

Nazareth Parish Bulletin

A vibrant community, journeying with Jesus.

Parish office: 9412 8444
grovedale@cam.org.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 vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

Dear parishioners,

As the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. The holidays are over and it was officially back to school for the staff and students of our parish - and across the state - on Thursday. I asked a little one about to start prep the other day how they felt about it all.

"Are you excited to start school?"

"Yeah"

"Do you wish you could be on holidays longer?"

"Yeah".

It wouldn't seem to make sense but I'm sure all of us can relate. All work and no play make Jack a dull boy. I'm not sure what all play and no work make Jack, but it's probably something similar.

It was one of the consequences of the fall that man was consigned to work. "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your bread, until you return to the ground..." (Gen 3:19) As human beings living in God's world, we now need to 'earn our keep' as it were; to pull our weight and contribute. St Paul extends this injunction in his letter to the Thessalonians, condemning those who sit around idle. "He who does not work, let him not eat" (2 Thess 3:10). It's a harsh reality. It would be easy to see work as a curse and something to disdain. I'm sure we all have our moments when this sentiment rises up. But like all creation, work has been redeemed and can become part of our means to salvation. St John Paul II in his encyclical *Laborem Exercens* writes, "Work is a good thing for man – a good thing for his humanity – because through work man not only transforms nature, adapting it to his own needs, but he also achieves fulfillment as a human being".

Our attitude really can change everything. If we see work as the means to a pay cheque or something to be endured until the next weekend or holiday, then it will get depressing. But if we see our labour as something that cooperates with God as Creator and is done at the service of our neighbour, it then fulfills the law of charity and will become a source of life for ourselves and those around us.

With every blessing,

Fr Joel.

Next week, our four Catholic primary schools will celebrate their beginning-of-year Masses. On Wednesday, St Therese Primary School will join us at St Therese Church at 9:30am. Later that morning, Fr Joel will visit St Catherine's Primary School to celebrate their Mass on site. Thursday, the junior classes at Nazareth Primary School will gather at Nazareth Church for their first Mass at 9:30am, followed by the senior classes at 11:30am. The week will conclude with Lisieux Primary School hosting their end-of-year Mass on Friday morning.



Unpacking Social Catholic Teaching

This week we commence delving into the first principle of Catholic Social Teaching. Today's gospel highlights that Joseph and Mary are law abiding Jews who are following the customs required of them to present the child to the temple. There is no fanfare and no special event, but Simeon recognises that he is being presented with the child saviour. He also foretells Mary that she will suffer great pain during her life. As Catholics we follow many similar customs and regulations, but Jesus also challenged how people lived their lives, how they treated 'the other.' Through his actions and words, he demonstrated we have much more to do to live as Christians. Catholic Social Teaching provides a coherent and accessible articulation of how we should treat others.

The first principle considers the dignity of the human person.

Principle 1 - Dignity of the Human Person

Belief in the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all Catholic social teaching. Human life is sacred, and the dignity of the human person is the starting point for a moral vision for society. This principle is grounded in the idea that the person is made in the image of God. The person is the clearest reflection of God among us.

Some readings for consideration:

All of you are one in Christ Jesus (Gal 3:28)

You shall love your neighbour as yourself (Mk 12:31)

The wellspring of human dignity and fraternity is in the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Fratelli Tutti N 277)

Some statistics to consider:

800 million people do not have enough food to eat.

2 billion people do not have access to safely managed drinking water.

Brother Olly Pickett of Wheelchairs for Kids is the 2025 Senior Australian of the Year

Do you know people who are not treated with dignity – locally and around the world? What can you do about it? What are you going to do?

Consider joining the local Vinnies Chapter, giving to our Lenten appeals, or joining the Parish Social Justice Group? ~ Parish Leadership Team

The 2025 Jubilee Year is a time of renewal and reconciliation that takes place every 25 years.

The theme of the 2025 Jubilee Year is "Pilgrims of Hope".

The Jubilee Year began on Christmas Eve 2024 when Pope Francis symbolically opened the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica.



Torquay Bowls Club are having a Community Day on Sunday 2nd of March 2025 from 10am-2pm. There will be a free outdoor BBQ lunch, opportunity to try bowls for adults, children and all abilities, facepainting, a wild life show, activities area and Music. All welcome to come along.

First Reading:

Malachi 3:1-4

Responsorial Psalm:

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Second Reading:

Hebrews 2:14-18

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Luke 2:22-40



PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Recent deaths:

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

Fr Joel Peart: joel.peart@cam.org.au

Parish Staff:

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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