

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,
Bingley Pde, Anglesea
Saturday 6pm
Tuesday 9.30am

St Therese Church,
Surfcoast Hwy, Torquay
Sunday 9am
Sunday 5pm
Wednesday *Rosary* 9am
Wednesday 9.30am
Friday 9.30am

Nazareth Church,
Griffith St, Grovedale
Sunday 11am
Thursday 9.30am

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 families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Dear Parishioners,

With the encouragement of the Parish Leadership Team, I thought it would be timely to provide an update on where the process of re-naming our parish is at. As you are likely aware by now, after a diligent process the name **Damascus** emerged as the overarching name for our parish, previously known as Nazareth. There has been some emails and comments from people that aren't particularly happy with the name, which is understandable. You can't please everyone! I'll admit that I bristled a little initially too. But I'm relieved to say that it's grown on me quite a bit. I sat down with our regional Bishop Martin Ashe recently and he had a similar experience. "Damascus?!" was the reply shot back when I told him the new name. But after a little more discussion, and reflections on the significance of it in the life of the great missionary St Paul and the early church, he warmed very much to it. I hope you all do too!

Unlike me, Bishop Martin has undergone the process of renaming a cluster of three churches forming one parish. As parish priest there, he brought together Whittlesea, Mernda and Kinglake churches under the banner of *Christ the Light Parish* in 2012. He was therefore able to offer some helpful guidance as to how the process unfolds.

The submission to rename the parish will be put forward by me at our next Western Region Council of Priests meeting later this month. From there, our regional representatives Fr Jim Clarke (St Mary's Geelong) and Fr Binh Le (Holy Trinity, Laverton and Point Cook) will table it at the *Archbishop's* Council of Priests meeting next month. Unless there is staunch opposition to the name from any members of the council or the Archbishop himself, it will be approved.

As we continue along this path of renaming and renewal, I'll be sure to keep you updated. In the meantime, it would be fitting for us to remember our brothers and sisters in faith currently living in this ancient city in Syria. Between Islamist rebel groups and bombs from Israeli fighter jets, their situation is dire. May the church there remain steadfast in faith and may all in that war torn land come to know the love and peace of the Nazarene, Jesus Christ Our Lord.

With every blessing,
Fr Joel.



Unpacking Catholic Social Teaching – Week 8 -

Principle 7: Stewardship of God's Creation

Sunday's Gospel (Luke 9:28 – 36) describes the Transfiguration of Jesus, where He takes Peter, James, and John up a mountain to pray. There, His appearance changes, and He is seen in glory with Moses and Elijah. A cloud overshadows them, and a voice from heaven declares, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" The event reveals Jesus' divine nature and His connection to God's plan of salvation. The Catholic Social Teaching principle of **Stewardship of God's Creation** teaches that humans are called to care for the earth and use its resources responsibly. This principle is rooted in the belief that creation is a gift from God and that people must protect and sustain it for future generations. In the Transfiguration, Jesus' divine glory is revealed, demonstrating God's presence and power. Similarly, stewardship acknowledges that creation reflects God's glory, and we are called to respect and care for it as a divine gift.

The voice from the cloud commands the disciples to "listen to Him." Stewardship involves listening to God's will regarding creation, ensuring that we use natural resources wisely and protect the environment. The Transfiguration symbolises transformation and renewal. Stewardship also calls for a transformation in human attitudes and actions, moving from exploitation to responsible care for creation. Just as the disciples witness the holiness of Jesus, stewardship recognises the sacredness of all creation, urging respect for nature, human life, and the interconnectedness of all living things. Luke's Gospel and the principle of Stewardship of God's Creation both emphasise recognising God's presence, whether in Jesus' divine glory or in creation. They both call for **listening to God, transformation, and responsible action** in how we relate to God's gifts. By caring for creation, we honour God's glory, just as the disciples were called to recognise and honour Jesus. The goods of the earth are gifts from God, and they are intended by God for the benefit of everyone. There is a "social mortgage" that guides our use of the world's goods, and we have a responsibility to care for these goods as stewards and trustees, not as mere consumers and users. How we treat the environment is a measure of our stewardship, a sign of our respect for the Creator.

Further References

"The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small—and for destroying those who destroy the earth. (Revelation 11:18)

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have

received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

Caring for our planet is essential for our spiritual and physical well-being. The Bible encourages us to appreciate, respect, and protect the earth's beauty and resources.

What can I do to be a steward of God's creation and ensure its sustainability?

How might we reach out and support those effected by the recent unprecedented weather events in Queensland and New South Wales?

~ Parish Leadership Team

Invitation for Ministry Meeting

All Grovedale, Torquay and Anglesea Parish Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Ministers of The Word, are invited to attend an

**In-service with Fr Joel on
Wednesday, 19th March at 6.00pm
At St Therese Church, Torquay.**

Duration is expected to be for one hour. This is an opportunity for Fr Joel to share with you how he would like the above Ministries to be done at our three community churches.

Acacia Passionist Family Group

Our first outing for this year is as follows:
Luncheon at Fyansford Hotel (car pooling available)
Date: Thursday 27th March 2025
Time: 12:30pm Lunch.
Host: Maureen Wasley 0419 117 974
RSVP: 24th March important for booking—New members welcome

Anglesea Combined Churches Service 30th March 2025 @ 9.00am

On behalf of the Anglesea Association of Christian Churches, the Anglican Church of the Transfiguration is hosting the Catholic, Baptist and Uniting congregations at their Sunday service on 30th March at 9.00am. Please come along and share our common faith and belief. We look forward to seeing you at the Anglican Church in Camp Road opposite the Anglesea Hotel.

Following on after this church service, you are all invited to share in an Inter Church BBQ Lunch and fellowship at the Uniting Church in Murch Crescent. When: Sunday 30th March, 11.30am for 12noon lunch. Even if you cannot make it to the church service you are still welcome to join the BBQ lunch. Everything supplied and ALL welcome.

Nazareth Parish Year of Jubilee 2025

In this Year of Jubilee, Pope Francis asks us to “find suitable ways for the Holy Year to be planned and celebrated with deep faith, lively hope and active charity.”

Over the past few weeks, we have been reflecting on the Catholic Social Teachings and the Scripture Readings, asking us to consider how we can actively seek justice and equality, locally and globally. Here are two small ways, we as a Parish can contribute to those in our community who might need some assistance at this time.

Gift vouchers. Over the next few weeks, when you go shopping, you might pop a small gift voucher in with your groceries and then add it to the collection when you come to Mass. These will be given to St. Vincent de Paul’s to distribute to families who are in need. Or maybe you have a voucher sitting in your purse? Or in a drawer at home? All vouchers accepted, just add them to any collection.

Thank you to everyone who has been able to contribute, every donation makes a difference. The items that have been particularly useful are the gift cards, as well as the non-perishable items of food and toiletries.



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Second Sunday of Lent 15th and 16th of March 2025

Toefuata'iga - (Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah) a primary school student from Samoa faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her primary school now has a 10,000 L water tank. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education.



Photo credit: Caritas Australia

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father’s voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36



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: *Predy Polancos Dark*

Anniversaries who are at this time:

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

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