

# Nazareth Parish Bulletin

A vibrant community, journeying with Jesus.

Parish office: 9412 8444  
grovedale@cam.org.au  
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.

## WEEKLY MASS TIMES

### St Christopher's Church, Bingley Pde, Anglesea

Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass  
Tuesday 9.30am Mass

### St Therese Church, Surfcoast Hwy, Torquay

Sunday 9am Mass  
Sunday 5pm Mass  
Wednesday 9am Rosary  
9.30am Mass  
Friday 9am Rosary  
9.30am Mass  
followed by prayers of  
adoration

### Nazareth Church, Griffith St, Grovedale

Sunday 11am Mass  
Thursday 9.30am Mass

## 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

### That the world might grow in compassion

Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.



Dear parishioners,

It was an email received a fortnight ago from our parish theology group that inspired this weekly message. It was titled "Time for Catholic Bishops to speak up for Palestine". I'm clearly not a bishop myself (spare us!) and I can't speak for them, but I'll put in my own two cents on the matter.

To be fair, the email title might be a little harsh. The former Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis, called repeatedly for a ceasefire and an end to the suffering of the people of Gaza. The then Holy Father made the effort every evening to call Holy Family Church - the only Catholic Church in the Gaza Strip - to check on their wellbeing and assure them of his prayers. God love him.

I appreciate local church leaders being apprehensive about weighing in on geopolitical matters, and highly partisan ones at that. But this goes beyond politics. When it comes to the death of innocent people there is no Liberal and Labor, Republican or Democrat. We're Christian. We believe in the dignity of the person. We ought to defend the sanctity of human life in every instance.

It goes without saying that what took place on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 was unspeakably evil. Over 1000 Israeli's being killed or taken hostage by Hamas thugs. Knowing that a brutal retaliation was being planned, the Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem signed a joint statement calling on Israel to avoid killing innocent people in their efforts to topple the listed terrorist group. It's reported that this infuriated Israel, who we now know seemed to be looking forward to the chance to indiscriminately bomb and shoot anything that moved in Gaza, home to 2 million people in a land not much bigger than Ballarat.

A year and a half on, the death toll in this place stands at 54,000. Most of those civilians and half of them women and children. If the goal was retaliation, then I think that's enough. But it seems the goal was never just retaliation but what we are seeing now: Israel committing a genocide of the Palestinians who are dying not just from bombs dropped from US-supplied fighter jets but disease and famine as well. Those that are left are about to be driven from their homeland.

I'll leave the final words to Pope Leo, from his general audience at St Peter's this past Wednesday: *"In the Gaza Strip, the intense cries are reaching Heaven more and more from mothers and fathers who hold tightly to the bodies of their dead children. To those responsible, I renew my appeal: stop the fighting. Liberate all the hostages. Completely respect humanitarian law."*

In Christ,  
Fr Joel.

### Introducing the Parish Leadership Team 2025/26

In February, parishioners were invited to nominate candidates for the Parish Leadership Team, with the previous team having served for three years. While some changes occurred over that time, the members as of February included: Fr Joel Peart, Denise Arnel, Rosemary Fetherson, Greg Carty, Natalie Egerton, Josh McElgunn, Paul Egan, Paul Daffey, Tracy Ford, Nnamdi Elege, and Brian Keane.

A Nominations Committee — comprising the Parish Priest and the Chairs of the Finance and Advisory Committees — oversaw the selection process. There were five open positions in addition to the ex-officio roles held by Fr Joel (Parish Priest), Paul Daffey (Finance Chair), Denise Arnel (Advisory Chair), Tracy Ford (Parish Administrator), and a School Principal Representative.

We are pleased to welcome Nath Owen, the new principal of St Catherine of Siena School, as the School Principal Representative, and Adam Coustley, Deputy Principal at Nazareth School and a school parent, as the School Parent Representative. With no additional nominations, returning members Rosemary Fetherson, Greg Carty, Paul Egan and Brian Keane have been reappointed.

In breaking news, Nnamdi and family are moving to Queensland, hence there remains a vacancy for someone specifically connected to the Nazareth Grovedale community. There will be more on this soon.

Updated bios and photos of all members will soon be available to help you connect with your Parish Leadership Team. Please keep them in your prayers, that they may be guided by the light of Christ as they lead our parish forward.

Fr Joel Peart                      Brian Keane & Greg Carty  
Parish Priest                      Co-chairs Parish Leadership Team

### Message from the Parish Leadership Team

The Parish Leadership Team met on Wednesday last week. As part of the agenda, we heard from the Finance Committee about the Parish's longer-term financial needs. Following this discussion, the Leadership Team identified two key purposes for future fundraising efforts:

To support and strengthen the Parish's financial sustainability.

