



## 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 9:00am to 4:00pm

Parish Secretary: Bev O'Brien

Email: traralgon@cdsale.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

### **SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Dianne Bergant CSA**

The second Sunday of Easter shows us the Christian community after the Pentecost experience. This is an idealised picture of the primitive church. There we see: the authoritative apostolic teaching, which formed the basis of what ultimately became the New Testament; the early church's life of communal sharing; the celebration of the Eucharist, which probably took place in the homes of Christians (house-church). Finally, it is clear from this passage that the earliest Christians did not consider themselves separate from the larger Jewish community, for they regularly participated in temple prayer. The signs and wonders that were performed were primarily cures.

The psalm response begins with a call to give testimony to the goodness of God. This is followed by a description of the duress once endured by the psalmist at the hands of others. In the face of such oppression, God stepped in and saved the psalmist from ultimate defeat. The acknowledgment of deliverance is followed by a song of praise often associated with deliverance from Egyptian bondage. The reference to tents could be an allusion to the sojourn in the wilderness. In the third section of the psalm, the one rejected has been saved and exalted by God. Finally, the psalm brings us to our day. *Today* is the day that the Lord has made, *today* is the day that we rejoice in God's saving work.

This short reading from the 1 Peter is a hymn of praise. It directs our attention to what God has done in the lives of believers. The passage then indicates that Christians will have to suffer while still in this life. However, hope is the basis of the strength required of them when this happens. The entire passage is remarkable for the variety of themes that it weaves together. They include: praise of God, which is patterned after the Jewish hymn of praise; Christology and soteriology, which perceive Jesus as the mediator of the salvation that comes from God; eschatology, which looks to the future for the fulfilment of God's promises.

The gospel consists of two resurrection appearances. Thomas was absent for the first event, but he is the central character of the second. Both events occurred on the first day of the week, the day that will eventually be chosen to commemorate the resurrection. The closed doors not only secure the disciples from danger, but they demonstrate the mysterious character of Jesus' risen body which is not impeded by physical barriers. Jesus' wish of peace was a prayer for eschatological blessings of health, prosperity and all good things. By calling attention to his wounds, Jesus showed that he was really the crucified one now risen. Thomas represents the second generation of Christians. He is not remembered because he doubted, but because, like us, he must believe on the word of others.

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From Liturgy Help OnLine

<b>Sunday Mass Times</b>	No Mass Celebrations for the time being
<b>Weekday Mass Times</b>	No Mass Celebrations for the time being

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** We remember those who have died recently, remembering especially those whose lives have been lost due to the Covid-19 virus, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Albert McArthur, Peter Cunico, Lou Biancon, Colin Ashton and Neil Crowe.

*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:** This week Mass has been offered for Hiliary and Danny Rooney and family.

**NEW TEMPORARY PHONE NUMBER FOR THE PARISH OFFICE:**

Whilst the office is closed, the number for you to call during office hours to make contact with Fr Francis, Fr Ajin, Deacon Tony or Bev is now **0417 572 546**. Our email address is now **traralgon@cdsale.org.au**. Office hours are now Tuesday & Wednesday, 9:00am to 4:00pm.

**FINANCE MATTERS:**

*“Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” JOHN 20:19*

Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, like a new neighbor, a new work colleague or a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? Many of us can probably do a much better job at this. When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. We are made for relationships – with God and each other. A simple “hello” and a smile goes a long way.

Please don’t hesitate to contact the Parish Office on 0417 572 546 or by email to [traralgon@cdsale.org.au](mailto:traralgon@cdsale.org.au) if you want assistance or information regarding your Planned Giving.

**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.

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.

Anyone wishing to make a general donation to our parish can do so by electronic transfer to St Michael’s Parish Traralgon Church Account, BSB 083 879, Account Number 48885 1289. Please let me know by email ([traralgon@cdsale.org.au](mailto:traralgon@cdsale.org.au)) if you decide to do this. Thank you.

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.

*Sincere thanks to those parishioners who have dropped in their Giving Envelopes, made payments via electronic means, and are keeping all our parish community firmly in their prayers.*

**PLEASE REMEMBER  
TO SUPPORT CARITAS AUSTRALIA  
THIS EASTER SEASON.**

**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.

### LET'S GO FURTHER, TOGETHER

**It only takes seconds to make the world a better place. Are you with us?**

To make a donation to Caritas, please go to :-

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



**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Our PPC Members met on Wednesday evening, via the internet. It was good to be able to 'see' each other again.

Our plans for our Parish are on hold for the time being. In the present, it is pleasing to note that we have parishioners looking out for each other, keeping contact and helping where able.

Please let the office know if you are aware of anyone in need of assistance.

The PPC recognized the invaluable help given to us by Steve Kimani who worked tirelessly to bring the livestreaming of our Easter Ceremonies about, and thanks go to Steve and all those who helped bring these services to fruition.

Fr Francis, Fr Ajin and the PPC members are remembering our parish and our parishioners prayerfully, and humbly ask our parishioners to prayerfully remember them.

## Gospel

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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.

Readings used from Liturgy Help OnLine



### [Access to Masses online/TV](#)

Live streaming in our Diocese

Visit [www.cdsale.org.au/coronavirus](http://www.cdsale.org.au/coronavirus) or the individual parishes websites

Other online

- Melbourne Catholic Mass on line  
<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass-Sunday>  
Mass live is 11am service
- Word on Fire Daily Mass [www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass](http://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass) (as this is from the USA, we are viewing yesterday's Mass)
- Mass on Demand <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

### [Weekly readings](#)

Weekly reading can be found at:

<https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/prepare/sunday-readings-read-at-home/>

**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 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.*

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1

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

1. 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.)*
2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling  
but the Lord was my helper.  
The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he was my saviour.  
There are shouts of joy and victory  
in the tents of the just. *(R.)*
3. 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 Pt 1:3--9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*He has given us a new birth as his children, by  
raising Jesus Christ from the dead.*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 20:29

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
You believe in me, Thomas,  
because you have seen me;  
happy 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.'

*(continued on page 3)*

Next weeks Readings	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter Year A
First Reading:	Acts 2:14-22-33
Second Reading:	1 Peter 1:17-21
Gospel:	Luke 24:13-35