



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

Gospel Reflection by Gerard Hall SM: Looking for the Hard Truth

Although Thomas is called the 'twin', he might be better named Thomas the 'realist'. Unlike other disciples, Thomas is not about to believe in something as improbable as Jesus rising from the dead unless he has hard evidence. We might even call him Thomas the 'sceptic' who believes only in things he can see and touch. Yet, our 'doubting Thomas' has more to teach us than is commonly realised. In John's Gospel, Thomas is presented as someone who does the right thing even in the face of adversity. This is shown when Jesus decides to visit the ill and dying Lazarus. Thomas urges the disciples to accompany Jesus on this difficult mission — even if they might face death: "Let us go that we may die with him" (Jn 11:16). Thomas is a person of action who is true to his word. This is in contrast to Peter who commits himself to follow Jesus to the point of death, but then denies him three times!

Nor is Thomas afraid to express his ignorance and ask the hard questions. At the Last Supper, when Jesus tells the disciples they know where he is going, Thomas bluntly expresses his confusion: "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (Jn 14:5).

Finally, from today's gospel, we are presented with both a 'doubting Thomas' who is slow to believe, and yet someone who remains open-minded and continues to search for the truth. Once the resurrected Christ appears to him, his response is full-hearted and immediate: "My Lord and my God" (Jn 20:28).

We, like Thomas, are people caught up with deeply human doubts and questions. Unlike Thomas, we do not have the luxury of walking beside Jesus for three years in his public ministry. Yet, even for Thomas this is still not enough to believe without evidence that Jesus was now risen.

Nor do we have the privilege of touching the wounds in the risen body of Jesus, as Thomas did. Yet, in a strange twist of events, Jesus says that you and I are even more blessed than Thomas: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" (Jn 20:29).

Yet, our faith is not blind belief in things that others tell us. Easter faith is a genuine experience of the risen Lord who always walks with us on the journey of life. This is especially when we experience "crucifixion moments" in our own lives, or when our doubts threaten to overwhelm us. As Thomas' own experience teaches, doubt is not the opposite of faith, but its pre-condition, leading us to search for the 'hidden God' who is closer to us than we are to ourselves.

Pope Francis says that by living our faith in loving service of others "many doubts vanish because we feel the presence of God and the truth of the Gospel." In other words, Easter faith is less about a set of things to believe in, than a way of life leading us to ever deepening discipleship.

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am & 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Monday April 25	9:30am ANZAC day Mass
Tuesday April 26	9:30am Liturgy of the Word
Wednesday April 27	11:00am Adoration 12:00pm Liturgy of the Word
Thursday April 28	9:30am Liturgy of the Word
Friday April 29	9:30am Liturgy of the Word

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Margaret McColl and Mick Collis and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Laurence John, Bob Williams, Joan Carstairs-Prot, Donald Grant, Ted Berude, Mary James, Pat Brown, Pat Thompson, Kevin Lythgo, Daniel & Mary Allman, Doreen Papenberg, Colin Ashton, Neil Crowe and Albert McArthur .

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

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: including Peter Dal Pra, Ann-Maree Daly, 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 Mc Kerchar, 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, and Tony Tactor, and all those we hold dear in our hearts.



Thank you

It was wonderful to see so many parishioners attend and enjoy our Holy Week Masses. We are so grateful to all those who shared their time, energy and talents, both behind the scenes and at each Mass to ensure they ran smoothly. Thanks to everyone involved, including our church cleaners, our flower ladies, commentators, piety stall workers, our banner hangers, statue drapers, lectors, 'palm' providers, eucharistic ministers, sacristans, musicians, hall openers and closers, supper providers, candle providers, money collectors and altar serving teams. Thank you to our RCIA team for organizing our wonderful Easter Vigil and the preparation and support of our newest parishioners, and to the CWL Ladies for the abundance of food and welcoming smiles at our parish supper, and especially for those who cleaned up afterwards. Thank you to Father Aju and Deacon Tony for their leadership and spiritual guidance during what is a very special and very busy time. We are all so lucky to belong to such a wonderful parish!

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Monday April 25	
9:30am	ANZAC Day Mass, St Michael's Church
Tuesday April 26	
10:00am	CWL Meeting, Parish Centre
Thursday April 28	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Meeting, St Michael's Church
Saturday April 30 – Sunday May 01	
Planned Giving Program Begins	
Sunday May 01	
2:00pm	A Celebration of our Diocese! St Kieran's Church Moe

BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for Baptism, **Grace Rose Rowley**, daughter of Troy and Rebecca. Congratulation from us all and welcome to our Parish family.



The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on **Tuesday May 10 at 7:00pm** in the Church. Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 if you are interested in attending.

