



Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A

March 29, 2020

St Michael's Catholic Parish Traralgon

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 Parish 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 Otopo Parish Priest

Fr Ajin Albarnas IVD Assistant Priest

Parish Centre 0417 572 564

Priests' Residence: 5174 6765

Deacon Tony Aspinall

Phone 5174 8167

Em: deacontony8@gmail.com

Sr Doreen Dagge RSJ 5174 9997

Monsignor John Allman

O'Mara House 5174 9674

St Michael's Parish Office 0417 572 546

35 Kay Street, Traralgon

PO Box 103, Traralgon 3844

Office hours –

Tues, Weds, Fri 9:00am to 4:00pm

Parish Secretary: Bev O'Brien

Email: sec@smpt.org.au

Sacraments / Youth Jenifer Hanratty

Email: sacraments@smpt.org.au

After office hours - in case of an emergency please call 0448 529 712 and leave a message. All non-urgent calls should be made during office hours.

Baptisms: currently in abeyance

Weddings: currently in abeyance

Parish Pastoral Council: Greg Imhagwe Chairperson, Fr Francis, Sr Doreen, Lia Di Corleto, Watson Gomez, Jenifer Hanratty, Steve Kimani, Judi McLaughlin, Thomas Mathew, Amanda Reid, Kevin Taylor, 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

OUR PARISH AMIDST THE COVID-19 VIRUS:

Each one of us is impacted by the Covid-19 virus, and so too is our Parish. The Parish Pastoral Council held an 'emergency' meeting via the internet on Wednesday evening to see how we can still 'be Parish' for each other in these difficult times.

In a time when we are learning to live without being able to celebrate Masses together, to go into the Church to pray and without meeting with each other. In the midst of all this change, it is vitally important that we do our utmost to support each other and to continue to be 'parish' to each other.

And so, we are hoping that each one of us will work towards '**Adopting a Parishioner**'. We are hoping that we can keep in contact with each other via telephone and email, and that in this way, we can help people in need to connect with the sources of assistance which are available to them.

To help us achieve this we will be contacting our parish group leaders, asking them to contact everyone in their groups, and to keep a lookout for their group members. For those of our parishioners who do not belong to any Parish Group, please contact the parish office on **our new phone number 0417 572 546**, it will be lovely to speak with you, and we will endeavour to put you in phone contact with other parishioners, so you've a contact who you can chat to.

We will also be posting a page of various links to prayer resources and online Masses on our Website, which people make like to use. Our clergy members have been leaving video messages on the St Michael's Church Traralgon Facebook page. This is a great way to stay in touch.

Holy week as you all know is a very important, precious and sacred week in the calendar of the church. Unfortunately, we are not able to congregate as a community this year due to the current situation with the corona virus pandemic. However, we are looking at ways that we can live-stream our Masses and Service during this period. If it works out, we shall let you know so we can all hook up as a community of faith. Details of the Triduum will be communicated to you next Sunday. For this week, it suffices to know that Passion Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 10.00 am in the church by Ajin, Tony and myself.

Be positive, stay safe and healthy and God bless you.

Fr Francis

Sunday Mass Times	No Mass Celebrations for the time being
Weekday Mass Times	No Mass Celebrations for the time being

NEW TEMPORARY PHONE NUMBER FOR THE PARISH OFFICE:

Whilst the office is closed, the number for you to call to make contact with Fr Francis, Fr Ajin, Deacon Tony or Bev is now

0417 572 546.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We remember those who have died recently, remembering especially Jim Collins and Terry McMahon and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Edward Said and family, Gwen Chambers, Graeme Carney, Sergio Innocenzi, Myra King, Rocchina Della Fortuna and Ding Aragon.

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

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK including, including Megan Agostino, Maria Alessandrini, Lee Allman, Lulu Aragon, Cath Boers, Fr Bernard Buckley, Conceicao Carvalho, Julie Dal Pra, Peter Dal Pra, Ann-Maree Daly, Anthony Derham, Gary Donchi, Bill Edgar, Bernadette Formaran, Fr Frank Freeman, Marj Gilbert, Carolyn Gleeson, Robert Hazelman, Imogen Hillier, Marie Howard, Joan Lamont, Peter Lont, Joyce Martin, Ivy May, Deborah McKerchar, Ben Melenhorst, Joan Quigley, Joan Riggall, Kath Ryan, Ray Smith, Jerry Templer, Julie Vaz, Brian Vivian, Celie Smith, George Walkan, and Fr Frank Young, and all those we hold dear in our hearts.



