

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

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 Mass

Reconciliation

30 minutes prior to

Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 11am Mass

Sunday 5pm 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,

On Wednesday of this past week, the Archdiocese held a consultation session for the clergy of parishes in the Geelong sub-region. We gathered at St Mary of the Angels in Geelong and we were joined by our Western Region Bishop Martin Ashe, Vicar General for the Archdiocese Fr Tony Kerin, strategy co-ordinator Cath Garner and Change Management Lead Suzette Diaz from the Archdiocesan 'Take the Way of the Gospel' team.

The day was aimed at looking to the future to determine what changes and new practices might need to take place to best serve the mission in this part of our Archdiocese. No concrete decisions were made on Wednesday, but it sounds like there will be in the not-too-distant future regarding the structure and make up of our parish and its churches.

The session began with a study of each parish and its profile, complete with data and analytics. After the group looked over and discussed our parish of Nazareth, I wasn't too sure if I should feel hopeful and excited or mildly depressed.

With a Catholic population of approximately 15,000, Nazareth Parish has the highest number of baptised Catholics in the region. It also has the youngest demographic, with a median age of 39 years. Assuming the religious affiliation percentage remains steady from the 2021 census, the Catholic population is forecast to nearly double to 25,000 in the next 10 years. Which all sounds great. The average mass count peaked at 484 people in 2024, which represents only 3% of the Catholic population. That practice rate is the lowest in the region. If you're wondering how this compares more broadly, the average across the archdiocese is 9%. Like a number of parishes in our region, mass attendance here is significantly skewed to the older age groups, with 43% of mass goers over the age of 70.

It's of no surprise then that the message being preached to us from up top is to be on a "missionary footing"; which the church should always be on, but when the going is tough it's easy to get caught flat-footed.

It's a good weekend to be reminded of the great commission we've been given by Christ: to go out and proclaim the Gospel to all people. St Peter and Paul were heroic in virtue and tireless in their efforts. But they both knew that any good they achieved was not due to their own means but through the power of Christ and the grace of the Spirit. Something all of us have been given.

With peace,

Fr Joel.

An invitation to come home

As part of the Year of Jubilee, the Parish Leadership Team are launching an appeal to reach out to anyone who might be considering coming back to the Church.

Do you know someone who has been away from the Church for a short or a long while, and is thinking of returning? You might like to extend an invitation to join our community. Tell them we have missed them and that our church is just not the same without them.

Regardless of why they left, they can always come home, the invitation is there and everyone is welcome at our table.

If they left because they have been wounded by the Church, remind them of the words of Pope Francis, that the Church is like a field hospital. It is called to heal, to cure.

"The mission of the Church is to heal the wounds of the heart, to open doors, to free people, to say that God is good."

Please feel welcome to come home.



Parish Advisory Team

Over the past years, the Nazareth Parish Advisory Team would meet several times a year to advise the parish priest on church matters and support him in his ministry. It was formed by Fr Linh, who clearly found this group to be of great benefit to him and his leading of this community. After some discernment, I've decided to disband the group. I was initially happy to continue the meetings in my first several months here, but what Fr Linh found helpful during his time at the parish hasn't translated in the same way to me. It is something I may revisit in the future if the need arises. I want to thank all the members who have generously provided their time in supporting this group and us priests over the years: Greg Carty, Marie Emmitt, Paul Daffey and Brian Keane. Special thanks to Denise Arnel, who chaired the group so well.

With every blessing, Fr Joel.

Half year report

The Nazareth Parish Leadership Team's half-year report is now available. You can read the full report online via the link on our website. A limited number of hardcopies will also be available after Mass this weekend. [Mid Year Report 2025](#)

Volunteers needed

Nazareth Church Grovedale is calling for volunteers to help with Sunday Liturgies, with urgent needs in roles like Data Projection, Baptism Welcoming, and Collecting, as well as support needed across several other ministries. All volunteers must hold a Working with Children Check, and training is provided—please consider lending a hand to support our parish community.

Stewardship envelopes

Envelopes for July to October are now available for collection in church foyer. Thank you everyone for your ongoing support of the parish. If you have any issues or wish to make any changes please reach out to Brian McMahon our Parish Finance Office on Tuesday's and Wednesday's.

First Reading:

Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord set me free from all my fears.

Second Reading:

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Gospel Acclamation:

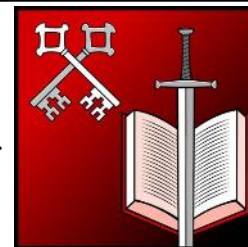
Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19

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:

Anniversaries who are at this time: *Connie Tantaro, Helena Kardel*

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

Parish Staff:

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

Brian McMahon brian.mcmahon@cam.org.au

grovedale.liturgy@cam.org.au

Leadership team leadershipteam.grovedale@cam.org.au

Parish Office

43a Surfcoast Highway, Torquay Vic 3228

Phone: 9412 8444

Email: 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

Sign up to receive the weekly bulletin via email by visiting our website tagparish.com.au or scan the QR code.

