



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 adults at risk 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 5174 2060 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: Six weeks notice required
Weddings: Six months notice required

Parish Pastoral Council: Greg Imhagve 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

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM ' Come and Join Me 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Follow me and I will make you fishers of people.

Today we hear the call of the first disciples from Mark's Gospel, which is quite different to how we heard it last Sunday in John's Gospel – a further reminder that the Gospels are theological reflections on the meaning of Jesus' life, rather than biographies or histories.

It is false to imagine these disciples as poor, simple, lower-class men and women. As this Gospel shows, four of them are involved in a major industry in Israel – fishing. Fish was a staple part of the diet in a land unable to sustain large flocks of sheep or herds of cattle. James and John are part of their father's industry that is profitable enough to hire others. In our terms these disciples would be middle-class. Their leaving all behind is therefore quite costly.

Mark's Gospel emphasises discipleship. He writes for his own community struggling to be faithful in a time of persecution and fear. In this scene we see what discipleship costs, namely to be prepared to leave your livelihood and your family. This was a reality within the early church when becoming a follower of Jesus meant leaving the religious traditions and social network of your family's Jewish faith. Once this step was made the past was closed to you. Discipleship costs for the followers of Jesus, as it does for disciples of all time.

Our struggles are different but true discipleship still costs. For some it may be integrity in the work place; bearing the ridicule of others for a particular ethical or religious stance, even within the family. Hear in these difficult moments Jesus' call to be his companion.

The focus of Jesus' preaching is that the reign of God is at hand and this is Good News. Throughout the Old Testament the people of Israel had great faith in God's promises even through long periods of loss and Exile. Just before the time of Jesus, the people experienced a long period of oppression from a Greek Empire and then the Roman Empire. During these final centuries a new type of hope emerged. This hope understood the world as a place dominated by the powers of Evil, what they called the reign of Satan. God's reign would only come when God was able to overcome the power of Evil and establish a reign of peace and justice on earth. This is the hope that lies behind Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom. God has entered into the definitive final struggle against the powers of Satan and God's own reign is already beginning. The many exorcisms and miracles in Mark are the signs of God's victory over Satan. This is truly good news.

The word 'Repent' really means a 'change of heart'. For people who have adjusted to living within the values of this world under the dominion of Evil, then to live within the values of God's reign will require a change of heart. It is simply not possible to live within two different world-views and their opposing values. Jesus announces the reign of God and invites hearers to the change of heart necessary to embrace God's desires. This is invitation and the disciples are the first we see who respond. The dramatic leaving behind of boats and families symbolises the totality of the shift required to change one's heart. (continued on page 2)

Sunday Mass Times (as of December 10, 2020)	
Saturday	5:00pm
Sunday	9:00am 10:30am 5:00pm
Attendance numbers at our Masses are limited to 180 people. Attendance must be booked at Trybooking.com https://www.trybooking.com/BOBYU or at the Parish Office.	
Weekday Mass Times	
Tues Jan 26	9:30am Mass
Weds Jan 27	9:30am Opening of School Year Mass, school staff only
	11:00am Adoration
	12:00pm Mass
Thurs Jan 28	9:30am Mass
Fri Jan 29	9:30am Mass
Parishioners attending weekday Masses are asked to arrive 10 minutes before Mass to have their name and contact number recorded by the usher.	

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We remember those who have died recently including John Ehigie, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Elizabeth Russell (née Jones), Giuseppe Agostino and Angelina Agostino.

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

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK including Maria Alessandrini, Lee Allman, Fr Bernard Buckley, Conceicao Carvalho, 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 Mc Kerchar, Ben Melenhorst, Joan Quigley, Joan Riggall, Kath Ryan, Jerry Templer, Julie Vaz, Brian Vivian, Celie Smith, Wil Waanders, George Walkan and Roy Ward and all those we hold dear in our hearts.

MASS AND PANDEMIC MATTERS:

Receiving Holy Communion: Parishioners are reminded that the Body of Christ may only be administered to the hand until further notice and Holy Communion from the cup is suspended until further notice.

Face Masks are no longer mandatory in the Church, but may be worn if you feel the need.

Social distancing must be maintained.

Cleaning of pews and kneelers must be completed before leaving the Church.

Booking to attend Mass is required for all weekend Masses. Our Trybooking code for Masses for January 24 & 31 is

<https://www.trybooking.com/BOBYU>

Trybooking.com is the preferred method for booking, which creates the least amount of work for the office staff.

WELCOME: We are fortunate to have Bishop Greg here with us this coming week on Wednesday as the staff of the valley catholic primary schools and of Lavalla Catholic College come together in (covid-reduced) numbers for a Commissioning Mass as the 2021 school year begins. We ask God's blessing on all the school staff, students and their families.

BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for baptism **Charlotte Abby Wilkie**, daughter of **Robert and Caitlin**. Congratulations Robert and Caitlin, it is with great delight we welcome Charlotte to our Parish family.



The next Baptism Preparation meeting will be held in the Church on **Tuesday February 09 at 7:00pm**. Please contact the Parish office if you are wishing to attend.

Changes to Mass Times
 (covid restrictions permitting)
Beginning on the weekend of February 13 & 14, our Mass times will be
Sat 5:30pm
Sunday 9:30am and 5:30pm.
 Parishioners are advised that First Communion will be celebrated at Masses on Fri Feb 05 at 6:00pm, Sat Feb 06 at 5:00pm and Sun Feb 07 at 10:30am.

