

Nazareth Parish Bulletin

A vibrant community, journeying with Jesus.

Parish office: 9412 8444
grovedale@cam.org.au
www.tagparish.com.au



Safeguarding

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

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 office: 9412 8444

POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Dear Parishioners,

It was an inspiration from our secretary, Tracy, that got this parish initiative off the ground. With children of her own in our parish schools, she noticed that at the end of the year awards are given for many categories—art, sport, various academic disciplines and more. So why not one from the parish for a student who makes a real effort in the area of faith and religion? I thought it was a great idea, and so the Nazareth Catholic Parish award for **"Excellence in Virtue"** was born. It recognises a student *"for outstanding efforts in religious education, devotion to faith, and living out the love of Jesus in our community."*

I'm glad to say it was readily embraced by each of our four parish primary schools. Guided by our criteria, the principals were confident in nominating worthy winners, we look forward to announcing the winner next week once they have been presented at the end of year school assemblies over the coming week.

It is a slightly strange thing to give an award that puts a spotlight on someone's virtue when the foundational virtue on which all others are built is humility. We could well be filling these kids with spiritual pride and setting them on the road to perdition! Jokes aside, I do think this will be encouraging for both the individuals and the whole student body. Children see what is valued and praised, and they respond positively. It's really not that complicated.

I think here of the writings of St Gregory Nazianzen, reflecting on his friendship with St Basil the Great. He writes of their joint pursuit of wisdom: *"This is an ambition especially subject to envy. Yet between us there was no envy. On the contrary, we made capital out of our rivalry. Our rivalry consisted, not in seeking the first place for oneself but in yielding it to the other, for we each looked on the other's success as his own."*

That is what true charity is: willing the good of another, spurring them on, and celebrating their achievements as a win for the whole community. As simple as it is, it sends a message to our students and families that living out the faith in this parish is not just words in a brochure, but something we take seriously and recognise.

In Christ,
Fr Joel.



Anglesea Foodlink

Each year at this time we put together a food hamper with a small gift for some families, couples, and singles in our community.

These are folk who have gone beyond doing it tough & are struggling to get by day by day. Our giving tree is loaded with tags Please take one or two, read what is requested & return your gifts either next Sat. night or on Sat. Dec.13th. Any special Christmas foods would also be appreciated. A great opportunity to spread the hope & joy of Christmas.

Choir Practice for the 9pm Mass on Christmas Eve at St Therese, Torquay will occur on Thursday Dec 18th at 5pm. New singers and musicians welcome. Contact Sherry Watson 0417 259 735 by Monday December 14th.

Vacuuming Volunteers Needed for St Therese Church

We are seeking new volunteers to join the vacuuming roster at St Therese Church. When you are rostered on for a month, we ask that you come in at least twice during that month to vacuum the entire Church. For one person, this usually takes around two hours, though it can be quicker if working with a partner.

At present, volunteers are rostered on twice a year, and we hope to welcome more helpers so we can reduce how often each person is needed. Your support would be greatly appreciated and will help keep our Church clean and welcoming for all. If you are able to assist, please call or email the parish office. A new roster will be issued in January.

Torquay St Vincent de Paul THANKS!

We offer huge thanks and appreciation to all our parishioners who very generously supported our recent Christmas Appeal with cash donations totalling \$3923.65 as well as Gift Cards valuing \$665. You have made a great difference to many families and we are thrilled with the response. Some recipient families have already shared their heartfelt gratitude and thanks. SVDP Conference Torquay.

Next week's bulletin will be our last edition for the year before a short break. The first edition for 2026 is expected the weekend of 18th Jan.

First Reading:

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading:

James 5:7-10

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

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: Ted Darcy, Theo Reyntjes

Anniversaries who are at this time: John Byrne, Kevin Leddin

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:

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Parish Office

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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.



NAZARETH PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2025

DECEMBER 24TH

5pm St Therese Church, Torquay

7pm Nazareth Church, Grovedale
carols begin at 6.45pm

9pm St Therese Church, Torquay
carols begin at 8.40pm

DECEMBER 25TH

9am St Therese Church, Torquay

10.30am St Christopher's Church, Anglesea

11am Nazareth Church, Grovedale

MERRY

Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

