



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: sec@smpt.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. Please contact our Safeguarding Officers, Chris DiCorleto and Shane Reid on 0417 572 546 if you have any concerns.

St Michael's Parish Information

Fr Francis Otobo Parish Priest
Fr Ajin Albarnas IVD Assistant Priest
 Parish Centre 5174 2060
 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 **5174 2060**
 35 Kay Street, Traralgon
 PO Box 103, Traralgon 3844
 Office hours –
 Tues to Friday 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 and your contact details. 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 Brendan Byrne SJ

Today the focus of the readings is very much upon the Church. In fact, the text chosen for the Gospel, Matthew 16:13-20, is one of only two places in all the four Gospels where the word 'church' occurs (the other being Matt 18:15-17). The community of disciples is being equipped with authority and structures that will enable it to function during the time when Jesus will no longer be with them in the human form they have known.

The **First Reading**, from Isaiah 22:19-23, telling of the replacement of Shebna as master of the royal palace by a new official, Eliakim, appropriately foreshadows the appointment of Peter in the Gospel. It seems to have contributed to some of the language in which that appointment is made: notably, the handover of keys – and also perhaps the sense that what the new appointee determines ('opening' and 'closing') will have a definitive higher sanction, not lightly overthrown. Linking the two readings also is the sense of being responsible for a community seen as a 'building': while in charge of the palace, Eliakim is to be a 'father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem' just as Peter will be the 'rock' upon which Jesus will 'build' the community of his church.

In regard to the **Gospel** itself, what is important to notice is how what is said about the Church (the ecclesiology) flows from what is said (by Peter) about Christ (the christology). The Church is only what it is because of its perception of who Jesus is. Everything the Church has to say begins and ends with its God-given knowledge of Jesus, the inexhaustible treasure which it holds in trust for the world.

When Jesus questions his disciples about popular perceptions of his identity, their report shows that people can only place him in categories that are familiar and well-worn. The reality requires a much greater leap in imagination and faith. In the person of Simon Peter the disciples do rise to such heights. Simon's response, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God', conveys awareness that, beyond being Israel's Messiah as conventionally understood (a virtuous and effective ruler of David's line who would restore the fortunes of Israel), Jesus is related to God in a unique way. In his company the disciples are being drawn into a fellowship with the divine never before imagined or foreseen.

Peter has conferred a title upon Jesus. Now Jesus confers, first a blessing, then three roles upon him. Simon is 'blessed' not because he is virtuous or otherwise deserving but because God has graciously revealed to him a knowledge that no amount of human understanding ('flesh and blood') could achieve. Upon this christological insight the entire faith of the Church will rest.

(continued on Page 2)

Celebrations of Mass are in abeyance until further notice.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: The office remains closed due to the pandemic restrictions. All contact needs to be made by phone (5174 2060) or email (sec@smp.org.au). Thank you.

In case of an after hours emergency please call 0448 529 712 and leave a clear and concise message and your contact details.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We remember those who have died recently including Gillian Blackman and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Bert Ireland, Carmela Woodhouse, John Harte, Tommy and Roseanne Higgins, Thomas E Higgins, Eva Lang and Jim W Gilmour. **Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.**

MASS OFFERINGS: Masses have been offered this week for Bert Ireland and John Harte.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK

including Maria Alessandrini, Lee Allman, Lulu Aragon, Cath Boers, Fr Bernard Buckley, Conceicao Carvalho, Peter Dal Pra, Ann-Maree Daly, Sr Cathy Dean RSJ, 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, Dolores Said, Kath Ryan, Jerry Templer, Julie Vaz, Brian Vivian, Celie Smith, George Walkan, Roy Ward and Fr Frank Young, and all those we hold dear in our hearts.



AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The simple and loving act of Spiritual Communion (written by St. Alphonsus Liguori) can be made when we are unable to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist.

Pray these words:

My Jesus,

I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at

least spiritually into my heart. As though You have

already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to

You; never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

EMMAUS SPIRITUALITY CENTRE:

Free - Introduction to Spiritual Direction The Emmaus Team is offering a free 450 minute Zoom sessions to anyone who wishes to know more about Spiritual Direction and the Emmaus programs. This is an opportunity to meet with a team member and gain a greater understanding of what Spiritual Direction is about.

Phone 0477 474 848 to arrange a suitable time or

Email: salespirituality1@gmail.com

Scripture Commentary: (from Page 1)

The first role Simon receives is indicated by a new name: 'Rock'. The identity between 'Peter' and 'Rock' – masked in English, more evident in Greek (*petros, petra*) – is perfect in Aramaic, the language Jesus actually spoke: 'You are *Kepha* ("Rock") and on this *kepha* (rocky ground) I will build my church.'

Peter is not 'rock' because of personal qualities of steadfastness or reliability. The Passion will further expose (26:69-75) his already demonstrated tendency to falter (14:31). He is 'rock' because of the insight of faith which God has communicated to him. Built on this 'rock', the Church will be a community of life. 'Gates of the underworld' is a biblical expression for the realm of the dead as the inevitable destination of all human beings. Its 'gates' will not prevail against the Church either in the sense that, built upon a 'rock,' it will survive all attempts to destroy it or, more likely, in the sense that its members, even though they die physically, will not be held confined within the realm of the dead but will burst through its 'gates' in resurrection (see 27:52-53).

The gift of keys does not, as commonly thought, make Peter the gatekeeper of heaven, letting in whoever he deems worthy. It, along with the subsequent reference to 'binding' and 'loosing', has to do with authoritative teaching: the power to declare in particular circumstances whether a commandment of the Torah is or is not applicable. Jesus, the Interpreter of the Torah *par excellence* (Matthew 5-7) leaves his community with a structure of interpretation and assures it of 'heavenly', that is, divine ratification. In this way, the Church, as both expression and foretaste of God's reign (the 'Kingdom of Heaven') on earth, is equipped to discern and live God's will in the changing circumstances that will, in the course of history, confront it.

