



## 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 5174 2060 if you have any concerns.

### St Michael's Parish Information

**Fr Aju Varghese** Parish Priest  
Parish Centre 5174 2060  
Priest's Residence: 5174 6765

**Deacon Tony Aspinall**  
Phone 5174 8167  
Email: deacontony8@gmail.com

**St Michael's Parish Office**  
Telephone: 5174 2060  
Address: 35 Kay Street, Traralgon  
PO Box 103, Traralgon 3844

Office hours –  
Tues to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm  
Parish Secretary: Catherine Hill  
Email: sec@smpt.org.au  
Sacraments / Youth: Jenifer Hanratty  
Email: sacraments@smpt.org.au

**After office hours** - in case of an emergency please call 0499 162 313 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:** Lia Di Corleto, Chairperson, Fr Aju, Steve Kimani, Greg Imhagwe, Watson Gomez, Jenifer Hanratty, Judi McLaughlin, Thomas Mathew, Amanda Reid, Jodie Ware, Michelle Charlton, and Doug Doherty.

### Our Schools:

**St Gabriel's School** 5174 5515  
Principal: Mrs Michelle Charlton

**St Michael's School** 5174 3295  
Principal: Mrs Jodie Ware

**Lavalla Catholic College** 5174 5272  
Acting Principal: Mr Doug Doherty  
Kildare Campus 5174 8111  
St Paul's Campus 5174 7355

### Reflection by Damian Coleridge

We might understand saying sorry, or an apology, forgiveness, even reconciliation and healing, but often we're uncertain what part repentance plays in our lives. Yet it's the very first thing that Jesus calls us to in the gospels and in Lent it's front and centre.

So, in today's gospel we hear two stories: firstly, the tragic story of the Galileans murdered by Herod in the temple. Jesus' response to it is quite unexpected because he asks the people, do you think these Galileans were worse sinners than those Galileans who survived? "No", he says, and urges us in the light of a coming judgment to repent of our self-serving or it will be the ruin of us.

The second story is the fig-tree parable which offers hope that God will be patient; but there is a point when the gardener will have to say enough if, after patient tending, the tree still bears no fruit. There's an underlying urgency in this, but God is at work so that we may bear fruit: trust in his presence.

If we're uncertain about repentance, one writer has noted, it's there in the 12-step program to recovery from addiction, where participants begin by owning that they're powerless and their lives have become unmanageable. It's also a reminder that repentance is one step towards finding peace.

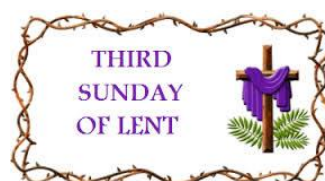
That's where we all come to, most often unable, or unwilling, to see ourselves in this way. We say we can manage our shortcomings, or issues, with some assistance from God at moments, so when the going gets tough, we get on with our lives, occasionally wondering what, or who, is absent from them, but trudging on.

At those tough moments in our lives – of failure, betrayal, death – we might pray earnestly to God, but there comes a breakthrough point when we realise we need to let God be in our lives, rather than make use of him, however openly, or subtly, we go about it. A god made in our own image, who does our bidding, is not the God made real to us in Jesus Christ. And it's this deep reluctance to get real we're wanting to name and repent of in Lent. This has implications for us all, because it's never simply a private matter, which means we're in this together.

We'll only be able to repent if we take to heart what the psalm says: 'The Lord is kind and merciful'. That's who 'I Am', the God of the burning bush, who appears to Moses in the first reading: trust in his love. In the second reading we're reminded that we're living at the end of the age and we're cautioned not simply to trust in our own efforts to feel safe: trust in his love.

Because the only place where repentance will happen is where there is love, where we are loved, in the company of one another. This is the life offered to us, here and now, in Jesus Christ.

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Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am & 5:00pm Mass
<b>Booking to attend Masses is no longer required.</b>	
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Mar 22	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Mar 23	11:00am Reconciliation 11:00am Adoration 12:00pm Mass
Thursday Mar 24	9:30am Mass
	7:00pm Rosary for Cosimo Prestipino
Friday Mar 25	9:30am Mass
	11:00am Requiem Mass for Cosimo Prestipino

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

We remember those who have died recently including Cosimo Prestipino, Violeta Meza, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Wil Waanders, John Melenhorst, Brian Hourigan, George Hodgson, Myra King, May O'Reilly, Peter Cunico, Marie Ireland, Michael Hanratty, Martin Saul, Frank Valencic, and Father Tom O'Connell.

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

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK** including Maria Alessandrini, Conceicao Carvalho, Peter Dal Pra, Ann-Maree Daly, Anthony Derham, Gary Donchi, Bill Edgar, Kevin Fitzsimon, Bernadette Formaran, Fr Frank Freeman, Marj Gilbert, Carolyn Gleeson, Jacqui Granville, Barbara Greaves, Ellen Hammond, Jenny Hansch, Robert Hazelman, Imogen Hillier, Joyce Martin, Ivy May, Deborah Mckerchar, Ben Melenhorst, Maree Morris, Henry Polo, Joan Riggall, Theresa Rosello, Kath Ryan, Jerry Templer, Damiano Tripodi, Julie Vaz, Brian Vivian, Celie Smith, Sharon Veleff, George Walkan, Roy Ward, Kelly Maher, Victoria Rohli, Tony Tactor and Anne Turra, and all those we hold dear in our hearts.



**COVID-19 UPDATE:** Our office staff, Cath and Jen, are both affected by Covid isolation at the moment. So our office will be open for shortened hours during the coming week. (Mar 21-25). Please keep Cath and Jen and their families in your prayers. Thanks for your understanding and generosity in this challenging time.

