

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.

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 the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.



Dear Parishioners,

I know the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord was last weekend, but I came across an interesting piece during the week that I thought I'd share. It's related to baptism because it is about water, the necessary element which the church uses to baptise. The article was from a fellow priest reflecting on the works of a philosopher and biologist regarding the world, seeking to show that the universe is certainly the work of intelligent design and not a random event of chance. Here are some of the amazing properties of something most of us understandably take for granted!

Most substances get denser and heavier as they get colder, but ice floats. If lakes, rivers, oceans froze from the bottom up, it would destroy the ecosystem. As it is, the ice barrier on top protects and insulates the life underneath from the extreme cold. Water can absorb a lot of heat without getting hot itself, making it a great coolant. The 326 quintillion gallons on the earth's surface stabilises the earth's temperature.

Water also does not compress easily. Even a mile under the ocean, water's volume only compresses by 1% and so even at incredible depths, it won't compress to a solid. It is also remarkable that water can exist in all three states (liquid, solid and gas) in naturally occurring atmospheric pressures.

Water's viscosity and surface tension is just right to allow it run quickly down rivers and yet also be just abrasive enough to erode rocks. This, together with the ability of water to dissolve substances into it, means that water can carry the minerals from mountains a long way into lands allowing for soils, plants and animals to thrive.

Lastly is water's amazing relationship with the sun. Single-celled organisms, algae, in the sea are essential to life on earth. They turn sunlight into energy, so they need seawater to transmit sunlight. The sun emits an enormously wide spectrum of electromagnetic energy. It is so wide, that if a playing card represented one type, you would need a line of cards that stretches from earth to the Andromeda, the galaxy *beyond* the Milky Way. Sunlight represents just a few of those cards, but quite fortuitously, that makes up for 70% of the sun's energy! Seawater absorbs almost all of that vasty spectrum of energy, except for sunlight, which is allowed to pass through it. By enabling it to pass through, biological life is able to live in the sea and sustain the earth. It's quite mind blowing.

For a theological interpretation on all that: Through the waters of baptism may the light of Christ penetrate our inmost being and give us life.

God bless,
Fr Joel

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Unsung Heroes

Today's gospel ends: 'He let his glory *be seen.*' Where? In a nondescript Galilean village at a wedding feast about to become a disaster for the couple. The wine is running out. A fiasco is impending. A hero was needed to step in and save the situation. Jesus and Mary are good candidates for hero status.

But, it is the servants who are the unsung heroes. They take a huge risk. They are going to look utterly stupid if they give the steward water to ladle out. Nevertheless, they follow the stranger's directions exactly and end up serving the best of wines, saving the couple from terrible embarrassment.

The Divine Glory is not going to enter people's lives with great pyrotechnics. Rather, when we do as Jesus requires, even if it looks ridiculous to the crowd, His healing and enhancing Presence can enter and save a situation of apparent disaster.

We could pause for a moment to pray for a certain naïve trust in the Lord as we follow his directions, so that Cana may enter someone's life, so that His glory may be seen.

Calling All Volunteers for Baptisms and the Sacramental Program

Are you looking for a meaningful way to serve our community? We invite you to lend a helping hand with our Baptismal and Sacramental programs. We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to be on a roster to help with Baptism's on Sunday afternoons at both Nazareth and St. Therese Church. Your role will include helping to set up for Baptism ceremonies and warmly welcoming families as they arrive.

Additionally, we need support for our Sacramental program, assisting our existing volunteers to ensure a smooth and enriching experience for all participants. If you're interested in making a positive impact and being part of these important celebrations, please reach out to us. Your willingness to serve will be greatly valued by our parish community. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

Why we do the things we do?

On Sundays we celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead. According to the biblical story, on the seventh day God rested having completed the creation of the world. Appropriately, on the first day of the week Christians commemorate the 'new creation': the renewal of the world through Christ's loving sacrifice. Traditionally Christians approach this day as a day of worship and celebration, focusing on their faith community and their family. This Sunday, take time out to give extra emphasis to this celebration. (E.g., Spend time with your children, take a walk with a friend, prayerfully review the Sunday readings.)

First Reading:

Isaiah 62:1-5

Responsorial Psalm:

Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

John 2:1-11



PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Recent deaths: *Eugene Cullity*

Anniversaries who are at this time:

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

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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