

**NAZARETH PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM END YEAR REPORT:
DECEMBER 2024**



Dear Parishioners,

Further to the report provided in June 2024 the Nazareth Parish Leadership Team wish to provide the following update. The Team has met six times in 2024. Over the last 6 months, the Parish has been in a state of transition. Fr Linh was absent for nearly two months, taking a sabbatical as well as some personal leave. With Fr Linh departing in late September, we then welcomed Fr Joel who has been getting to know the Parish over the last two and a half months.

The following is an update on the previous report:

Invitation of children from Parish Schools to contribute to singing/music at Sunday Masses.	There have been some slight changes achieved since June. Several children took part in the Mass celebrating Fr Linh's time as our Parish Priest, singing the Irish Blessing for Fr Linh at the conclusion of Mass.
Ongoing work with Finance Committee and Advisory Team on Parish strategic planning.	Approval to subdivide the land containing the former office has been granted subject to some conditions. Work is continuing meeting those conditions with an expectation the land will be ready for sale by mid-2025.
Improvements in Parish communication: digitally and through website review.	Regarding renaming our Parish: A process has been undertaken with full transparency of the necessary actions. Two names have been submitted (most popular votes) to the Archbishop in late November. After approval of the name is conferred, a logo will be developed to match the name.
Planning to welcome and engage new families, particularly in Armstrong Creek.	The Leadership Team has deferred seeking suggestions for welcoming new families in Armstrong Creek into 2025.
Planning to hold Mass at Iona: for community and school families.	Sunday Mass at Iona was trialled on the third Sunday of each month throughout 2024. Fr Joel has decided to cancel Mass there and add a new Mass time at 5pm Sundays in Torquay. Fr Joel has also tweaked Mass times for St Therese's and Nazareth churches by starting both 15 and 30 minutes respectively later than was previously the case.
Ongoing commitment to supporting the Parish Safeguarding Committee and Parish compliance.	Mari-Lou Haynes has taken up the role from Rosemary Malone. We thank Rosemary for the diligent work over many years.
Work with the data gained from the 2023 Parish Renewal Programme, including new volunteers to assist in various groups and ministries.	Volunteers have been integrated into the various ministries, however, there remains an urgent and ongoing need for more volunteers.
Consider options for sharing with neighbouring Parishes.	No change at this point.

Synod on Synodality

Following submission of the Parish's report to the Archdiocese, a Melbourne report has been submitted to the Bishops which in turn fed into the Australian report. The Leadership Team has received a copy of the Melbourne Archdiocese submission to the Bishops' Conference. This will be shared with all in coming weeks.

Fr Linh's Farewell

A subcommittee of the Leadership Team, which included Tracy Ford, Maree Smart and Rosie Francombe oversaw the farewell. It was a wonderful Parish farewell with over 400 people attending on 22 September. Thanks to all those who contributed to making the day a memorable one for Fr Linh.

Action Plans for 2024/5

The Leadership Team, now that we have moved back into a more stable state, will re-engage with some matters that have not been enacted as we had planned. Our Action Plan will be updated for 2025 and will look to move on the things with the highest priority in the new year.

On behalf of the Leadership, we thank everyone for the encouragement and support provided to the Team through most challenging times with our Community and the Catholic Church. We wish you a peaceful and blessed Christmas and a healthy and safe 2025.

Brian Keane and Greg Carty

Co-chairs Nazareth Parish Leadership Team