Damascus Parish Bulletin

22nd November 2026
Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe

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 renewal
Renewal does not come from programs alone but from transformed relationships. Synodality nurtures those relationships.



While the secular world flips its calendar on 31 December, the Catholic liturgical year closes in late November. Rather than ending with midnight countdowns and fireworks, it concludes quietly and profoundly, inviting believers to look beyond the passing of earthly time toward eternity.

As November unfolds, the Scripture readings at Mass shift toward the "last things": death, judgment, the end of time, and the Second Coming of Christ. This turn follows a full year in which the liturgical calendar has led the faithful through the entire mystery of Christ's life, from the quiet expectation of Advent and the joy of Christmas, through the penance of Lent and the triumph of Easter, to the steady growth of Ordinary Time.

Far from fostering fear, the readings of this month cultivate a deep Christian hope: human history is not spiraling into chaos, but moving purposefully toward its fulfilment in God. The month began with the celebrations of All Saints and All Souls, reminding the Church of the unbroken bond between the living and the dead. As the weeks progress, the readings urge spiritual vigilance, challenging believers to examine how they have used the time and grace entrusted to them over the past year.

The liturgical year reaches its climax on its final Sunday with the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, commonly known as the Feast of Christ the King. Pope Pius XI instituted the celebration in 1925, and Pope St Paul VI placed it at the end of the liturgical year in 1969. It proclaims that Christ holds ultimate dominion over all creation, yet his kingdom is unlike any earthly empire: it is built not on political power or force, but on truth, mercy, justice, and self-giving love. This Sunday's readings show what that reign looks like: Ezekiel's promise of a shepherd who seeks out the lost, and Matthew's account of the final judgment, where we are measured by the love we show to the least of our brothers and sisters.

Celebrating Christ the King at the end of the year serves as both a summary and a bridge. It draws together everything the year has shown us about who Jesus is, from his birth to the end of his life. On Sunday 29 November, next week, the Church begins a new year with the First Sunday of Advent, reminding us that every ending in the life of faith is also a new beginning.

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.



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.

REACH Vietnam - This year's appeal in July has so far raised around $16,000, a great result and well on the way to the $22,000 target we have annually at present. The attached article articulates the work of another order of nuns who are working in the same region of Vietnam as our Divine Provident Nuns, and doing the same work, demonstrating "Love in Action".
https://www.globalcatholic.com/meet-the-catholic-nuns-walking-miles-to-serve-vietnams-forgotten-ethnic-villagers/

Faith and Light – November Gathering
Faith and Light is a Christian community for people with a disability, their families and friends. All are warmly invited to join the next gathering on Tuesday, 24 November, from 1.30pm to 4.30pm at St Mary's Parish Hibernian Hall, Geelong. The theme will be **Advent**, with an afternoon of friendship, faith, music, birthday celebrations and afternoon tea. Please RSVP to Tricia O'Keeffe on 0414 672 267 by Monday, 23 November.



First Reading:
Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17
Responsorial Psalm:
The Lord is my shepherd.
Second Reading:
1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28
Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths:
Anniversaries who are at this time: *Bernie Carty*

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