

Damascus Parish Bulletin

11th October 2026
28th 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 and young people

Young people long to be heard and taken seriously. Synodality invites the Church to listen attentively to their questions and hopes.



Dear Parishioners,

It was so good to see the large crowds and hear such positive stories around Pope Leo's recent visit to France. It was the first official papal visit to France in over 18 years, the last being by Pope Benedict in 2008. He first visited Paris and then the city of Metz. He then travelled south to Lourdes.

Whilst at the site of the famous Marian apparitions and miraculous healings, the Holy Father delivered a very powerful message on the sanctity of human life and the virtue of hope amidst suffering.

"I know that for some of you, because of your illnesses and, at times, terrible pain, your horizon may appear dark, uncertain and without hope. But no human law should ever make you lose the certainty of your dignity. On the contrary, it is precisely in the name of this inalienable dignity that we must reject the temptation to cause death under the guise of false compassion. It is impossible to regard causing death as something normal."

Here in Lourdes, I appeal to the entire healthcare community to remember the profound meaning of your vocation, which is to care for the suffering person, not to eliminate that person."

This message is one we need to hear in Victoria. The annual report of our state's Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board was released quietly late last month. It shows that VAD deaths have quadrupled since 2019 and are increasing. The safeguards around the law continue to be relaxed, with the board boasting that these changes will make it even easier to end someone's life. All this under the banner of "compassionate healthcare". God help us.

In his address, Pope Leo recalled Mary's words to Saint Bernadette at Lourdes: "I do not promise to make you happy in this world but in the next."

Bernadette was no stranger to suffering. A bout of cholera as a child left her with severe asthma her whole life. She eventually contracted tuberculosis of the lungs and bones and died at the age of 35, while praying the rosary. On her deathbed, as she suffered from severe pain and in keeping with Mary's exhortation on the importance of penance, Bernadette proclaimed that "all this is good for Heaven!" Her final words were, "Blessed Mary, Mother of God, Pray for me".

It's hard to imagine a more holy death. It should serve as an inspiration to us all.

In Christ,

Fr Joel.



We are saddened to hear of the passing of Marie Darby, a very valued and long-standing member of our parish community. Marie will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by all who knew her. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob and the family at this time. May Marie rest peacefully in God's loving care. Marie's funeral will take place at St Therese Church, Torquay on Tuesday 13th Oct at 11am.

Friday morning at St Therese Church

Next Friday, 16th October, there will be no Friday Mass held at St Therese Church but rather at St Therese Primary School. This Mass will mark the schools 40th anniversary, all are welcome to attend at St Therese School, 50 Grossmans Road, Torquay.



Parish Census Begins

Our parish is currently undertaking a Parish Census to help us better understand our parish community and support its ongoing life and mission. By completing the census form available at Mass or via our website [digital parish census card](#) save it and email it back to the office surfcoast@cam.org.au, we can register the number of our parish members and better understand the needs of our community. Data from this census will also assist the parish to plan effectively for ministries, important events, and future parish initiatives. Your privacy is essential, and all information will be treated with confidentiality. Thank you for your participation

ACACIA Passionist Family Group

Next activity is Morning Tea at Gail & Mick Spongs with a Guest Speaker Barbara. Details as follows:

Venue- 37 Reserve Rd Grovedale

Date -Thursday 15th October

Time - 10:30am

Please if you are able bring along a plate. It will be a good morning with Gail's handiwork and Barbara's talk. Friends are welcome. Reply by 14th October - Mick/Gail 0407438163



St Bernard's Church Fiction Book Clearance Sale

Sun 18th Oct 8am to 12 noon, Clairvaux School Hall, Reynolds Rd, Belmont. 1000's of novels sorted A-Z - easy to find your favourite authors! Bargain prices. Excellent condition.

Geelong Tertiary Students End of Year Mass & Dinner

Catholic university and TAFE students who live in the Geelong region are invited to celebrate the end of the academic year with Mass and Dinner on Sunday 1st November 2026. Mass will be at 5pm at Sts Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Geelong. Family and friends are welcome to the Mass. Dinner will follow at 6.30pm at Edge Bar & Restaurant Geelong. Attendance at the dinner is limited to students and partners - booking for dinner is essential at www.trybooking.com/DQKKB. For more info, contact Fr Marcus Goulding corio@cam.org.au

Receive the Parish Bulletin via Email

Would you like to receive the parish bulletin electronically each week? Stay up to date with parish news, upcoming events and important notices by [subscribing to our weekly digital bulletin](#).

First Reading:

Isaiah 25:6-10

Responsorial

Psalm:

I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Second Reading:

Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20

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 22:1-14



Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths: Marie Darby
Anniversaries who are at this time:

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR COMMUNITY

Fr Kerry Cronan, Ian Dunne

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