Happily, this text functions less in polemics between Christian denominations than in times past. While it does certainly underwrite much of the Catholic tradition, Catholics need not read it triumphalistically but, along with other Christians, find in it above all an assurance that for all its human weaknesses and failings, the Church guards a supreme treasure and enjoys a divine guarantee.

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*Since returning from graduate studies in Oxford in 1977, Brendan Byrne has been Professor of New Testament at Jesuit Theological College in Melbourne, Australia, of which he was Principal (1992-97). He was Rector of Campion College, Kew (1979-84) and a delegate to the 33rd General Congregation of the Society of Jesus in 1983. He was a visiting professor at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome, in 1993 and has also taught in East Asia and East Africa. He was a member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission (Rome) (1990-96) and President of the Melbourne College of Divinity (2000-01). He was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 1999. Brendan Byrne is the author of nine books, edits the theological journal *Pacifica* and regularly gives workshops on scripture to clergy and parish communities.*

Article used with permission Liturgy Help OnLine



OUR LITURGY FOR THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION: On Wednesday evening this week, we had about 26 people attend a Liturgy online to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption. The Liturgy was well thought out and well presented; congratulations to the Liturgy Team on this their first online endeavour. Huge thanks too, to Greg Imhagwe and Jane Mitchell for their online meeting expertise.

After the Liturgy a number of us stayed to share 'a cuppa' and a chat, whilst we could still 'see' each other. It was wonderful to be able to see the smiling faces of some of our fellow parishioners.

Fr Francis now has plans to expand our use of this modern technology to allow us to interact with each other once again. The Parish is working with the Diocese to ensure that all Parish Zoom meetings in the future comply with the necessary guidelines. In every Parish activity, we will always endeavour to ensure the safety of children and adults at risk within our community and in the wider community also.

Stay tuned to find out more about gathering together online as a community in the future.

Isolation Prayer Life, Access to Masses online/TV/:

Keep up to date with the latest prayer resources for your communities <https://www.cdsale.org.au/news/prayer-resources-in-time-of-need>

Livestreamed Masses

<https://www.cdsale.org.au/coronavirus>

Mass with Fr Rob Galea can be found by going to frgministry.com.

Music and prayer for 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time. You are invited to pray at home with the Sunday readings with free access to the following online music and video resources

Australian Catholics - use the Scriptures and the reflection questions provided for your personal prayer or for your Sunday Liturgy of the Word celebration at home or via livestream

Psalms and chants from Marist Music for this Sunday www.maristmusic.org.au/ available as sheet music and audio.

Sunday Readings and Family Prayer – download and pray the Scriptures of the Sunday Mass and/or use the Family Prayer sheets with children. From Liturgy Brisbane <https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/prepare/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/> (updated weekly). (available free til the end of this months).

Daily Prayer

Short daily Gospel reflections with access to readings and prayers of the faithful can be found at <https://www.pray.com.au>

Praying at home

1. Pray the Liturgy of the Word: read and pray with the Sunday scriptures. www.liturgybrisbane.net.au
2. Please continue to pray for Bishop-elect Bennett as he makes preparations for his episcopal ordination on 20th October. (see page 2)

FINANCE MATTERS:

"Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?" (Romans 11:35)

St. Paul reminds us of a central fact of stewardship. We cannot give the Lord anything - God already owns it all. God made everything. All we can do is return a portion of God's many gifts back to Him. Sincere gratitude for our gifts opens our hearts to joyful generosity! Through your generous sharing, you just may be the answer to someone's prayer..

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY: Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated on **Sunday August 30.**

"The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the mental health of many members of our parishes, schools and communities. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. In the Social Justice Statement 2020-21, To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today, the Bishops invite us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health and to call for policies and service provision that meets the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community. Download the Statement at

<https://agora.catholic.org.au/e/576423/SocialJustice-2020/nf41c/517739418?h=MpfeMHMCeEGis5VmV7g-ILAQylxRq4R4g9rJv11LO6k>.

Our society tends to push away or draw away from those who confront us with our frailties and limitations. This is not the way of Jesus. Let us follow him in drawing near to those who are experiencing mental ill health and acknowledge that they are members of the Body of Christ - 'they' are part of 'us'!

Taken from a letter from the Most Rev Terence J Brady DD, Delegate for Social Justice Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission & Service

Prayer for Bishop-elect Greg Bennet

Eternal God, our Shepherd and Guide

We bless and thank you for the appointment of your servant, Greg Bennet, as the tenth Bishop of Sale.

May your Holy Spirit grace him with the gifts of wisdom and strength, gentleness and compassion, as he prepares to take up his role as our pastor and teacher.

May he be a shepherd after your own heart, who will walk in your ways and, with loving care, watch over your people.

May he be a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth.

As Bishop-elect Bennet prepares to make his home among us, may we welcome him joyfully into our Diocesan community, now entrusted to his care and leadership.

May we, as the Body of Christ in the Diocese of Sale, through our work and prayer together bear witness to Christ and the building up of your kingdom.

We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen,

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

pray for us

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

pray for us.

Amen

Entrance Antiphon Cf Ps 85:1-3

*Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord,
for I cry to you all the day long.*

First Reading Isaiah 22:19-23

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 137:1-3 6 8 Rv8

(R.) *Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.*

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

Next week's Readings: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

Second Reading Rom 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 16:18

*Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my
Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

