Damascus Parish Bulletin

29th November 2026
1st Sunday of Advent

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 mercy
Listening with compassion reflects the mercy of Christ, who always began with encounter.



Father Linh
As a parish, we extend our best wishes and blessings to Fr Linh Tran as he celebrates his silver jubilee of priesthood. It is a mighty effort. The majority of those 25 years has been spent as parish priest here at Damascus parish and for that we are so thankful. I hope this weekend is one of much joy and celebration with his parish of Sacred Heart. Ad multos annos!

Dear Parishioners,

During my time in the seminary, my favourite topics and subjects were always to do with moral law and ethics. Understanding the theology and principles that helps the church determine right from wrong, between virtue and vice was really interesting to me. It didn't make much different to my grades, but as the saying goes: it's not about the destination, but about the journey!
Whether it's sport or politics there aren't many purists left, those there strictly for the love of the craft; applying the rules and admiring the technical expertise of the proponents. We want to be entertained, and it is characters that make it entertaining. Things get a lot more intriguing in life when you have heroes and heels, nice guys and your villains. We are moral beings, with an innate sense of justice and fairness. When these things are transgressed, uproar ensues.
One need look no further than the controversy that Cricket Australia has been embroiled in over the past few weeks. What started with a single square inch of yellow sandpaper has turned the country on its head. Of course, the scandal has become about much more than a bloke roughing up a cricket ball in South Africa over 8 years ago. It's about lies and cover ups, about player relations, team culture and the integrity of the game worldwide. This is the stuff puts cricket on the front page of the paper for the best part of a week.
Even more engaging than the investigation into what exactly took place back in 2018 is seeing the public take on their own little course on moral theology and ethics. And what we find is that determining what is true and good is no simple task. Usman Khawaja is seen by some as a brave whistleblower, to others he's a petty snitch. Pat Cummins is either a blatant liar and unfit for the captaincy, or he's simply doing his job and trying to keep the team together. I hope I'm not being blasphemous when I say that Steve Smith emerged as Christ-like. He took upon himself the transgressions of others and bore his sufferings patiently. For a public figure in the modern age, that's quite remarkable. And Dave Warner is, well, Dave Warner. God love him.

If there is a moral lesson in any of this, it's that we should not be quick to judge.

Bless,

Fr Joel.

Parish news

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Volunteer Thank You Evening
The Parish of Damascus wishes to sincerely thank the many volunteers who generously give their time and effort to support our parish community, from our sacristans and musicians to our maintenance team and money counters.
To show our appreciation, Fr Joel invites you to join us for a Mass of Thanksgiving, followed by dinner provided by our parish team.
Wednesday 2 December, 6:30pm, St Therese Catholic Church, Torquay
Please RSVP to the parish office at surfcoast@cam.org.au by Sunday 29/11 evening. We look forward to celebrating with you! 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.

Nazareth Church, Grovedale St Vincent de Paul – Christmas Appeal
There will be a leaving collection after Mass (this Sunday) to help with funds for the Christmas Appeal. Your help will be greatly appreciated by local people feeling financial stress. A number of parishioners will be away this week-end. Some SVDP members will be in the church foyer next Sunday. If you haven't come prepared today- there is next week.
Bob Healy , 0427414070

ACACIA Passionist Family Group Grovedale
The Christmas Luncheon is the climax to our year and is always a fun day.
Details as follows:
Venue: Shanahan's 80 Rossack Dr, Waurn Ponds
Date: 6th December 2026
Time: 12:30pm
Food: Meat Provided, please bring a salad or a sweet. Bring own drinks of your choice.
Small Gift suitable for Kris Kringle is required from each person.
Attendance numbers are most important so please contact Jenny 0447280067 by 3/12/2026 and advise what you are bringing foodwise.

St. Christopher's Get Together
Our end of year get together is on Wednesday Dec. 9th @ 6pm. In our hall. Please bring a plate to share. Everyone welcome!

Holy Hour
You are warmly invited to join us for a Holy Hour at St Therese Church.
Spend a peaceful hour in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, with time for prayer, quiet reflection, thanksgiving and deepening your relationship with Him. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available during this time.
Whether you are familiar with Eucharistic Adoration or simply wish to experience it, everyone is welcome. Come for all or part of the hour.

Thursday 10 December
6.00pm – 7.00pm
St Therese Church, Torquay

Anglesea Foodlink

Each year at this time we put together a food hamper with a small gift for the families and singles in our community.
These are folk who during this year, due to varying circumstances, have needed a hand up.
Our giving tree is loaded with tags. Please take one or two, read what is requested and return your gifts either next Saturday night or on Sat. 12th. Dec. with the tag attached. We are packing on the 16th. Dec.
This is a great opportunity to spread the hope and joy of the Christmas season.



First Reading:
Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8
Responsorial Psalm:
Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.
Second Reading:
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!
Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths:
Anniversaries who are at this time: *Marie Hurley, Dorothy Mojares*

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.