

Nazareth Parish Bulletin

A vibrant community, jour-

Parish office: 9412 8444
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www.tagparish.com.au



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.

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

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'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

Dear parishioners,

It was a couple of years back that I attended a talk given by a young man from Perth, Brother Sheldon Burke CRS, who is a professed religious and now an ordained priest. Praise God. The order he is a member of is the Order of Clerics Regular of Somasca, more commonly known as the Somascan Fathers. I confessed to Brother at the time, a little sheepishly, to have never heard of the order before. By the end of the talk I learned quite a bit about these Somascan Fathers.

The order was founded back in 1534 by Saint Jerome Emiliani, born in Venice in 1486. Jerome's father died when he was 15, and he subsequently ran away from home and joined the army. As you do. Fighting in defence of Castelnuovo during the Italian Wars, he was captured in battle by his enemies. Held fast in a dungeon, though he had neglected his faith for years, Jerome prayed fervently for divine assistance. That very night, Our Lady appeared to him. His chains fell away and he was able to escape. He took those chains, as part of a vow he made, to a shrine dedicated to Our Lady in Treviso, and left them before her in an act of thanksgiving.

Jerome returned to Venice to help care for and educate his nephews. It was during this time that the plague broke out. Jerome's charity abounded in his care and providing for the sick and starving - especially that of orphans - whose number had increased dramatically. Two priests joined him in his efforts, and there they had the beginnings of this new congregation. Jerome entrusted the order to the protection of Our Blessed Mother, the Holy Spirit and to the Archangel Raphael, the healer. In the ultimate act of compassion, Jerome ultimately contracted the disease of those he was caring for, and on February 9, 1537, went to his eternal reward.

St Jerome, perhaps because he had lost his father as a young boy, was determined to give these orphaned and abandoned children a father figure in their life who would care and provide for them. It was this that inspired Brother Sheldon to follow in his footsteps. In a society where many children grow up without their father to guide them - especially in the ways of faith - Brother Sheldon had this desire to provide abandoned souls with a reflection of the goodness and love of their heavenly Father. May God bless his work.

In Christ,
Fr Joel.

PS. If you're wondering why I bring this up now, February 8th was the feast day of St Jerome.



Unpacking Catholic Social Teaching

This week, we explore **Principle 3 of Catholic Social Teaching, Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**. It is very appropriate as this Sunday's reading is from Luke 6:17, 20-26. The Gospel tells us of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain, where He blesses the poor, hungry, and suffering while warning the rich and self-satisfied. Jesus directly blesses the poor and suffering, showing that God's kingdom belongs to them. The passage contrasts the blessed poor with the woes to the rich, emphasising that wealth should not lead to complacency. Jesus' words challenge us to be in solidarity with the poor, not just in charity but in advocating for systemic change.

The moral test of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members. The poor **and the poor in spirit** have the most urgent moral claim on the conscience of the nation. We are called to look at public policy decisions in terms of how they affect the poor. The "option for the poor," is not an adversarial slogan that pits one group or class against another. It states that the deprivation and powerlessness of the poor wounds the whole community. The option for the poor is an essential part of society's effort to achieve the common good. A healthy community can be achieved only if its members give special attention to those with special needs, to those who are poor and on the margins of society.

Catholic Social Teaching calls us to prioritise the needs of the poor and work to uplift them. This principle, Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, reminds us that society should not ignore the struggles of the vulnerable but actively seek justice and equity. Policies and decisions should consider their impact on the most disadvantaged first. We are encouraged to address both immediate needs (food, shelter, healthcare) and long-term solutions (education, fair wages).

Some further thoughts to consider:

Love your neighbour as yourself (Luke 10:27) Go and do likewise (Luke 10:30)

Causes of poverty: inequality, lack of work, land and housing, denial of social and labour rights, lack of care for the earth.

The measure of the greatness in society is found in the way they treat those most in need (Pope Francis 2013) "Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody... I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty, than the person who has nothing to eat." Mother Teresa

What can each of us do?

By living out this Gospel teaching, we fulfill Christ's call to love and serve the least among us. How do you see this principle playing out in your own life or community? We can think on three levels; Personal: Examine our lifestyles—are we attached

to wealth at the expense of helping others?

Community: What support initiatives that uplift the poor, like fair wages, access to healthcare, and

affordable housing can we address? Global: How can I advocate for policies that address systemic poverty and inequality. ~ Parish Leadership Team

Sense of the Faithful invite you to

The Synod and the Australian Church: Where to now?

Wednesday 19th February 2025 7.30pm



You are invited to participate in a webinar that will discuss the global *Synod 2021-2024* and its implications for the Australian Church.

Presenting are two Synod participants: Bishop Shane Mackinlay and Dr Sandie Cornish. Their presentations will focus on the final session of the universal Synod in October 2024 and its report *For a Synodal Church*. They will also highlight issues such as the role of women in the Church, the diversity of opinions across the global Church, and the scope of local autonomy. A key question is how the Australian Church will implement the results of the Synod and address the unresolved issues. There will be ample time for discussion.

Event Details

When: Wed 19th Feb

Time: 7.30pm

Where: Via Zoom

Cost: Free

Registration: To register, please [click here](#)

What's that word mean?

