

## NAZARETH PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM – YEAR END REPORT: DECEMBER 2025

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

Dear Parishioners,

Further to the report provided in June 2025, the Nazareth Parish Leadership Team wish to provide the following update. The Team has met three times this half year. Over the last 5 months, the Leadership Team has been focusing on opportunities to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope. The Team has been grateful for the addition of Adam Coustley (Parent representative) and Nath Owen (school Principal representative). Both have been major contributors especially bringing school families into focus. We continue to seek a representative to join the Leadership team from the Grovedale/Armstrong Creek area.

The following is an update on the previous report:

Jubilee Year – participation by our Parish

The Team have continued to engage in the Jubilee Year of Hope. The themes continued in the second half of the year. **“Hope for a sustainable church community”** invited people to reconnect with the Church for those who no longer attend. Parishioners were asked to reach out to someone they know who is part of their community has been but no longer attends and invite them back. **“Hope for Young People”** was behind the invitation for our school families to be actively involved in the liturgy. See report below. The last theme for the year of **“Hope for inclusiveness in our community,”** linked to interfaith connections. A planned Ecumenical Gathering for St Therese Church was unable to proceed. Instead, parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend Ecumenical Gatherings at Angelsea on 30 November and 3 December.

Ongoing support for the less fortunate continues with the promotion and support of St Vincent de Paul appeal for cash and gift cards. Our Parish Christmas Cards, including some great artwork from the children from all Parish Schools, features as an opportunity for parishioners and school families to extend the invitation to attend Christmas Masses and someone they know to share the peace, love and hope of Christmas.

Catholic Social Teaching Project

Following on from the project in the first half of the year, parishioners were invited to volunteer to support the St Vincent de Paul Society and the Social Justice Group. Unfortunately, interest expressed was minimal. For those interested in an ongoing conversation on social justice, you can request access on WhatsApp to a group called “Catholic Parish Social Justice Forum.”

Invitation of children from Parish Schools to contribute to singing/music at Sunday Masses.

As part of the Jubilee Year, Masses were celebrated at St Therese Church 9.00am on 9 November and at Nazareth Church 11.00am on 16 November. Both Masses were well attended by families and staff from all Parish Schools and the children participated beautifully in the singing and other parts of the liturgy.

Ongoing work with Finance Committee.

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) has purchased the land previously used as the Parish office.

An invitation, extended to the community to consider becoming involved in a Parish Social/Fundraising Committee met with little success.

Improvements in Parish communication: digitally and through website review.

The Archbishop has indicated acceptance of the name Damascus Parish. We are still awaiting formal approval. Subject to receiving that approval, a logo will be developed to match the name.

Call for Volunteers.

Seeking volunteers continues to be a challenge. We have had no success with a social/fundraising committee or social justice support. A Grovedale/Armstrong Creek Leadership representative is being followed up on.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the many jobs across the Parish is invited to contact the Parish Office on 94128444. Maintenance, cleaning, liturgy, social activities, home visits are just some of the opportunities to name a few.

Consider options for sharing with neighbouring Parishes.

No change at this point.

Synod on Synodality

The Leadership Team will continue promoting the Implementation of Synodality with regular updates in the Parish Bulletin. A Parish formation event is to be planned for the new year to further progress synodal growth in our Parish.

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

The book resource centre for St Therese Church is up and running and proving to be successful. The option to extend into Nazareth and St Christopher's churches is still being explored.

On behalf of the Team, we thank everyone who provides encouragement, support, and prayers for the Leadership Team. There continues to be most challenging times within our Community and the Catholic Church. We wish you a peaceful and blessed Christmas and a healthy and safe 2026.

Brian Keane and Greg Carty

Co-chairs Nazareth Parish Leadership Team