- Face coverings are no longer mandatory in our Church or office, but you may wear one at any time.
- Check-ins using the QR code are not required, nor the sign-in sheet.
- Please remember to use hand sanitiser and maintain social distancing.
- If you are feeling unwell, please stay home and help us all stay safe.

We are now able to use the school toilets next to the hall during weekend masses, as well as to park cars in the school yard on Sunday mornings during Mass.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
<b>Tuesday March 22</b>	
7:30pm	Maintenance Team Meeting Parish Centre
<b>Thursday March 24</b>	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Meeting, St Michael's Church
7:30pm	RCIA Meeting, Parish Centre
<b>Friday March 25</b>	
7:00pm	Stations of the Cross, St Michael's Church

**BAPTISMS:** This weekend, we welcome in Baptism :-

**Winnie Jay Whelan, Sunny May Whelan, Addison Ray Whelan,** children of **Daniel & Melinda;** and **Blake Ryan Warne,** son of **Adam & Fiona;** and **Mack Hayes and Emerson Hayes,** children of **Michael & Melissa.**



Congratulations to the families, from us all! Welcome to our Parish family!

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on **Tuesday April 19 at 7:00pm** in the Church. Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 if you are interested in attending.

**WEDDING BELLS:** Congratulations to **Chloe Haesler** and **Jake Papworth** 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.

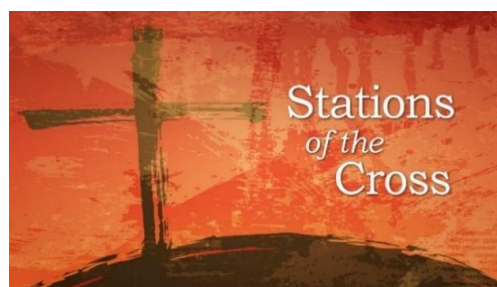
**RECONCILIATION:** This weekend, we welcome the children who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of First Reconciliation, together with their families. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers as the children take this important step in their sacramental journeys.

First Reconciliation will be celebrated at St Michael's Church on the 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2022, for Grade 3 students and above.

**BAPTISM FOR SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN:**

(RCIC- Rite of Christian Initiation of Children)

Our thanks to Susan Grout for her enthusiasm, dedication and energy given so generously to the assistance and preparation of the children being baptised this weekend.



*Fridays during Lent @ 7pm in the Church*

**R.C.I.A.:** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

RCIA continues to meet on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre. Please keep our catechumens, Laura Andreou, Alyssa Bell and Kyle Alcock, and the RCIA team in your prayers.



**SYNOD 2021-2023 LET'S WALK TOGETHER:**

**SAVE THE DATE MAY 01, 2022 2:00pm**  
**St Kieran's Church, Moe**

The first phase of the diocesan consultation period for the synod of Bishops has come to an end. To mark this, Bishop Greg is inviting you to a Diocesan gathering to celebrate this phase. The date has been set based on the feedback from the Clergy at the recent reflection day.

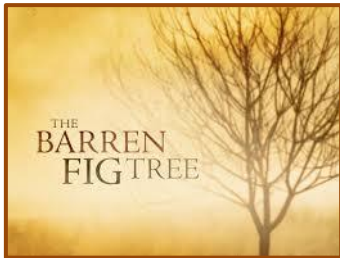
Please keep this afternoon free and Bishop would appreciate it if there are no other events scheduled for that afternoon. This is a celebration for the whole diocese and it is hoped for representation from each parish at this event. Further details shortly!

**THANK YOU MORNING TEA:**

*Our morning tea planned for Sunday March 20 has had to be postponed to a future date. Unfortunately, our office staff have had to spend time in covid isolation with family members. The morning tea will occur at some time in the near future. Watch this space!*

**St Michael's Parish Morning Tea at a date to be advertised soon!!**

**REFLECTION ON SCRIPTURE:** West Gippsland Community Radio hosts a weekly Scripture and Song segment on 3BBR 103.1FM. Tune in Sundays from 9am-10am to listen to the weekly gospel reflection.



**STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:**

*"...He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.'" (LUKE 13:7)*

We can all be like the barren fig tree at times. Do you cling to what you have or do you generously share with others? How will you respond when God asks you what you have done with all the gifts He has given you? Remember, not only are we called to be generous, we are called to develop and nurture our gifts, and return them with increase. Remember, we are called to be generous with all of gifts; especially the one that means the most to you.

Next week's readings  
 Sunday March 27, 2022 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Yr C  
 First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12  
 Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21  
 Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32



**PROJECT COMPASSION 2022**



Please take home a Project Compassion box and a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **For All Future Generations**.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2022 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come to build better future for all.

As St Pope John Paul II said,  
**"The future starts today, not tomorrow."**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au), or by calling 1800 024 413.

Rosters for March 26 & 27, 2022		Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year C		
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Mar 26 5:00pm	R Foote T Larkin	J Fleming	A Ryan	
Sunday Mar 27 9:30am	U Imhagwe E Imhagwe	C McCabe	M Wilkinson	
Sunday Mar 27 5:00pm	C, E, S Hill	C, E, S Hill	J McLaughlin	
<i>Mick's Kitchen:</i>	24 <sup>th</sup> March- McLaughlin Team		31 <sup>st</sup> March Moretti Team	

**Entrance Antiphon** Ez 36:23-26

*When I prove my holiness among you,  
I will gather you from all the foreign lands;  
and I will pour clean water upon you  
and cleanse you from all your impurities,  
and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.*

**First Reading** Ex 3:1-8 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

*This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.*

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 102:1-4 6-8 11 R v8

**(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**
3. The Lord does deeds of justice,  
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses  
and his deeds to Israel's sons. **(R.)**

4. The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

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

*All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.*

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Mt 4:17

*Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Repent, says the Lord;  
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

**Gospel**

Lk 13:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.*

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"