



## St Michael's Parish, Traralgon

St Michael's Church, Traralgon

St Columbkille's Church, Glengarry

**St Michael's Vision Statement:** Inspired by Jesus Christ, we are a welcoming Catholic Community seeking to enrich lives. Come and join us!

**St Michael's Mission Statement:**

To provide opportunities for parishioners –

- to grow in holiness
- to discover and live out their personal and community call to mission to live as Catholics who effectively transform society.

www.smpt.org.au  
 email:  
 traralgon@cdsale.org.au

**Statement of Commitment to the safety of children and vulnerable adults:** Central to the mission of St Michael's and St Mary's Parishes is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children, young people and vulnerable adults and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

### St Michael's Parish Information

**Fr Francis Otobo** Parish Priest  
 Parish Centre 5174 2060  
 Priests' Residence: 5174 6765  
**Sr Doreen Dagne RSJ** 5174 9997  
**Monsignor John Allman**  
 O'Mara House 5174 9674  
**St Michael's Parish Office 5174 2060**  
 35 Kay Street, Traralgon  
 PO Box 103, Traralgon 3844  
 Office hours –  
 Tuesday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm  
 Parish Secretary: Mrs Bev O'Brien  
 Email: sec@smpt.org.au  
 Sacraments Admin: Mrs Jenifer Hanratty  
 Email: sacraments@smpt.org.au

**After office hours** - in case of emergency, please call 5174 2060 and leave your details on the message service.

**Baptisms:** Four weeks notice required  
**Weddings:** Six months notice required

**Parish Pastoral Council:** Greg Imhagwe Chairperson, Fr Francis, Sr Doreen, Kevin Taylor, Ray Moretti, Amanda Reid, Jenifer Hanratty, Steve Kimani, Marita Kennedy, Rob Tarraran, Jodie Ware, Ros Joyner, Doug Doherty and Bev O'Brien.

**Our Schools:**

**St Gabriel's School** 5174 5515  
 Principal: Mrs Roslyn Joyner  
**St Michael's School** 5174 3295  
 Principal: Mrs Jodie Ware  
**Lavalla Catholic College** 5174 5272  
 Principal: Mr John Freeman  
 Kildare Campus 5174 8111  
 St Paul's Campus 5174 7355

### New Testament Reflection

**by Mary Coloe PBVM**

**God, I'll believe if ...John 20:19-31**

*"Doubt no longer but believe."*

Thomas' role in the Easter narrative is to reveal how hard faith is. No matter what the other disciples say Thomas cannot change death to resurrection without certain criteria being met. He places conditions on God – 'I need to see the holes and touch the living body.'

Real faith means letting go such conditions. We are challenged to surrender our human doubts, our expectations, and our normal rational systems of proof. The other disciples come to faith when they actually see Jesus; this is what Thomas asks for – sight of the Risen One. Jesus doesn't rebuke Thomas, but he speaks words of blessing for those who can go beyond Thomas and believe without seeing him – for those who will believe without conditions.

Today we do not have the risen Jesus visible in our midst, as did those first disciples. Like the Beloved Disciple in last Sunday's Gospel, we are called to have faith in more subtle signs. We have the written testimony of those first believers, we have the living witness of other Christians today, and we have those divine stirrings in our own lives inviting rather than compelling belief. At the end of the Gospel, the evangelist turns to us to say, 'I have written these things so that you may believe and have life.' In this way, the evangelist speaks to his first century readers and across the centuries to us.

Jesus also seems to turn aside from the disciples and gaze into the future centuries to the many who come after,

and Jesus' final words are addressed to these future believers. 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.' This is our blessing.

Creation symbolism continues with the specific time references: the 'first day' and 'eight days later,' which are associated with the dawn of a new creation. The old creation was completed on the seventh day; the eighth day is the first day of a new creation. You might notice that many baptismal fonts and baptisteries have eight sides to signify that in baptism we are reborn into a new creation.

