

DAMASCUS PARISH BULLETIN

8th March 2026
3rd Sunday of Lent

A vibrant community, journeying with Jesus

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Damascus Parish 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

9.30am Mass

followed by prayers of adoration

Nazareth Church

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

POPE LEO

For disarmament and peace
Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.



Dear Parishioners,

A couple of weeks back I received a call from Monique Gristwood, executive assistant to the Vicar General in Melbourne. She rightly pointed out to me that, given our recent name change, my appointment as Parish Priest of Nazareth Catholic Parish was no more. The purpose of the call was to inform me that I would be receiving in the mail a signed letter of appointment from the Archbishop of Melbourne as Parish Priest of Damascus. A mere clerical matter in some ways, but encouraging nonetheless.

These letters of appointment always come with requirements on the part of the priest, namely the swearing of the Oath of Fidelity and the making of a Profession of Faith. These I pronounce, accompanied by a witness, with my right hand on God's Holy Gospels. The witness and I both sign them, date them, and send them back to the Vicar General.

This oath and profession express beautifully and concretely the mission of the Church, which is to teach, govern and sanctify. This mission is the responsibility of every Bishop and, by extension, every priest which he commissions in his diocese. By swearing these oaths, I bind myself to hold fast to the teachings of the church, to observe all ecclesiastical laws and to always preserve communion with the Catholic Church.

The mission of the church is not just the responsibility of us clerics, but one we all share. And the church has means by which us priests can be supported in their life and work for the good of the parish. The Code of Canon Law states that: *"If the diocesan bishop judges it opportune, a **pastoral council** is to be established in each parish; the parish priest presides over it, and through it the Christian faithful...can give their help in fostering pastoral activity."* (Canon 536 -§1)

To better align our parish with church law, I look to form a Parish Pastoral Council in the near future. This parish council will replace the Parish Leadership Team, which in light of recent events and discussions, has been brought to a close. I want to thank the members of that team - both past and present - for the time and energy put in to support this parish. May God bless them all.

In Christ,

Fr Joel.

PARISH NEWS

Mary Glowrey Catholic Primary School Information Evening.



Mary Glowrey
Catholic Primary
School

25th March 7pm - 7.45pm at Biyal-a Armstrong Creek Library. For further details, including enrolment enquiries, visit www.maryglowrey.catholic.edu.au

Later on this year, the Church will celebrate the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Pope Leo has proclaimed this year a major Franciscan

Jubilee Year, with various Masses, pilgrimages and events worldwide. St Francis embodies synodality through his radical listening to the Gospel, encounters with the marginalized and communal fraternity- core themes of the Synod. We are called through Catholic Social Teachings, Laudato Si and in the FD of the Synod to care the land, for each other and especially for the poor.



Damascus Parish Combined Choir - Rehearsal dates for the Easter Triduum 2026. All at St. Therese Church Torquay.

Friday March 20th 2026 - 5PM (for Holy Thursday)

Sunday March 22nd - 3PM (for Good Friday)

Friday March 27th - 5PM (For the Vigil)

All volunteers welcome. Contact Sherry Watson Ph: 0417 259 735.

Email: shezzawatto@gmail.com

Saint Joseph's Men's Dinner

Please find here an invite for men in your parish to the St Joseph's Men's Dinner on Thursday 19 March 2026 beginning with Holy Mass at 6.30pm at St Catherine of Sienna Parish, Caroline Springs, followed by dinner at West Waters, 10/20 Lake Street Caroline Springs. More information can be found [here](#). Please RSVP by Thursday 12 March 2026.

Third Sunday of Lent 7-8 March 2026

Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**



**UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY**

this Lent

Bulletin Email missing

Some parishioners using @hotmail, @outlook or @live email addresses may not be receiving the Parish Bulletin due to Microsoft blocking some bulk emails. If you would like to receive the bulletin, please resubscribe by scanning the QR code. We are working with IT on a longer-term solution. Thank you for your understanding.



Volunteers Needed for Holy Week Ceremonies

With Easter approaching (5 April), volunteers are needed for the Holy Week ceremonies - Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil (2-4 April), which will be celebrated at St Therese Church. Sign-up sheets are available in each of our three churches for parishioners willing to assist. Each church community has been allocated roles, and resources will be provided as needed. Please check your diary and add your name if you are available. *With thanks, Marg O'Byrne - Parish Liturgy Team*

First Reading:

Exodus 17:3-7

Responsorial

Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading:

Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the World; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 4:5-42



Daily Readings

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

Recent deaths:

Anniversaries who are at this

time: Bernard Keane, James 'Jim' O'Keeffe, Keira Healy

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR COMMUNITY

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 03 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 tagparish.com.au