

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 8, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

On Tuesday the 3rd of December the church celebrated the feast of St Francis Xavier. Xavier, a great saint in his own right, is special to us here in Australia and to our parish. In 1844, our country was placed under the patronage of Our Lady Help of Christians. As a new mission in a hostile environment, it was thought necessary to have the most powerful intercessor on our side. Alongside our mother Mary to help from heaven were St Francis Xavier and St Therese of Lisieux, as they are both patrons of missionaries. Thank God for their prayers and protection.

In 1542, Xavier wrote a letter to his friend and Jesuit founder, St Ignatius of Loyola from his missionary post in Goa, India. It's a stirring piece. He writes: *"We have visited the villages of the new converts who accepted the Christian religion a few years ago. The native Christians have no priests, they know only that they are Christians. There is nobody to say Mass for them; nobody to teach them the Creed, the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Commandments of God's Law.*

I have not stopped since the day I arrived. I conscientiously made the rounds of the villages. I bathed in the sacred waters all the children who had not yet been baptized. The older children would not let me say my Office or eat or sleep until I taught them one prayer or another. Then I began to understand: "The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." I taught them, first the confession of faith in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, then the Apostles' Creed, the Our Father and Hail Mary. I noticed among them persons of great intelligence. If only someone could educate them in the Christian way of life, I have no doubt that they would make excellent Christians. Many, many people hereabouts are not becoming Christians for one reason only: there is nobody to make them Christians."

St Francis' frustration is palpable and something I think we could relate to. Like he, we are baptising large numbers of children. Like those he was ministering to, I'm not sure many of our young Christians would know the Creed or the Commandments either. No one is saying Mass for them because they wouldn't know to turn up.

Don't be discouraged though. The coastal regions where St Francis preached is now home to over 10 million Catholics. As St Paul reminds the Church: we might get knocked down, but we are never defeated.

With every blessing,

Fr Joel.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL GROVEDALE CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Grovedale St Vincent de Paul will be giving some client families food vouchers for Christmas. Due to COVID and dietary requirements, the vouchers are more suitable than food items. There will be a leaving collection after Mass this Sunday 8th December. Thank you for your continued support.

Bob Healy 5241 4070

Weekly Mass Schedule

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

Reconciliation:

After Mass during the week or by appointment

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.

ANGLESEA FOODLINK

Each year at this time we put together a food hamper with a small gift for some families, couples and singles in our community. These are folk who have gone beyond doing it tough and are struggling to get by day to day. Our giving tree is loaded with tags. Please take one, read on the back what is requested and return your gifts either this Saturday 7th or 14th December with the tag attached. We are packing on the 19th December. This is a great opportunity to spread the hope and joy of the Christmas season.



END OF YEAR SCHOOL MASSES

As we approach the end of the year, our Parish schools are preparing for their End of Year Masses. Last Thursday, Iona College celebrated their end of year Mass for the first time in their newly expanded school stadium, with approximately 900 students in attendance. This coming week, St. Therese Primary will join us for a whole school Mass on Wednesday morning at 9:30am at St Therese Church, and everyone is welcome. St. Catherine's will also be holding their Mass at school on the same day. On Thursday morning, Nazareth Primary School will have half of their students attending the 9:30am Mass, followed by an additional Mass at 11:30am to accommodate their larger school community. Finally, Lisieux Primary will conclude the week with their end of year Mass at their school on Friday morning. We look forward to celebrating these special occasions together.

FAITH AND LIGHT FRIENDS GEELONG COMMUNITY

Join us for our Christmas gathering on Wednesday, December 18th, at St Mary's, Yarra St, in the downstairs rooms. The afternoon will be filled with friendship, sharing, and joyful activities, including a Gospel activity, songs, and shared prayers. We'll also enjoy a festive afternoon tea and small gifts.

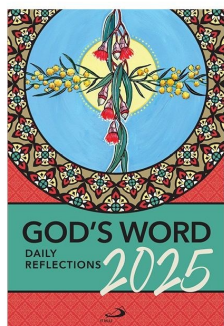
This community is for those individuals with disabilities, their families, carers, and friends. We warmly welcome new members!

Theme: Embracing the Spirit of The Nativity

RSVP is essential: Please contact Tricia O'Keeffe at 0414 672 267 or visit our website at www.faihandlight.org.

RENAMING OUR PARISH

The Nazareth Parish Leadership Team met on Wednesday 4th of December and are pleased to advise that Fr Joel has now forwarded to the Archbishop the outcome of voting by the Parish in this process. In all, 222 people cast a vote and the two leading names with the highest number of votes were: Damascus Parish (30% of the vote) and Galilee Parish (22% of the vote). Fr Joel and the Leadership Team have therefore requested the Archbishop's approval to rename the Parish: Damascus Parish. The Leadership Team looks forward to announcing the final outcome and asks for your ongoing prayers in this process.



WORD OF GOD 2025

We have for sale in our book nook and on display Word of God diaries for 2025 from St Paul's Publishing. These books have the scripture readings and spiritual reflections for every day of the year. Great to use as a simple missal to follow at Mass, or to turn to daily as a way to meditate and reflect on God's word. They are priced at \$20.

**NAZARETH CATHOLIC PARISH
CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2024**

DECEMBER 24TH
5pm St Therese Church, Torquay
7pm Nazareth Church, Grovedale
carols begin at 6.45pm
9pm St Therese Church, Torquay

DECEMBER 25TH
9am St Therese Church, Torquay
10.30am St Christopher's Church, Anglesea
11am Nazareth Church, Grovedale

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 Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.
 Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
 put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
 wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
 put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:
 since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,
 since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.
 Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east:
 see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.
 Though they left you on foot,
 with enemies for an escort,
 now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory.
 For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
 the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.
 And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade
 for Israel at the command of God;
 for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
 with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.

(R.)

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. (R.)

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. (R.)

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing:
 they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. (R.)

Second Reading Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.
 Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!
 Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
 all people shall see the salvation of God.
 Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

All people shall see the salvation of God. In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Iturea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:
 A voice cries in the wilderness;
 Prepare a way for the Lord,
 make his paths straight.
 Every valley will be filled in,
 every mountain and hill be laid low,
 winding ways will be straightened
 and rough roads made smooth.
 And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate
We are John the Baptists

Do we have to be like John the Baptist, eccentrically dressed and scavenging for food, to prepare the way of the Lord? No. You and I are called to be a John or Joan the Baptist, preparing people's hearts in our own time and place.

But we have to allow God to prepare *our* hearts for this role. John the Baptist challenges us to 'Repent', i.e. to turn around our own lives seeking God's forgiveness. John then challenges us to see the big picture which is that 'All who live shall see the salvation of God'.

Pope Francis is the exemplary universal pastor inspiring us to become 'les misericifuls sans frontieres'. And young people through social media are already saying 'We are one community of human beings on this fragile planet'.

The challenge for most of us is more immediate and apparently of smaller scope. The challenge this Advent is to identify the one person whose heart you can help prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord Jesus in three weeks' time. The best method is to let that person see your faith and joy centred on that little Jewish baby lying in a manger.

Do that, and who knows what may happen because that little baby is in fact the Sovereign Lord of history and of the whole cosmos. With God's grace, you don't have to be as eccentric or bizarre as John the Baptist to play your part in changing the course of history!

We could take a moment to pray that, repenting of our own sins where necessary, we may prepare the heart of at least one person so that the Lord Jesus may enter in this Christmas, helping him fulfil his mission that all who live shall see the salvation of God.

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PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Recent deaths:

Anniversaries who are at this time: *Ina Slater, Christine Crook, Danuta Sowulewski*

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

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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