

Nazareth Parish

CATHOLIC PARISH OF GROVEDALE TORQUAY & ANGLESEA

Nazareth Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Nazareth Parish acknowledges the Wadawurrung people who are the traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to the Elders past and present and emerging.

DECEMBER 22, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Weekly Mass Schedule

Dear parishioners,

In case you weren't aware, Christmas is almost upon us! I hope your work and school break-ups, shopping and other preparations have all gone well and continue to. Hopefully things aren't so busy that you haven't had a chance to pray a little bit. In the church's life, we are in the midst of the 8 days or 'Octave' in the lead up to Christmas. These days are marked with special antiphons (as all seasons are) which are little prayers and praises said or sung during our liturgies. The antiphons I refer to here are part of the Divine Office or Liturgy of the Hours, prayed by priests and religious daily and also lay people who have made it part of their spiritual life.

Here are a few of them that we have been praying in these days:

O stock of Jesse, you stand as a signal for the nations; kings fall silent before you whom the peoples acclaim. O Come to deliver us and do not delay.

O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel, controlling at your will the gate of heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.

O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: O Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man: Come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Saviour of all people: Come and set us free, Lord our God.

These antiphons really do bring home to us what Christmas really is about: God breaking into our world to rescue us from the slavery of sin and death and bringing us freedom and joy. It truly is the greatest gift we could ever receive.

With every blessing,
Fr Joel.

Saturday 6pm
St Christopher's Church, Anglesea
Sunday 9am
St Therese Church, Torquay
Sunday 11am
Nazareth Church, Grovedale
Sunday 5pm
St Therese Church, Torquay

Rosary Wednesday 9am
St Therese Church, Torquay
Wednesday 9.30am
St Therese Church, Torquay
Thursday 9.30am
Nazareth Church, Grovedale

Weekly Masses will continue as per usual throughout the Christmas /New Year period

Find us online

Website: tagparish.com.au

Facebook: [/nazarethcatholicparish](https://www.facebook.com/nazarethcatholicparish)

Email: grovedale@cam.org.au

Rosters available [here](#)

Stewardship *Thank you*

First collection—helps with all the costs related to running our parish—pastoral programs, wages, loan repayments, utilities, liturgy expenses etc.

Second collection—supports our parish priest and retired priests of the Archdiocese.

Tap n Go

Now available in the entrance of each Church, contributions go towards the first collection.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2024

DECEMBER 24TH

5pm St Therese Church, Torquay
7pm Nazareth Church, Grovedale
carols begin at 6.30pm
9pm St Therese Church, Torquay
carols begin at 8.45pm

DECEMBER 25TH

9am St Therese Church, Torquay
10.30am St Christopher's Church, Anglesea
11am Nazareth Church, Grovedale

Merry Christmas

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM END-OF-YEAR REPORT

The Parish Leadership team wish to keep our parishioners and community updated and informed. In this end of year report, you can see from our annual action plan several key areas that have progressed from our mid year report. You can access the report via the link below, and for those who prefer a hard copy, we have made them available for you to collect from the foyer of the Church. [Nazareth Parish Leadership Team End of Year Report](#)
Brian Keane & Greg Carty, Co-chairs Parish Leadership Team

2024 COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE

The raffle was drawn on December 7. 1st prize was sold in Holy Family Parish Mt. Waverley, 2nd Prize was sold Lifeboat Geelong, 3rd prize was sold St. Damian's Bundoora. Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets from our parish. Our involvement in raffle raised \$4,274 which will go towards funding operating costs of parish.

OUTREACH IN NAZARETH PARISH

Outreach is one of the five pillars that were established as a guide to the way in which the Parish operates. The Parish Leadership Charter states the purpose of this pillar is to actively work to shape a more just and compassionate society irrespective of age, gender or religion. It also helps facilitate education on matters relating to refugees, asylum seekers and indigenous, develop projects and deliver outcomes and advocacy by giving a voice to the vulnerable. In our Parish, Outreach is ministered through the work of St Vincent de Paul in both Torquay and Grovedale, school social justice programs operated within the 5 schools in our Parish and the Social Justice Group. Our guide should be the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. These principles help guide us on how we respond to the needs of the less fortunate, be they local needs or across the world. Through these principles, we can understand the breadth of the local, regional and global issues and where we can influence. In the new year, we will consider the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and how we as a Parish respond to these principles. For now, you might like to reflect on them at the link below in this Christmas time of giving. <https://cgcatholic.org.au/services-directory/councils-commissions/social-justice-commission/principles-of-catholic-social-teaching/>
Brian Keane & Greg Carty, Co-chairs Parish Leadership Team

CHAMBER PHILHARMONIA CONCERT

The Kammerphilharmonie Cologne are returning again in the new year. They will be performing at:
St Christopher's Church in Anglesea on Thursday 9th January 8pm and
St Therese Church in Torquay on Sunday 12th January at 1.30pm.
Tickets available to purchase at the door, cash only sales. \$45 adult, \$40 senior and \$35 student.

