trybooking.com/DOXED>