PARISH OFFICE NEWS: Bev is again back in the Parish Office, with the door locked. We ask that parishioners please make contact either by phone or email wherever possible. Jenifer will return to work when all her chicks are back at school. Thank you.

COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM (contined from page 1)

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians it is important to read this short passage as part of its larger context. 1 Corinthians 7 begins, 'Now concerning the matters about which you wrote'. Paul then goes on to offer advice in response to questions the Corinthians raised about a range of sexual issues. This advice continues through Chapter 7 and Paul is very even handed. What he says about a man, he then says about a woman. Paul's primary concern is that the end of this world will be very soon and he wishes that the Corinthians do not take on new obligations that could distract them from the imminent return of Jesus. In verse 25 Paul acknowledges that he has no clear command but simply offers his advice 'in view of the impending crisis'. 'Those who have wives should live as though they had none.' This is not a command for celibacy within marriage. Verses 2 and 3 of this same chapter speak of the man and woman giving each other their conjugal rights. Rather, what Paul is advising is that the Corinthian have the 'change of heart' that Jesus calls for and live lives focused on the coming reign of God. Everything else is secondary.

As a New Year begins many people take time to reflect on their manner of living and to make resolutions to change aspects of their life. While making resolutions for the New Year can be trivialised, the custom does reflect what the Gospel is describing – make a change in your life. If you desire the path of God, then reconfigure the road-map of your life.

© Mary Coloe

STARTING OUR PARISH UP AGAIN:

As we gratefully return to Masses in our Church, we are again in need of volunteers to help our Parish function and our Masses to be well run and meaningful celebrations:-

We are looking for volunteers in the following areas :-

Readers,	Commentators
Ushers	Eucharistic Ministers
Youth Ministry Leaders	Church cleaning
Money Counters	Banking Team

All these roles are essential to our Masses and to our Parish, and as the old saying goes, 'many hands make light work'.

So please contact the Office on 5174 2060 or by email to sec@smpt.org.au and advise that you are able to assist in one of these ministries.

We are all the parish of St Michael's and the responsibility lies with each one of us.

As covid restrictions begin to ease, it is wonderful to advise our Parish Groups that, with certain conditions, meetings are again able to be held, providing we comply with numbers limits and cleaning protocols.

At this point in time, parish groups who wish to hold meetings during Parish Office hours are welcome to use the Mary MacKillop Room. Groups who usually meet outside of office hours may use the meeting room in the Parish Centre, again in accordance with numbers restrictions and cleaning protocols.

Please contact the office if you are interested in your group using Church premises for meetings. (5174 2060 or sec@smpt.org.au)

Beginning next weekend (January 30 & 31), we will have a QR code available for parishioners to use to record their attendance at Mass. If you have a smart phone, you only need to scan in the QR code, and register your name via your phone. Your details are recorded directly with the Department of Health and Human Services.

If you do not own a smart phone, then do not fear. An usher will be there to record your name and number the old-fashioned way.

As you can see, this means we are in need of at least two people at every Mass to ensure that we are correctly recording the attendance of every person who attends Mass. Please remember that all this recording of your attendance takes time, and that you need to arrive a good 10 to 15 minutes before Mass starts to allow your attendance to be recorded.

WELCOME BACK TO OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES: it's hard to believe that the School's summer holidays are drawing to a close. Children will return to school on Thursday January 28. Please check our schools websites for information regarding their students return to school.

St Michael's Primary School,
www.stmtraralgon.catholic.edu.au

St Gabriel's Primary School,
www.stgtraralgon.catholic.edu.au

Lavalla Catholic College www.lavalla.vic.edu.au.

It will be lovely to hear the fabulous noise of children in the playgrounds again . . . schoolyards without children seem to be such lonely places.

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." - Mark 1:17
Jesus' call to "Follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule and that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

FINANCE MATTERS: It is with great appreciation we thank all those who have continued with their planned giving and their support of our priest throughout the difficult months of lockdown, no masses, and now limited numbers at Masses.

Planned Giving

September	\$11,108.00
October	\$12,085.50
November	\$12,548.00
December	\$11,308.00

First Collections (Presbytery Account)

September	\$1,765.00
October	\$3,776.40
November	\$3,381.40
December	\$3,520.25

Christmas Offerings \$ 980.00

Again, sincere thanks to all for their commitment, generosity and faith.



Rosters for Saturday January 30 and Sunday January 31, 2021

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Ushers
Sat 5:00pm	Chris Di Corleto	Margaret Noone	Volunteer required
Sun 9:00am	Theresa Denny	Carolyn McCabe	Volunteer required
Sun 10:30am	C McLure / R Diaz	Volunteer required	Volunteer required
Sun 5:00pm	Belinda Purcell	Volunteer required	Volunteer required

Entrance Antiphon Cf Ps 95:1 6

*O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.*

First Reading Jona 3:1-5 10

A reading from the prophet Jona

The Ninevites renounced their evil ways.

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9 R v4

(R.) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** 1 Cor 7:29-31

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The world as we know it is passing away.

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4 6

*Alleluia, alleluia!
The kingdom of God is near:
believe the Good News!
Alleluia!*

Gospel Mk 1:14-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Repent, and believe the Good News.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

Readings for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Deut 18:15-20

Second Reading: 1 Cor 7:32-35

Gospel: Mk 1:21-28