

Damascus Parish Bulletin

20th September 2026
25th 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



Why participation matters

Participation helps people move from being passive recipients to active disciples. This deepens faith and strengthens mission.



Dear Parishioners,

As you know, schools are a big part of our wider parish community and a significant part of my ministry here. There are currently four parish primary schools within the bounds of Damascus Parish. On Thursday evening, there was a family meet-and-greet night at Armstrong Creek Library for those enrolled at Mary Glowrey Primary Mount Duneed, which will open its doors to students next year. Add to that an ever-growing regional Catholic college in Iona and things start getting busy.

Meeting some of our new families and future staff and students on Thursday was great fun. The venue was bursting with people and there was a real excitement in being a part of something new. Even the school uniforms on display were a hit with the kids, which is unheard of! Principal Sarah Kelly has worked so hard to get everyone and everything on track to have students in classrooms and learning in a little over 3 months. God bless her efforts.



Image supplied from Mary Glowrey Facebook page

As we read in the book of wisdom from the scriptures: "The Lord gives; the Lord takes away". (Job 1:21) As the parish is set to welcome the beginning of one new principal in the parish, it sadly farewells another. Susan Ryan, principal of Lisieux Primary in Torquay, called me during the week to say that she is stepping away from her role at the end of the year. Susan holds a special place in the history of our parish as the founding principal of Lisieux, and for the past eight years has built the school up to be a shining light in our community. I thank Susan for her commitment and leadership over the years and pray every blessing upon her in the future.

In Christ,

Fr Joel.

PS I'm predicting upsets this weekend. Swans and Hawks to both get up and play off in the Grand Final next week

REACH Vietnam - Reply from Sr Nhung following receipt of this year's money from us. The new school year has now started there. Again, many thanks to those who have contributed so far and as ever contributions still open.

Dear Joe,

I have received the sum of \$343,697,869 VND (\$19,000 plus \$3000 sent earlier = \$22,000) the Parish sent for the care of the children. I am truly thankful for that. Please send my regards to everyone I've met, those who have visited us, as well as those who have been supporting the children that I have not yet met. I am extremely happy this year because the children now have much better and cleaner facility and environment to live in. I carried out the following 4 improvements with the amount amount of \$150,000,000 VND:

1. Upgrade the toilet facility including installing additional septic tanks.
2. Built covered area for outdoor laundry as well as clothes hanging for drying.
3. Create a clean area for hanging dry school uniform.
4. Provide new floor and ceiling to the outdoor area, where we had music performance during your visit, for the children to use as outdoor study area, so the clean and tidy internal space can be used by the tutors as classroom for math and English tuition for the children.

This school year, the children are very pleased and happy when they get to stay in a newly renovated accommodation.

Thank you Joe and everyone in the Parish.

Sister Nhung.

Acacia Passionist Family Group Grovedale

Our next outing has been changed and will now be a luncheon at The Sphinx, 2 Thompsons Road, North Geelong, on Thursday 1 October at 12 noon. For catering purposes, please advise Maureen on 0419 117 974 or Jenny/Lynette on 0404 255 041 by Monday 28 September.

Christian Meditation Group

Interested in exploring Christian Meditation? A new four-week Christian Meditation group is commencing at St Mary's Parish, Geelong. The sessions will provide an opportunity to learn about and practise Christian Meditation in a welcoming setting.

Sessions commence Wednesday 23 September at 6.00pm in the Pioneer Room, 150 Yarra Street, Geelong. There is no cost.

Damascus Parishioners are warmly invited to attend. To reserve a place, please contact the St Mary's Parish Office on 03 5222 1977.

Seeking Accommodation

Aleisha, a practicing Catholic in her early 30s, is moving to the Geelong region to undertake her studies and is seeking affordable, friendly accommodation. If you have a room available, or know of someone who may be able to assist, please contact the parish office.

First Reading:

Isaiah 55: 6-9

Responsorial

Psalm:

The Lord is near to all who call him.

Second Reading:

Philippians 1:20-24. 27

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 20: 1-16



Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths:

Anniversaries who are at this

time: Margaret Morrissey

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR COMMUNITY

Fr Kerry Cronan

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 Holiday Friday 25th September**
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 40th 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

 **11.15 AM - 12.50 PM**
OPEN DAY

 **2.15 PM**
ASSEMBLY IN THE HALL

Join us for Mass in the school hall. All are welcome.

Visit classrooms and explore our school. A wonderful opportunity to reconnect, look back and see what's new!

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>