

## NAZARETH PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM – HALF YEAR REPORT: JUNE 2025

**NAZARETH** Grovedale  
**PARISH** Torquay  
Angelsea  
Armstrong Creek

Dear Parishioners,

Further to the report provided in December 2024 the Nazareth Parish Leadership Team wish to provide the following update. The Team has met three times this half year. Over the last 6 months, the Leadership Team has been reforming after there were some changes of personnel. Two new members are Adam Coustley (Parent representative) and Nath Owen (school Principal representative). As reported in the Parish Bulletin the following people were reappointed; Paul Egan, Rosemary Featherson, Nnamdi Elege, Greg Carty and Brian Keane. Since this announcement, Nnamdi has advised that he and his family are moving interstate, hence a vacancy exists potentially for someone in the northern region of the Parish.

The focus has been on planning and developing activities as part of Pope Francis' Jubilee Year – The Year of Hope. Fr Joel continues to adjust the operations of the Parish to meet the needs of the community.

The following is an update on the previous report:

Jubilee Year – participation by our Parish	The Leadership Team have engaged the Year of Hope initially via an outreach theme. A project was run through Lent, inviting the community to donate food, clothing, toiletries and money for those in need. Multiple bags of clothing, toiletries and non-perishable food were passed on to various charitable organisations as well as a collection of \$855 in gift vouchers provided to St Vincent De Paul. Overall, a wonderful contribution across the Parish.
Catholic Social Teaching Project	For 12 weeks, the Leadership Team led a project that unpacked the principles of Catholic Social teaching. Each week, a principle was examined to help us understand how the principles can be applied. To complete the project a booklet was prepared summarising all the articles with an invitation for our community to consider joining St Vincent De Paul Society here in our Parish or consider how we might play an active role in social justice. The response was somewhat disappointing, but the offer remains open anyone who would like to become further involved in the Parish. The link to the booklet is at: <a href="https://tagparish.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Catholic-Social-Teaching_compressed.pdf">https://tagparish.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Catholic-Social-Teaching_compressed.pdf</a>
Invitation of children from Parish Schools to contribute to singing/music at Sunday Masses.	With two new members of the Leadership Team who are part of the parish education programs, there are some plans developing for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of the year to include children's liturgies into the Masses. The planning is embryonic at this stage.
Ongoing work with Finance Committee and Advisory Team on Parish strategic planning.	Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) has been involved in a further investigation of the land at Grovedale for use within the school campus. While not yet settled, there is an "in principle" agreement about

the transfer from Parish to MACS use. the Parish will be compensated for the transfer in due course.

Following a traffic incident at the Parish House last year, repairs have finally been completed. Sincere thanks are owed to Fred Vahland who spent considerable time pursuing the necessary people to complete the repairs.

An invitation has also been extended to the community to consider becoming involved in a Parish Social/Fundraising Committee. This will be developed in the next quarter.

Improvements in Parish communication: digitally and through website review.

Two names were submitted (most popular votes) to the Archbishop in November 2024. At the time of writing, name change has not been appropriately considered hence no approval provided. Subject to approval, a logo will be developed to match the name.

Planning to welcome and engage new families, particularly in Armstrong Creek.

Fr Joel has cancelled the monthly Sunday Mass at Armstrong Creek. New parishioners can either attend Mass at Grovedale or Torquay. Fr Joel has also introduced a 5pm Sunday Mass at St Therese's and additional weekday Masses.

Consider options for sharing with neighbouring Parishes.

No change at this point.

Synod on Synodality

The Melbourne Archdiocese submission to the Bishops' Conference has been shared with the community earlier this year. There is nothing further to report at this stage.

Development of a Book Resource at St Therese's Church.

A pilot programme is under way to establish a book resource for St Therese Church. Publications covering faith, spirituality, reflection, meditation and the Saints are to be included. Once the project is refined it will be extended to Nazareth and St Christopher's churches.

On behalf of the Leadership Team, we thank you for your ongoing encouragement and support. We continue to welcome anyone who has time to spare to volunteer for the many tasks here within our Parish. Just check in with the Parish Office and they will be most helpful in providing further information.

Brian Keane and Greg Carty

Co-chairs Nazareth Parish Leadership Team