Damascus Parish Bulletin

8th November 2026
32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

A vibrant community, journeying with Jesus

Parish Priest	Fr Joel Peart	joel.peart@cam.org.au
Parish Secretary	Tracy Ford	tracy.ford@cam.org.au
Parish Admin	Melissa Gubic	melissa.gubic@cam.org.au
Parish Office		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

MELBOURNE SYNOD

Synodality and courage
Listening honestly may reveal uncomfortable truths. Synodality requires courage to face them with faith.



Dear Parishioners,

It was with much sadness that I received the news on Wednesday that Fr Brendan Lane had died at Justin Villa Nursing Home in Balwyn at the age of 81. Fr Brendan served as a priest for the Archdiocese of Melbourne for 53 years and for that we give much thanks.

Fr Brendan was ordained by James Cardinal Knox on 25 August 1973 at St Patrick's Cathedral. Serving as an assistant priest in places including Fitzroy and Cheltenham for roughly 10 years, Fr Brendan was then able to satisfy his strong desire to serve the Church in Africa. He was granted leave in 1981 to take up an appointment in the Diocese of Kasama, Zambia, as a missionary priest. He spent the best part of 5 years as chaplain to a large secondary school there. He returned in 1985 to be parish priest of Sunshine, Hampton Park, Mill Park and Dandenong. Amongst these appointments he was also rector of Corpus Christi College, the regional seminary for the diocese in Victoria and Tasmania.

It was during this time that I got to know Fr Brendan. I was one of the students that he helped form and prepare for ministry. A real fatherly figure, he had a great love for the students, and we saw the great love he had for the priesthood. Almost as much love as he had for the Carlton Football Club!

Being a proper father figure, he gave you a clip when you needed it. I'll never forget the time I was in his office getting written up for some indiscretion (there were a few) and I was pleading my innocence as usual. After I had rested my case, he paused for a moment, looked me in the eye and said flatly: "You're a smart arse Peart". And then broke into his hallmark cheeky grin.

What I'll also never forget was visiting him a couple of weeks ago on his death bed. I was privileged to be able to give him the sacrament which he had ministered to me on so many occasions. We also got to speak about the blessing that the priesthood is and some of the struggles us priests face. I got quite emotional when he turned his head off the bed as I walked out of the room and said, "I'll see you in the next life".

I pray God is good to him and we do meet again.

In Christ,

Fr Joel.

Parish news

8th November 2026
32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Geelong Catholic Diners Club
You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food and friends for our dinner for November.
Date: Tuesday November 10, 2026
Time: 6.00 PM
Venue: Great Western Hotel
Corner Aberdeen St & Shannon Ave, Newtown
Cost: Purchase of meals and drinks at your own cost.
If you do wish to come to the dinner, please phone or text Joan 0429215111 or Michael 0431959584 by Friday November 6.
We need to know numbers for our booking.
Thankyou, Joan & Michael Belleville

Geelong Catholic Professionals – Inaugural Luncheon
The Archdiocese is delighted to bring its networking lunches to Geelong for the first time. All Catholic professionals in the Geelong region are warmly invited to join us for the inaugural Geelong Catholic Professionals luncheon, an opportunity to connect with fellow Catholics in the workplace and be encouraged in living out your faith in your profession.
Our guest speaker is Dr Edward Simons, Executive Director of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS).
When: Thursday 19 November, 12pm–2pm
Where: Captain's Room, GMHBA Stadium, Gate 11, 370 Moorabool Street, South Geelong 3220
Register: trybooking.com/DQVIR

Anglesea Combined Churches Service 29th November 2026 @ 9.00am
On behalf of the Anglesea Association of Christian Churches, the Anglican Church of the Transfiguration is hosting the Catholic, Baptist and Uniting congregations at their Sunday service on 29th November at 9.00am. Please come along and share our common faith and belief. We look forward to seeing you at the Anglican Church in Camp Road opposite the Anglesea Hotel. All are welcome whatever church you belong to. Morning tea will follow the service.

Faith in Action: An election guide from the Bishops of Victoria
Ahead of the 2026 Victorian election, the Bishops of Victoria have issued an election statement highlighting key issues for Catholics to consider when deciding their vote. You are invited to read the statement and prayerfully discern how your vote can contribute to the common good. View the statement online at: bit.ly/StateElection2026.

St Therese Church usually has a few pyx available in the sacristy for the purpose to carry the consecrated Eucharist following the Mass to visit a the sick, elderly or homebound members who cannot attend. If you have borrowed one of our pyx please ensure it is returned. If there is anybody who might have one that they no longer require and would like to donate please drop it into the office.

Real Caring – Supporting You to Age Well
Real Caring is a locally owned and operated provider of tailored, in-home care services for older people across the Geelong, Bellarine, Surf Coast and Golden Plains regions. Their compassionate approach is designed to support safety, independence, dignity and quality of life, helping older people remain living comfortably in their own homes and connected with their community. For more information or to enquire about support, visit realcaring.com.au

Office Closed
The office will be closed on Tuesday 10th November.



First Reading:
Wisdom 6:12-16
Responsorial Psalm:
My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.
Second Reading:
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!
Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths: *Rosa Cotruzzola*
Anniversaries who are at this time: *Mary McMahon, Anthony Iacono, Marie Wardle*

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR COMMUNITY
Fr Kerry Cronan, Ian Dunne, Luke Strain, Rosemary Kelleher (Fr Kerry's sister)

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.