When speaking about the Christian 'Sabbath,' an ancient writer wrote – 'not the Sabbaths of the present era ... but that which I have appointed to mark the end of the world and to usher in the eighth day, that is, the dawn of another world.' This, by the way, is why we joyfully celebrate the eighth day – the same day on which Jesus rose from the dead. (Ep. Barn. 15:8-9)

When Jesus comes to the disciples, this is the first time that they are sent on mission. Where the Synoptics have Jesus send the disciples on mission while Jesus' own ministry continues, in John, their mission begins in the post-resurrection time. With the gift of the Spirit breathed onto them, they are sent to continue the mission of Jesus in the world. 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you. ... Receive the Holy Spirit.' (20:21, 22). There are two aspects of this mission. They are sent to forgive sin (20:23), and to gather people: 'whoever you hold, are held' (20:23)

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## SUNDAY MASS TIMES

<b>Saturday</b>	6.00pm	St Michael's Traralgon
<b>Sunday</b>	9:30am	St Michael's Traralgon
	10:00am	St Columbkille's Glengarry
	6:00 pm	St Michael's Traralgon

## WEEKDAY LITURGY TIMES

### **April 09 to 14**

<b>Mon 09</b>	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word
<b>Tues 10</b>	9:30am	Mass
<b>Weds 11</b>	11:00am	Exposition
	12:00pm	Mass
<b>Thurs 12</b>	9:30am	Mass
<b>Fri 13</b>	10:30am	Mass, Bupa Care
<b>Sat 14</b>	9.30am	Mass, Reconciliation
	6:00pm	Mass

**Rosary:** Tuesday to Sunday 30 minutes before Mass.

**Reconciliation:** Saturdays 10:15am & 5:30pm or any time by arrangement with Father.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** We remember those who have died recently, including Graeme Carney and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Michelle Lappin, Denis O'Brien, Helen Henning, Dino D'Angelo and Monika Dyblik.

***Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.***

## WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

including Joan Riggall, Joe Agostino, Fr Bernard Buckley Joan Lamont, May O'Reilly, Brian Vivian, Graham Carney, Dorothy Buckland, Lee Allman, Joy Cahill, Cornelia Bakker, Dot Mulquiney, Ivy May, Celie Smith, Maria Alessandrini, Joyce Martin, Marie Howard, Robert Hazelman, Fr Frank Freeman, Carolyn Gleeson, Gary Donchi, Ann Lapuh and Fr Frank Young.



## THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

### **Weds 11**

**7:00pm** Risk Management Team Meeting, Parish Centre

### **Thus 12**

**1:00pm** Knights of the Southern Cross

**BAPTISMS:** This weekend, we welcome for Baptism –

Nina Eloise **Cassidy**, daughter of Jeremy & Jessica: Ella Rae **Cummins**, daughter of Adam &



Sonia: Harrison Alexander **Fabris**, son of Leigh & Claire: Alex **Harris**, son of Owen & Abigail: Archer Lee and Leo Jerry **Riess**, sons of Stephen & Alana: and Sophie Grace **Taylor**, daughter of Nick & Emily.

Congratulations to the families, from us all. The next meeting for those preparing for Baptism is on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7:00pm in the Parish Centre.** Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 for further information.

**OFFICE CLOSED** The Parish Office will only be open for minimal hours over the School Holidays, whilst our hardworking support staff have a break.

The office will be open on the Fridays of the school holidays from 9:30am to 2:30pm.

In an emergency situation, please call the Parish Office number (5174 2060) and leave a message.

## PARISH OPEN MEETING WITH BISHOP

**PAT O'REGAN:** Please keep **Thursday April 26 at 7:00pm to 9:30pm** free to come and attend an Open Meeting with Bishop Pat about preparation for the 2020 Plenary Council Meeting. Bishop Pat will speak about the direction the Australian Bishops Council, and the Diocese of Sale are moving in, and what our Parishes will be asked to do.