MASS OFFERINGS: Fr Francis and Fr Ajin have this week offered Masses for Edward Said and family and for Terry McMahon.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA: Message from Deacon Jim Curtain, Diocesan Director of Caritas Australia, about the Project Compassion 2020 Appeal.

We here at Caritas understand that many in our community will have financial concerns, worries about health, and worries about their future due to the COVID19 crisis. We do appreciate that many generous people who would normally give may no longer be in a position to do so. However through Project Compassion we support people and communities in countries that have nothing like the resources of Australia, where governments do not have the ability to provide social welfare payments or subsidise employers to keep people in work. Bearing in mind the uncertainty that we are all experiencing, we would still ask that, if you are able, you consider continuing to support Project Compassion as best you can. Thank you for your generosity in the past, and for whatever you feel able to give now.

<https://lent.caritas.org.au/>



A SUNDAY PRAYER PLAN FOR FAMILIES:

1. Gather – create a prayer space for your family in your home. Light a candle, silence all technology, be still.
2. Read scripture. Ask various family members to read a part each.
3. listen to a homily (Mass at home or other, see information sheet on our website)
4. Reflect together – talk about what you each heard. Did you hear the same thing? How can we reflect this in our family?
5. Pray - gather the intentions of your family, our community and our world, and ask God to hear your prayer.
6. Spiritual communion – receive Jesus into your heart. Ask Jesus to come into your life. Close with the Lord's Prayer.

SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER AND OUR PARISH:

As we figure out how to 'be parish' in this time without Sunday and weekday Masses in our Church, we need to consider :-

- * our prayer and spiritual life
- * our commitment to and support for our Parish
- * our community.

The Parish Pastoral Council has devised ways of extending prayer resources and online Masses, and of keeping track of each other and being supportive of each other (please see Page 1)

Our parish Bulletin will be produced each week and available on our Website and our Parish App, and will contain the readings for the Sunday, and Parish News. It will also include a link for people to participate in a Mass online (www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass or <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>).

We will also endeavor to include some 'prayer hints' to help each of us maintain our prayer life.

In this time of uncertainty, please remember our priests and religious in your prayers. Our priests are financially supported by our weekly 'first collections', and these expenses will still need to be met. Parishioners are asked to make donations by electronic transfer to St Michael's Parish Traralgon Presbytery Account, BSB 083 879 Account Number 48906 6098.

Our Parish will still need to pay our utility bills, our wages bills, rates and insurances. We meet these costs through the Planned Giving Program. Parishioners who currently give via the weekly envelopes are asked to consider altering their giving to Direct Debit giving to enable our Parish to continue. Direct Debit Giving forms are available at the office, please phone or email and we can get one to you.

Thanks to those parishioners who have dropped in their planned giving and first collection donations in envelopes through the parish 'mail slot'.

If you are wanting to request a Mass Offering, then please place your donation in an envelope, and clearly mark:-

1. The name of the person(s) for whom you wish to offer the Mass.
2. Whether it's a death anniversary, or recent death.
3. Your name, contact number and email.

The envelopes can be 'posted' through the mail slot beside the front door of the Parish Office.

Please look out for those in our community who are the most vulnerable and could be in need of our support. Let the Office know if you know of anyone in need.

FINANCE MATTERS:

"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?'" (John 11:40)

Many of us say that we believe in God. We go to church on Sunday. We volunteer for events at our parish. But when life gets hard and the pressure is on, when things aren't going our way, do we really believe and put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, being thankful for the gifts we have been given, we really do see that God is providing all that we need. It opens our hearts to see God's active presence in our daily lives.

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Ps 42:1-2

*Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.*

First Reading

Ez 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 129. R. v.7

(R.) *With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.*

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **(R.)**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. **(R.)**
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.) **(R.)**
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Rom 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living
in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation

See Jn 11:25. 26

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Gospel

Jn 11:1-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the resurrection and the life.

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day?

A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,

and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.
I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak
for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.



Next weeks Readings

Sunday April 05 Palm Sunday

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66