

Damascus Parish Bulletin

25th October 2026
30th 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 mission beyond the Church

A synodal Church listens not only inwardly but outwardly, engaging respectfully with society and culture.



Dear Parishioners,

I'm not sure how many people saw this in the news, but it certainly arrested my attention. That is, the sad and tragic event that saw a priest in Ecuador, Fr Patricio Molinari, killed when a large crucifix came off the wall behind him and crushed him whilst saying mass. It was an awful scene as parishioners rushed to the altar to tend to him, but it was to no avail.

It was a tough one to process. On one hand it would appear to be the most terrible and tragic of ironies: a man of God conducting the most Godly of actions, struck dead by a figure of the one he is worshipping. One could also imagine it as no better place and moment to die. When a priest offers the mass - which is the making present of Christ and his laying down his life for us on the cross - the priest takes on the person of Christ and lays down his own life at the altar for love of God's people. That reality couldn't have been made more stark.

Trying to interpret events such as these can remove us from remembering that no matter how it came about, a poor soul has gone to God and the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and his family have lost someone who, from all reports, was a good and holy man. For the more pragmatic, that this event could have been avoided if more care and diligence had been taken in the fixing of the cross on the wall and its proper maintenance. It's certainly made me more anxiously aware that at St Therese church I have a 200kg bronze figure of Christ dangling over my head as I stand on the sanctuary. A clerical version of the Sword of Damocles...

What added to the mystery of this death of Fr Molinari was the brief sermon he preached just moments before he died. He said, "One day, all of us here will also die, and sometimes the time we've spent on things doesn't have as much meaning as the time we spend with God," he said. "The quality time we give to God, to our brothers and sisters, to our husbands, wives, children, and family- that time is the best spent."

His message echoes so many of the saints, who would hold dear the phrase 'Memento Mori': Remember that you will die. Well, Fr Molinari was in the presence of God, recalling the death of his Son at the altar when he died; may he now rest with him eternally.

In Christ,

Fr Joel.

This week we learnt the sad news that Terry Ingles passed away. Terry, together with his wife Janice, have been valued members of the Grovedale parish community for many decades. Terry was part of the initial development of Nazareth Church and School back in the 1980's.

Terry's funeral will be held on Wednesday, 28 October, at 11.00am at Nazareth Church, Grovedale. May he rest in peace.



The new stewardship envelopes are now available to collect from the foyer, with six months' worth featuring our new Damascus Parish name. Thank you to all parishioners who faithfully support our parish through the Stewardship Program. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you have not received your envelopes or would like to review your pledge, please contact me at the parish office from Wednesday to Friday. ~ Melissa

Massive Charity Sale - Anglesea

Come along to the Massive Charity Sale at St Christopher's Church Hall, Anglesea, with all proceeds going to the Barwon Health Cancer Centre. There will be plenty of bargains to discover, including books, bric-a-brac, kitchenware, homewares, records, children's toys and games, new Christmas decorations and much more! There's something for everyone, so come along, browse the treasures and make a reasonable offer.

Sale Dates and Times:

Friday 31 October - 8.30am-4.00pm

Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 November - 8.30am-4.00pm

Monday 3 November - 10.00am-4.00pm

Where: St Christopher's Church Hall, 74 Bingley Parade, Anglesea.

Cash and EFTPOS accepted. Come along, grab a bargain and support a great cause!

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

Faith and Light is a Christian community for people with a disability, their families and friends. All are welcome to join us for an afternoon of Scripture, prayer, music, sharing and fun.

Our next meeting will explore the creation theme, "The Wonder of Creation: Land", on Tuesday 27 October, from 1.30pm to 4.30pm, at St Mary's Hibernian Hall, 150 Yarra Street, Geelong. Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea.

RSVP by 26 October to Tricia O'Keeffe on 0414 672 267. For more information, visit www.faithandlight.org.

Important Parish Dates

Tuesday 27th October - Office closed

Friday 30th October - 9.30am Mass will be held at Nazareth Church instead of St Therese with the school.

Monday 2nd November - 9.30am Mass at St Therese Church for All Souls Day

Friday 6th November - No 9.30am Mass at St Therese Church

First Reading:

Exodus 22:20-26

Responsorial

Psalm:

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40



Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths: *Terry Ingles*
Anniversaries who are at this time: *Janko Bartakovic, Margaret Sheehan*

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR COMMUNITY

Fr Kerry Cronan, Ian Dunne, Luke Strain

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