**Mick's Kitchen** We are currently feeding around 60-70 people each Thursday evening in the St Vincent de Paul Centre. The need for this service in the community is unquestionably obvious. Our Teams are currently desperately in need of fresh members to help out. It's not difficult and it is very rewarding. Volunteers must have a current WWCC linked to the Parish (this is easy to do online, assistance available at the Parish Office if needed).

We are grateful to all our volunteers, and especially to the students from Lavalla College whose help is invaluable. Please contact Judi Scholtes on 0439 555 994 if you are able to help us out. All assistance very gratefully received.

*'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.'*  
*Matthew 25:34*

## WEDDING BELLS:

Congratulations and every blessing to Lisa Prior and Jamie O'Neill who are being married at St Michael's this weekend. *"May your love be upon us O Lord, as we place our hope in you"* Psalm 32.



## New Testament Reflection

**by Mary Coloe PBVM**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

This phrase (20:23) is often read in the light of the Synoptic expression that speaks of binding and loosing, in relation to Peter's authority (Matt 16:19). While the first part of the phrase clearly states, 'if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven,' the second part does not mention the word sin and is better understood to mean holding firm to one another in community. In Jesus' prayer on the eve of his 'hour' he had prayed, 'While I was with them I kept them in your name...; I have guarded them and none of them is lost (17:12). Now the task of 'keeping' and 'guarding' is passed onto his disciples.

The reading from Acts testifies to the mission of these disciples. They are to be a community of generous sharing of resources so that no-one goes in need. Could we imagine what that might be like? There is no need to cling to 'this is mine,' or be driven to store up incredible wealth. This ideal is lived out by many small communities, some in formal and recognised religious communities, others in informal groups. It calls for deep trust in each other, for patience with the limitations of others, for genuine humility and deep gratitude. These values are named in the First epistle of John as love. When communities can live with such values they offer an alternative vision of life to what advertising and the media present. Such communities have 'overcome the world'.



**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP:** The CPG meets every Thursday evening at 7:30pm in term time in the Mary MacKillop Hall. All are welcome to come and join in! Enquiries to Cathy on 5174 3001

**MONTHLY YOUTH MASS:**

Our next Youth Mass will be celebrated on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 6:00pm Mass. Come and join in with our enthusiastic, energetic group of youngsters.



The next training session will be on Thursday April 19 at 4:30-5:30pm in the Mary MacKillop Hall.

**SMY@L – St.Michael’s Parish Youth Group**

St.Michael’s Youth group is for all young people from **Year 5, 6 & lower secondary levels (from any school)**. SMY@L meet in the Mary MacKillop Hall a few times each school term, and run a variety of activities in a safe, friendly environment with leaders from our Parish Community who all have current Working With Children Checks. We meet on a Friday night. Participants are signed in and out at the end of each session. Our leaders all have experience in working with young people.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April  
Escape Room!!**

*A night of adventure games where you need to work together to solve a series of puzzles and riddles using clues, hints and strategy to escape the themed room.*  
@ St Michael’s Mary MacKillop Hall.  
6:30-8:30pm. Cost \$3:00.  
Phone Leah 0438 811 709 for info.



**CONFIRMATION 2018 DATES:**

Parent Information Meeting –  
St Mary MacKillop Hall (Parents only)  
Date: **Wednesday 18th April 2018**  
Time: **6.45pm**

Parent & Child Workshop 1 –  
St Mary MacKillop Hall  
Date: **Wednesday 2nd May**  
Times: **4pm or 5.30pm**

Parent & Child Workshop 2 –  
St Mary MacKillop Hall  
Date: **Wednesday 9th May**  
Times: **4pm or 5.30pm**

Celebration of Confirmation  
The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation will be held on:  
**Friday 11th May - 6pm Mass**  
**Saturday 12th May - 6pm Mass**

**EMPLOYMENT POSITION**

**Multiplatform Journalist –  
Catholic Diocese of Sale**

This full time position based in Warragul, forms part of the Digital Media and Communications Team. The successful applicant will contribute content to the Diocese’s new information and news website, seeking news stories from around the Diocese and presenting these in written and video format. A high level of professionalism, capacity to work autonomously, show initiative and sound communication skills required. Applicants are expected to demonstrate a commitment to, and support of the mission of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Sale, and a commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Email hr@sale.catholic.org.au to receive an information pack. Applications close on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 5:00pm. Please note, this position is re-advertised with increased hours to full-time and an altered position description.