Thursday 9th January 2025 at 8pm Sunday 12th January 2025 at 1:30pm

ANGLESEA
ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

KAMMERPHILHARMONIE
KÖLN

TORQUAY
ST. THERESE'S CHURCH

VIVALDI
CONCERTI VIRTUOSI
Concerto for Violin, Strings and basso continuo »Winter«
Concerto A minor for Violoncello, String Orchestra RV 418

J.S. BACH
Concerto D minor for 2 Violins, Strings and b.c. BWV 1043

TCHAIKOVSKY
»Pezzo Capriccioso« for Violoncello and String Orchestra

PAGANINI
»Capriccio« for Violin and Orchestra

CHAMBER PHILHARMONIA COLOGNE
(Germany)

Sergey Didorenko * Violin Anton Georg Gölle * Violin Dmitriy Gornovskij * Violoncello

www.kpk-info.de

Tickets available at
St. Christopher's Church (concert Anglesea) respectively
St. Therese's Church (concert Torquay)
one hour prior to the concert (cash sales only)

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The parish office is now closed and will reopen Tuesday 7th Jan at 9am. For any urgent pastoral needs please call 9412 8443, alternatively call or email the parish office for non urgent matters and we will get back to you when we return.
Presbytery: 9412 8443
Office: 9412 8444
Email: grovedale@cam.org.au

PRAYING WITH POPE FRANCIS FOR PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Let us pray that this Jubilee strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

CHAPEL OPEN

Chapel access at St Therese Church is inline with the office hours. To gain access please come to the parish office door.
Office hours - 9am to 3pm
Tuesday to Friday.

HOME VISITS

If there are any parishioners who are sick or housebound and would like to receive communion and home visits. Please contact the Parish Office 9412 8444

First Reading Micah 5:1-4

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.
He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on
he will extend his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;

let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.
(R.)
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

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Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:39-45

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'



REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

There is always excitement at this time of the year. It is as if everything is filled with promise. Animosities are set aside; estrangement dissolves into reconciliation; the whole world seems gentler; and we are filled with the spirit of generosity. In the days just before Christmas, the possibility of newness is almost palpable. The spirit of the season has caught hold of us even before the actual day has arrived. Today we stand on the threshold of fulfilment. The future that God has prepared for us is open before us, even though we have not yet stepped out into it.

The incarnation takes place in human history, thus affirming the fundamental goodness of human life and concerns, and sanctifying them even further. The child comes from simple people, from a place that is relatively insignificant, thus underscoring God's preference for what is ordinary. The body that was offered for our salvation, the body that consecrated us through having been offered up, was the body that grew in the womb of Mary. The extraordinary salvific deed of God was accomplished through his coming into the world as one of us. The obedience that Christ played out through his body fulfilled for us the promises made by God.

We stand on the threshold of fulfilment, the fulfilment of an event that has already taken place. We ritually reenact it so that we never take it for granted, so that we never forget that it is in and through human history that the marvellous deeds of God are accomplished.

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Recent deaths:

Anniversaries who are at this time: *Michael Carmody, Wallace Brittain*

PRAYING FOR THE SICK IN OUR COMMUNITY *Maureen Murphy (Kevin Hunt 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 Priest

Fr Joel Peart: joel.peart@cam.org.au

Parish Staff:

Tracy Ford: tracy.ford@cam.org.au

Brian McMahon brian.mcmahon@cam.org.au
grovedale.liturgy@cam.org.au

Nazareth Parish Leadership Team

leadershipteam.grovedale@cam.org.au

Greg Carty	Natalie Egerton
Denise Arnel	Josh McElgunn
Brian Keane	Rosemary Malone
Tracy Ford	Paul Daffey
Paul Egan	Rosemary Featherston
Fr Joel Peart	Nnamdi Elege

Nazareth Safeguarding Committee

Marg Mahoney	—Chair person
Rosa Rebula	—Grovedale
Mari-Lou Haynes	—Torquay
Fran Findlay	—Anglesea

Parish Office

43a Surfcoast Highway, Torquay Vic 3228
Phone: 9412 8444
Email: grovedale@cam.org.au

Parish Presbytery

72 Marine Drive, Torquay Vic 3228
For any urgent pastoral need outside of the office hours please call the presbytery on 03 9412 8443

Our Parish Schools:

Nazareth Catholic Primary School

Griffith Street, Grovedale 3216

Principal: Reuben Johnson Phone: 5243 0502

St Therese Catholic Primary School

Grossmans Rd, Torquay 3228

Principal: Josh McElgunn Phone: 5261 4246

Lisieux Catholic Primary School

South Beach Rd, Torquay 3228

Principal: Susan Ryan Phone: 9089 6614

St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School

125 Warralily Boulevard, Armstrong Creek 3217.

Acting Principal: Allison Wedding Phone: 5264 5934

Iona College

242 Horseshoe Bend Rd, Charlemont 3217

Principal: Damian McKew Phone: 5229 0009

Home Visits / Communion at Home

Anglesea: Liz Clark 5263 1812

Grovedale: Jill Healy 5241 4070

Torquay: Annie Byrne-Phillips 0409 516 907

Bulletin Notices

Please have them to the Office by Wednesday evenings.

Email: grovedale@cam.org.au

Postal: 43a Surfcoast Highway, Torquay Vic 3228

Office Hours

Our hours are:- **Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.**

Outside of these hours, please leave a message and one of the staff will contact you when they are next in the office.

Office Closed on Public Holidays

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03 9412 8444



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