The word 'liturgy' comes from two Greek words meaning the 'work of the people.' We are reminded that when we gather ~~to worship it is the whole community that~~ participates. It is not simply the work of the priest and altar servers with the rest of the congregation looking on. The term 'eucharist' comes from the Greek word 'eucharistia' ('thanksgiving'). It was used in the early Church to refer to the entire celebration as well as to the consecrated bread and wine. The Mass is the greatest act of worship by which Christians give thanks for the salvation God has offered us through Jesus Christ.

Nazareth Parish Leadership Team Nominations

The Parish Leadership Team has been in place for 3 years having commenced in February of 2022. The original team consisted of:

Fr Linh, Rosemary Malone, Rosemary Featherston, Greg Carty, Natalie Egerton, Josh McElgunn, Paul Egan, Paul Daffey, Tracy Ford, Brian Keane, Fran Belleville.

During this time, Fran moved out of the Parish and was replaced by Nnamdi Elege, and Fr Linh has been replaced by Fr Joel.

In more recent times, both Josh and Natalie, who initially committed for 2 years and have now been part of the team for 3 years, have indicated that they will be handing over to other school-based leaders. Rosemary Malone has stepped down after 3 years of service.

A process has been established to seek nominations for the Leadership Team for the next 3 years.

Existing members may make themselves available for renomination for a further 3 years. There is an opportunity to appoint or reappoint 5 nominations to the Team. There is also a need to appoint a new parent representative from one of the Parish Schools.

Nominations are open from 16 February to 2 March.

For details of the requirements of members of the Leadership Team and the process refer to the link below:

- [Information Sheet](#)
- [Leadership Charter](#)
- [Nomination form](#)

If you require a printed copy of the information sheet and application form, you can either pick up at the Parish Office or from the welcome table at Mass.

Greg Carty and Brian Keane, Co-Chairs Parish Leadership Team

Are you a music minister?

As we begin this new year, we acknowledge that music matters. Every time someone (or a group) in our parish provides music, they're helping us to express our faith, process our emotions, and connect with God. Sometimes, the impact of a single song can touch a heart in ways we may never know.

Service as a volunteer music minister - whether as a music leader, instrument player or singer - is a beautiful gift to your congregation. As we enter this new year, may our music ministers find renewed joy in their calling, fresh energy for service, and deep satisfaction in facilitating worship through music. Perfection isn't the goal - faithful, heartfelt contribution is what truly matters. Thankyou to all who contribute.

In our parish we welcome new music contributions big or small! Please speak to one of the music leaders if you think you could contribute - instrumentally or in song. (Based on a recent article from Willow Digital Publishing.)

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8

Responsorial Psalm:

Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26



Click the link to be directed to the readings

DAILY READINGS

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Recent deaths:

Anniversaries who are at this time: *Bernie & Marie Janes, Ray Wardle & Sr. de Chantal (Honnie Wardle)*

PRAYING FOR THE SICK IN OUR COMMUNITY

Jim Carmody

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
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Parish Office

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Parish Presbytery

72 Marine Drive, Torquay Vic 3228

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.**

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

Office is Closed on Public Holidays

Bulletin Notices

Please submit them by Thursday mornings.

Email: grovedale@cam.org.au

Postal: 43a Surfcoast Highway, Torquay Vic 3228

Ash Wednesday

This Ash Wednesday, 5th March, there will be 3 Masses held in our parish.

9.30am at St Therese Church, Torquay,
11.30am at Nazareth Church, Grovedale and then 7pm at Nazareth Church, Grovedale. The earlier Masses may have students joining us from our Catholic schools.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Not a Celestial Joke!

Blessed are the poor? – the hungry? – those who mourn? What is Jesus doing in these Beatitudes?

Jesus was not a 'pie in the sky' dreamer saying: 'You are destitute, hungry now. Don't worry, you will be okay in paradise in the long distant future.' *That* would be a cruel celestial joke.

Rather, Jesus was setting about the task of creating a new sort of society, the Kingdom of God on earth, in which the destitute, the starving, the weeping, are *blessed* in the sense that they can expect their suffering to be alleviated, companions to be found in their distress.

The Divine imperative is that His followers break out of their comfort zone of plenty of money, full stomachs, much to laugh about. They must enter into the harsh reality of other people's destitute, starving, weeping lives. Woe to them if they do not.

Can Our Lord look into the heart of each one of us living in our comfortable world, and then with confidence turn to that *other* world and recite the Beatitudes?

We might pause for a moment, recognise that Jesus' credibility is on the line, and pray that His Father's will be done on *earth* as it is in Heaven.

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TAP N GO

Each of our 3 Churches has a permanent Tap n Go terminal set up in the foyer of the Church. These have helped increase the financial support for our Parish. They are easy to use and provide an alternative method when one doesn't carry cash or contribute already.



World Day of Prayer 2025 ~

Cook Islands

'I made you wonderful'

World Day of Prayer is an international Christian event that takes place of the first Friday of March each year. Last year, St Therese Church hosted this event. This year it is at Torquay Christian Fellowship. All are welcome.

Date and Time: Friday 7th March at 1pm

Location: Torquay Christian Fellowship

2 Pimelea Way, Torquay

Contact: Mel 0412 419 099

