Damascus Parish Bulletin

15th November 2026
33rd 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

MELBOURNE SYNOD

Synodality is a long journey
A Synod is not a one-time event. Synodality is a way of life that unfolds over time.



Dear Parishioners,

This Saturday November 14 will be a significant and joyful day for our Archdiocese of Melbourne. At St Patrick's Cathedral, Archbishop Peter Comensoli will ordain a total of nine men to the sacred ministry: Rhys Lowther and Dominic Lawes to the priesthood, Anthony Wright, Andrew Tran and Nicholas Calandra to the diaconate (these will be ordained to the priesthood next year) and Peter Nguyen, Bradley Proud, Ryan Martin and Francis Thomas as permanent deacons to assist in parishes around Melbourne.

Ordination ceremonies are always very uplifting and encouraging. It is a good reminder that despite the ups and downs of the church and the seeming decline in religious affiliation and practice, God is ever faithful to his promise to give us shepherds after his own heart.

The occasions are that little more heart warming when those to be consecrated to the Lord are young men that you have known and encouraged along the path. I don't personally know all of the candidates to be ordained, but a few I know very well.

Rhys Lowther hails from Corio and Lara parish not far from us. I'm not sure how long it's been since a candidate from the Geelong deanery was ordained to the priesthood. I dare say at least 25 years. Rhys is a fine young man, who I pray will inspire more young men to follow his path from this end of the archdiocese.

Nick Calandra grew up in the north west suburb of Avondale Heights, a place I know well. Like me, he is an old boy of St Bernard's College in Essendon. It's wonderful to see that school producing vocations with some regularity over the years. I was ordained in 2015, followed by Fr Tom Christie in 2022. Nick is on the way to the priesthood next year and there is another seminarian, Liam Bui, who is on the path to ordination a couple of years after that. If every boys Catholic college in Melbourne was putting out those numbers we would have no shortage of priests!

Rev Dominic Lawes sums up well in a recent article the very powerful yet humbling call a vocation to the priesthood is: 'The last seven years of seminary formation—my whole life, I suppose—have been leading up to this moment. I'm looking forward to just serving the way that God has called me to serve.'

I invite you to keep them all in your prayers.

Bless,

Fr Joel.

Parish news

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Volunteer Thank You Evening
The parish of Damascus wish to especially acknowledge and thank the many volunteers across our parish who generously offer their time and effort to support our community. From our sacristans and musicians to our maintenance workers and money counters.
To show our appreciation, a mass of thanksgiving will be offered for our volunteers and the families who support them. I invite you to join me in celebrating this mass and then stay to enjoy dinner provided by our parish team. The mass and dinner will be hosted at St Therese Catholic Church in Torquay on Wednesday 2 December at 6:30pm. If you could kindly RSVP your attendance to the office via email at surfcoast@cam.org.au. I hope to see you there! With thanks, Fr Joel.



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.



First Reading:
Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31
Responsorial Psalm:
Happy are those who fear the Lord.
Second Reading:
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!
Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths: *Rosemary Kelleher (Fr Kerry's sister)*
Anniversaries who are at this time: *Joe Flynn*

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