

Nazareth Parish Bulletin

A vibrant community, journeying with Jesus.

Parish office: 9412 8444
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www.tagparish.com.au

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY • 14 SEP 2025
WE ARE A SAFE, HOPE-FILLED AND WELCOMING CHURCH



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

Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass
Tuesday 9.30am Mass

St Therese Church

Sunday 9am Mass
Sunday 5pm Mass
Wednesday 9am Rosary
Wednesday 9.30am Mass
Friday 9am Rosary
9.30am Mass

followed by prayers of adoration

Nazareth Church

Sunday 11am Mass
Thursday 9.30am Mass

CONFESSION

St Christophers Church

Saturday 5.30pm—6pm

Nazareth Church

Sunday 10.30am—11am

St Therese Church

Sunday 4.30 pm—5pm

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

POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS

For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.



Social Justice Group – Nazareth Parish

The Social Justice Group has been active at Nazareth Parish for over 11 years. It was originally founded on these core principles:

- As a Christian community, we are part of the Body of Christ, and through baptism, we become the hands of God in our world.
- Following the teachings of Jesus, and as an outcome of our baptism, we are committed to justice and the support of the vulnerable, the marginalised, and the oppressed.
- The Social Justice Group identifies, initiates, structures, and manages social justice activities within Nazareth Parish.
- All activities reflect the informed and educated views of parishioners.

These activities may be local, national, or international in focus.

Over the years, the Group has led the Parish in a range of initiatives, including fundraising, overseas visits, and spiritual support for the Catholic community in Kon Tum, Vietnam. It has organised pilgrimages, community social events, and hosted guest speakers on topics such as asylum seekers, refugees, and Indigenous issues.

Since mid-2023, the Group has not formally met. However, members remain deeply committed to addressing social justice issues—locally, nationally, and globally.

To support a potential relaunch, the Leadership Team prepared a series of 12 articles, shared during Lent, focusing on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Following this series, parishioners were invited to consider joining or re-engaging with the Social Justice Group. You can read more about the Social Justice Group and Catholic Social Teachings at our web site at:

<https://tagparish.com.au/nazareth-social-justice/>

Given ongoing injustices, we encourage you to consider how you can act on Jesus' teachings. If you're interested in being part of the Social Justice Group, please contact the Parish Office.

~ The Parish Leadership Team

Jubilee Year Celebration at Nazareth Parish – “Pilgrims of Hope”

In 2025, our parish joined countless others around the world in celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope. The tradition of the Jubilee traces back to the Old Testament, where every 50 years, the Israelites were called to restore justice by forgiving debts, freeing the enslaved, returning misappropriated land, and letting the land rest, a reminder that all ultimately belongs to God, including the Promised Land itself.

Pope Francis chose the message: “Hope does not disappoint.” His successor, Pope Leo XIV, continued this encouragement for the church, reminding us that the virtue of hope is a real force that carries us, especially when confronted with life's trials and hardships. Nazareth Parish has embraced the Jubilee Year with a year-long program structured around four expressions of hope; each tied to a season of the liturgical year. An update of our [Parish's actions](#) are included at end of this bulletin for your information and ongoing participation.

~ The Parish Leadership Team



Safeguarding Sunday

Sunday 14th September

Next weekend we will mark

Safeguarding Sunday, a time to reflect on our shared responsibility to care for and protect those who are most vulnerable in our community. As

a parish, we are called to be a safe, welcoming, and hope-filled place for all.

There will be Children's Liturgy at both the 9am Mass at St Therese Church and 11am Mass at Nazareth Church.

Anniversary Ordination

Friday 12th September marks 10 years for Fr Joel since becoming a priest. A small celebration to mark this occasion will follow each Mass next weekend.

Jubilee Mass with Archbishop Peter at

Holy Trinity Church, Queenscliff

You are warmly invited to a very special occasion at Holy Trinity Church as we welcome Archbishop Peter to our parish, in celebration of the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025. This Mass will also be a wonderful opportunity to honour and celebrate Father's Day together as a community.

Sunday, 7 September 2025, 11:00 AM, Holy Trinity Church, Queenscliff

Following the Mass, please stay and join us for a friendly cuppa and light refreshments as we give thanks for the fathers, grandfathers, and father figures in our lives.

[Holy Trinity Church Queenscliff welcomes... | Melbourne Catholic](#)



ACACIA family group—Grovedale

September gathering— Thursday 25/9/2025

QUEENSCLIFFE CHURCH VISIT & LUNCH

All welcome to join us to visit the historic 1867 Holy Trinity Catholic Church at Stevens Street, the only Church in the Geelong area dedicated for Jubilee.

Meeting there at 12 noon, we will have a time of prayer, followed by light lunch in the Parish Hall.