RCIA NEWS: Congratulations to **Laura Andreou, Alyssa Bell and Kyle Alcock** who officially joined our parish and the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil last weekend. Well done, and thank you to our RCIA team for guiding and supporting them on their journey.

DIOCESAN CLERGY RETREAT: Father Aju will be away next week as he will be attending the Diocesan Clergy Retreat. Liturgy of the Word will continue during normal Mass times in his absence.

St Michael's Parish Traralgon

A time to **RENEW** and **REBUILD**

Planned Giving Program 2022

Next weekend, our Parish Finance Team will report on our current financial situation, the impact of COVID lockdowns and restrictions, and future challenges and goals as we prepare for a new Planned Giving Program. The Planned Giving Program is the main financial support for our parish and supports our pastoral programs, ministries, building maintenance and general running costs of our parish. Your pledge allows us to budget for these costs and plan for our future. Our new campaign is two years overdue and has been postponed multiple times. Please support the work of our Parish, and help carry the load by responding with generosity and love. The team will be available over the next three weekends to answer any questions you may have about our planned giving program, including ways you can support our parish both financially, as well as with your time and talents. It has been a difficult and unprecedented two years for us all, and now it is time to renew and rebuild together.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: The next meeting of the CWL will be at 10:00am in the Parish Centre next Tuesday, April 26. All are welcome to come along.



PARISH MORNING TEA: The CWL will be hosting a morning tea in the Mary MacKillop School Hall after mass on **Sunday May 15** to raise funds for Caritas. It is a wonderful chance to catch up with other

parishioners while supporting a really worthy cause. Don't forget to pop the date in your diary and bring some cash along on the day for the market stall and other fundraising activities.

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT:

National Prayer Pilgrimage for the Plenary Council.

People across the country are invited to participate in a national prayer pilgrimage as the Catholic Church in Australia prepares for the Second Assembly of the 5th Plenary Council of Australia in Sydney from 3-9 July.

We pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and grace for the Members who will gather and also for ourselves and the Church, that we may have the courage to follow where God is leading us.

Access Walking in the Spirit Prayer Resources at: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/walkinginthespirit



“LET'S WALK TOGETHER” A Celebration of our Diocese!

As the first phase of the Synodal Process, 'Listening and Discernment in the Local Churches', concludes, a Diocesan Pre-Synodal celebration has been called by Bishop Greg Bennet, inviting people from parishes, schools and agencies throughout the Diocese to join him and the clergy for a Liturgy of the Word, followed by afternoon tea.

You are invited to join this celebration on the **1st May 2022 at 2.00pm at St Kieran's Church, Lloyd St, Moe.** Please contact the parish office by April 26 to register your interest in attending. Bookings are necessary for catering purposes. We look forward to seeing you there!



Aid to the Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA

For 75 years, the support of Christian refugees has been a major pillar of the work of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). Today

ACN is supporting displaced Catholic families by attending to basic needs such as food and medicine, but these families also hunger for the healing power of the sacraments and the pastoral support of the Church. As such, the help we provide is not only material. Our support of priests, sisters, and catechists all work to build up the faith and to offer help and consolation to those in desperate need. Can you give hope to Christian refugees today? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/refugees.



Caritas AUSTRALIA

PROJECT COMPASSION

Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion – past, present and future. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

Please ensure that all Project Compassion funds are returned by next weekend, either via the collection plate or directly to the parish office. Credit Card donations can still be made either online at www.lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2022 Lenten appeal.



STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'" (John 20:21)

Peace – the first gift of the risen Lord. Just as Jesus sent the apostles out into the world, so too, He sends us. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be grateful and generous. Look for opportunities to share His peace, not only within our local parish boundaries, but outside of them as well. In giving, we receive the peace of Jesus Christ.

Please join us for the Divine Mercy Chaplet this Sunday April 24 after 930am Mass



Rosters for April 30 & May 01, 2022		3 rd Sunday of Easter, Year C		
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Apr 30 5:00pm	W & J Gomez	S Grout	A Ryan	
Sunday May 01 9:30am	T Denny	M Wilkinson	C McLure & B McNulty	
Sunday May 01 5:00pm	E Harte	S Darby	J & M McLaughlin	
<i>Mick's Kitchen:</i>	28 th April Scholtes Team		5 th May McLaughlin Team	

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 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:1-2 16-17 R v24

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

- 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.)**
- 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.)**
- O Lord, grant us salvation;
O Lord grant success.
Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
the true God is our light. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rv 1:9-13 17-19

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever.

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

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

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.'

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.

Next weeks Readings: 3 rd Sunday of Easter	
1 st Reading	Acts 5:27-32, 40-41
2 nd Reading	Apoc 5:11-14
Gospel	John 21:1-19