**FINANCE MATTERS:**

*“The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own...” – ACTS 4:32*

All that we are and all that we have is a gift from God! Think of your family, your friends, your talents, your abilities and your money – these are all gifts from God! We aren’t really owners of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has blessed us with.

**STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN:**

March Giving

Loose collections

Mar 04	\$1,590.00
Mar 11	\$1,368.00
Mar 18	\$1,809.00
Mar 25	<u>\$1,846.00</u>
	<u>\$6,613.00</u>

Planned Giving

Envelopes	\$ 9,064.00
Direct Debit	\$ 5,840.00
Credit Card	<u>\$ 3,735.00</u>
March total	<u>\$ 18,639.00</u>
Monthly pledge amount	\$18,328.00

If you wish to have information about our Planned Giving programme please contact the Parish Office.

**Counters:**

- April 08** Armstrong Team
- April 15** Morris Team

**MYSTAGOGIA MASS:** This Mass of Thanksgiving for the ‘new members of our Catholic Church’ who were received into the Church at Easter, will be celebrated in St Mary’s Cathedral, Sale on Sunday April 22 at 2:00pm. All are warmly invited to attend, please take a plate of afternoon tea to share after the Mass. Bishop Pat will celebrate the Mass.

**Rosters for April 14 and 15 ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Music	Sacristan
6:00pm	A Taylor	D Smith	C DiCorleto, B Power, M Giddens, D Buckland	H Luque	Diamante Family	Volunteer required for roster
9:30am	M Hansen, N Georgeson	H Daly	P Carlin, T Denny, J & W Waanders, L Panozzo-Tilè, Volunteer	R Benbow, M Blanchard	Charismatic Choir	Volunteer required for roster
6:00pm	J Panozzo-Tilè	S Luscombe	J Reid, R Tarraran, D Locke, Volunteer	Volunteer		A O’Neill

- Altar Cleaning:** April 08 J Scholtes April 15 F Rycak
  - Church Cleaning:** April Collis Team
  - Children’s Liturgy of the Word:** In recess, school holidays
  - Touring Statue of Our Lady:** April 08 S Luque April 15 A & G Symonds
- Please contact the family before you leave the statue to make sure they are home. Thank you. For further information regarding roster please contact: Marie Moulton 5174 0938 Email: memou\_38@bigpond.com
- Mick’s Kitchen:** April 12 Van Berkel Team April 19 Mitchell Team



**Entrance Antiphon** 4 Esdr 2:36-37

*Receive the joy of your glory,  
giving thanks to God,  
who has called you into the heavenly kingdom,  
alleluia.*

**First Reading** Acts 4:32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

**The whole group was united, heart and soul.**

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R. v.1

**(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
his love is everlasting**

- Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.'  
Let the sons of Aaron say:  
'His love has no end.'  
Let those who fear the Lord say:  
'His love has no end.' **(R.)**
- The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.  
I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds.  
I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,  
but not doomed to die. **(R.)**
- The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.  
This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** 1 Jn 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of St John

**Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.**

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is –

keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 20:29

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
You believe in me, Thomas,  
because you have seen me;  
happy are those who have not seen me,  
but still believe!  
Alleluia!*

**Gospel** Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.**

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'  
After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.  
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Next weeks Readings 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	
First Reading:	Acts 3:13-15 17-19
Second Reading:	1 John 2:1-5
Gospel:	Luke 24:35-48