Dietary needs catered for RSVP by Sunday 14th Sept. Enquiries: Tricia O'Keeffe 0414 672 267

ALPHA 2025 at Bell Park Parish

Monday nights starting September 15th at 7pm—Parish Community Centre, 147 Separation St, Bell Park. Cost? Its FREE. To register, please contact the Parish office on 5278 1343 or email bellpark@cam.org.au

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year C 7th September 2025

First Reading:

Wisdom 9:13-18

Responsorial Psalm:

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Second Reading:

Philemon 9-10, 12-17

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

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: *Monica Baker (Gerry Fleming's Mother)*

Anniversaries who are at this time: *Kaz Kardel, Brian Carty, Marian Scarrabelotti*

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

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Parish Staff:

Tracy Ford: tracy.ford@cam.org.au

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Parish Office

43a Surfcoast Highway, Torquay Vic 3228

Phone: 9412 8444 Email: grovedale@cam.org.au

Parish Presbytery

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

Sign up to receive the weekly bulletin via email by visiting our website tagparish.com.au or scan the QR code.



Jubilee Year Celebration at Nazareth Parish – “Pilgrims of Hope”

Background

In 2025, our parish joined countless others around the world in celebrating the **Jubilee Year of Hope**. The tradition of the Jubilee traces back to the Old Testament, where every 50 years, the Israelites were called to restore justice by forgiving debts, freeing the enslaved, returning misappropriated land, and letting the land rest, a reminder that all ultimately belongs to God, including the Promised Land itself.

The first official Church Jubilee was declared in 1300 by Pope Boniface VIII and has since been celebrated every 25 years. Each Jubilee is guided by a theme initiated by the Holy Father. For 2025, **Pope Francis** chose the message: “**Hope does not disappoint.**” His successor, **Pope Leo XIV**, continued this encouragement for the church, reminding us that the virtue of hope is a real force that carries us, especially when confronted with life's trials and hardships. It helps us to rediscover the transformative power of God's love, which kindles in our hearts the promise of salvation through Christ.

What Does It Mean to Be Pilgrims of Hope?

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop once said, “*We are but travellers here.*” Echoing this, Pope Francis calls us to become “**Pilgrims of Hope**”, not merely people passing through, but joyful travellers on a spiritual journey toward our heavenly home.

How Our Parish Is Living This Hope

Nazareth Parish has embraced the Jubilee Year with a year-long program structured around **four expressions of hope**; each tied to a season of the liturgical year:

1. **Hope for those less fortunate** – Focused on Catholic Social Teaching during Lent.
2. **Hope for a sustainable Church in our community** – Rebuilding participation in the sacraments and inviting back those who have drifted away.
3. **Hope for the young people in our community** – Recognising the important role of our youth and schools.
4. **Hope for inclusiveness across our community** – encouraging people from all backgrounds and cultures to celebrate our faith as we approach Christmas.

Putting Hope into Action

1. Hope for the Less Fortunate

During Lent, our Parish focused on social justice, grounded in Catholic Social Teaching. This wasn't just a time for reflection; it was a call to action.

As reported in our June mid-year update:

Jubilee Year – Parish Participation

The Leadership Team launched an outreach initiative, inviting parishioners to donate food, clothing, toiletries, and money for those in need. The response was overwhelmingly generous:

- *Multiple bags of clothing, non-perishable food, and toiletries were donated to local charities.*
- *\$855 in gift vouchers were given to St Vincent de Paul.*

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed.

2. Hope for a Sustainable Church Community

This theme invited people to reconnect with the Church—especially those who have been away.

Speakers Denise Arnel, Paul Egan, and Adam Coustley shared powerful reflections during Sunday Masses in June and July. A public invitation was published across parish channels along the following lines:

An Invitation to Come Home

As part of the Jubilee Year, our Parish Leadership Team extends a heartfelt invitation to anyone considering a return to the Church.

Do you know someone who's been away—whether for a short time or many years? Invite them to come back. Let them know they've been missed. Our Church is not the same without them.

If someone left because they were hurt by the Church, remind them of Pope Francis' words: "The Church is like a field hospital. Its mission is to heal wounds, open doors, and say that God is good."

Everyone is welcome at our table.

3. Hope for Our Young People (Upcoming)

We are currently developing this third theme, which celebrates the hope we see in our youth.

Leaders from our parish schools are inviting staff, students, and families to take part in two special Jubilee Masses:

- **Sunday, 9 November at 9:00am – St Therese's Church, Torquay**
- **Sunday, 16 November at 11:00am – Nazareth Church, Grovedale**

These liturgies will encourage the participation of our young people through prayer, music, readings, and service. We are excited to share this Jubilee moment with our school communities and are grateful for your support in nurturing hope among our next generation.

4. Hope for Inclusiveness in Our Community (Advent Focus)

Our final theme, leading into Advent and Christmas, will celebrate and remind us of the universal call to every person to know and love God.

This season will be an opportunity to:

- Support those less fortunate,
- Collaborate with other faith and cultural communities,
- Deepen the bonds within our parish,
- Celebrate with youth and young families.

We hope these events will reflect the full diversity and beauty of our community.

Looking Ahead

As we move toward the end of the Jubilee Year, we thank you for your generous participation and invite you to continue walking with us as **Pilgrims of Hope**. In a world marked by uncertainty, let's finish this year with **renewed faith, deeper connection, and enduring optimism**.