To build connections across the entire Parish community—including all age groups, backgrounds, church congregations, and our school communities.

To help achieve these goals, we are looking to form a **Community Social Committee**. This group would plan and coordinate events that both raise funds and foster stronger relationships within our Parish.

We invite you to consider how you might be involved - especially if you haven't had the chance to contribute before. Your time, ideas, and enthusiasm can make a real difference.

If you're interested or would like to learn more, please speak with a member of the Leadership Team or email us at:

📧 [Leadershipteam.grovedale@cam.org.au](mailto:Leadershipteam.grovedale@cam.org.au)

Warm regards, Brian Keane and Greg Carty  
Co-chairs, Parish Leadership Team

### First Reading:

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

### Responsorial Psalm:

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

### Second Reading:

Ephesians 1:17-23

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

### Gospel: Luke 24:46-53

*Click the link to be directed to the reading of the day, scroll down or on the right to select a different day*

## DAILY READINGS

### PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

**Recent deaths:** *George Draper, Ruth Hurst, Denise Hutchison, Alan Foss*

**Anniversaries who are at this time:**

### PRAYING FOR THE 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 Priest

Fr Joel Peart: [joel.peart@cam.org.au](mailto:joel.peart@cam.org.au)

### Parish Staff:

Tracy Ford: [tracy.ford@cam.org.au](mailto:tracy.ford@cam.org.au)

Brian McMahon [brian.mcmahon@cam.org.au](mailto:brian.mcmahon@cam.org.au)  
[grovedale.liturgy@cam.org.au](mailto:grovedale.liturgy@cam.org.au)

Leadership team [leadershipteam.grovedale@cam.org.au](mailto:leadershipteam.grovedale@cam.org.au)

### Parish Office

43a Surfcoast Highway, Torquay Vic 3228

Phone: 9412 8444

Email: [grovedale@cam.org.au](mailto:grovedale@cam.org.au)

### 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.**

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](mailto:grovedale@cam.org.au)

Postal: 43a Surfcoast Highway, Torquay Vic 3228

**Mannagum Family Group** members shared stories of their family connections at a Torquay home gathering last Sunday.

Hosts Irene and Peter's lineage traced back to Peter Lalor, one of the two leaders of the Eureka Rebellion.

Mari-Lou and Michael shared the history of their country of origin, the Philippines, and Keiran and Margaret told of growing up in Western Victorian farming communities.

Dom and Olive recalled a month-long immigration voyage from Ireland with three children aged under four.

Rosemary and Ed told how 10 years ago they discovered they had not two, but 20 cousins still living in the UK and Ireland.

The group's next event on Monday, June 16, is Soup and Sandwiches with Kay and Michael Slater.



**St Vinnies Torquay** conference are providing a collection point in the foyer of St Therese Church for any non-perishable food donations. This collection point is maintained by Vinnies to help provide for Torquay Food Aid and Feed Me Surfcoast. Thank you.

**Parish Mass Counts** have now concluded, thank you to those who helped record the counts each week. We have increased our weekly average number of attendees by approximately 50 people compared to this time last year.

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.



Sign up to receive the weekly bulletin via email by visiting our website [tagparish.com.au](http://tagparish.com.au) or scan the QR code.



### **REFLECTION** by Fr Michael Tate

#### **Heaven and Earth are full of your Glory**

Our Risen Lord knew that we are naturally, collectively human-centric. He withdrew His risen mode of appearance (what we call 'the Ascension') to make it clear that the whole Universe, including planet Earth, is filled with the presence and power radiating out from his Risen Humanity.

As St Paul wrote in the Epistle to the Romans: 'Creation still retains the hope of being freed from its slavery to decay, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God.' How is the Risen Lord beginning to fulfil this hope?

At Mass, fractions of creation – the Bread and Wine consecrated for Holy Communion – are transformed into the Real Presence of the Risen Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer III begins with: 'You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise...' How can all creation give God praise? As the ancient church used to teach: Each of you is a microcosm of the macrocosm, called to be a priest for the Cosmos. Through your enlightened mind and inflamed heart, the Cosmos knows that it exists and that it is loved by its Creator. It is beginning to share the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We could pause for a moment, stop staring into Heaven, and ready ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit so as to be what St Paul calls 'the Church which is His Body in whom the *fullness* of creation dwells'.

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

### **Gospel Focus – A message for all people**

One of the defining features of the Gospel of Luke is the fact that the message preached and practised by Jesus made salvation available to all people. At times in the gospel some of the Jewish audience became quite angry at Jesus because he said that pagans and gentiles were also included in the salvation he promised – something they regarded as exclusive to the 'chosen' people. The two accounts of the Ascension make very clear that the message and ministry of Jesus are to be carried to *all* nations – even to the ends of the earth!

