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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

22 January 2023

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.

Statement of Commitment to the safety of children and adults at risk: 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 Officer 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
Principal: Mr Ryan Greer
Kildare Campus 5174 8111
St Paul's Campus 5174 7355



Reflection: People who found the light

by Joseph Doyle

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Galilee was no one's idea of a place that could launch a 'world changing movement'. Galilee's history was not glorious. The readings today refer to it as the "land of Naphtali", which was one of the breakaway tribes of the Jewish people that formed the northern kingdom of Israel.

According to the Old Testament, these tribes did not remain faithful to God, committing idolatry and gross injustices. The northern kingdom was later invaded and its people taken captive by the Assyrian empire. The area around the Sea of Galilee remained largely deserted for centuries.

By the time of Jesus, Galilee had been repopulated by Jewish people who had formed several prosperous towns and villages. Although its population was fervently Jewish, their countrymen in Judea and around Jerusalem regarded Galileans as barely qualifying as Jewish, with their blended ethnic heritage and stereotypes about them being lax in religious practice.

They had identifiable accents and would have been regarded by Judeans as their less-sophisticated country cousins. Throughout the Gospels the Judeans repeatedly dismiss Jesus and his disciples when they learn they are from Galilee.

These are people today's readings describe as "people who walked in darkness", and with history the Scriptures depict as 'degraded by God'. But it is to the people of Galilee, "on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen."

Jesus' ministry in Galilee is a fitting example of how God ministers first to the lowly and humble and chooses them to do wonderful things for him. The people of Galilee are the first to hear the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Their people are chosen to be disciples of Israel's promised Messiah and messengers of God to the ends of the earth. And it is to the Galileans that Jesus first travels "teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people."

Today's gospel brings us hope for our own land, currently assailed by secularism and our own history of injustices. Our country could also be a spark for God's plan of salvation for the entire world. What we learn is that God is looking to bring the kingdom of heaven to people who have the humility and willingness to follow him.

If the kingdom of heaven is to come through us, then it must start with the two messages that Jesus' preaches in the gospel: "Repent" and "Come after me." Jesus calls the people of Galilee, and us today, to leave the darkness of our past sins behind us and follow him, the one true light.

May we all pray that we, a people who walk in darkness, see the true light of Christ and become "fishers of men" for him to the ends of the earth. May every corner of our country know Jesus' teachings, his healing and his love for people.

| Sunday Mass Times | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Saturday | 5:00pm Mass |
| Sunday | 9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass |
| Weekday Mass Times | |
| Tuesday Jan 24 | 9:30am Mass |
| Wednesday Jan 25 | 11:00am Reconciliation |
| | 11:00am Exposition |
| | 12:00pm Mass |
| Thursday Jan 26 | 9:30am Mass* - Australia Day |
| Friday Jan 27 | 9:30am Mass |

*Thursday morning mass during School Holidays will be celebrated at St Michael's Church **not** at St Gabriel's Primary School. This Thursday we will have a special mass to acknowledge Australia Day.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Cardinal George Pell, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Trevor Brand and Desmond Campbell, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Bronwyn Janssen, Shirley Alford, Guiseppa Agostino, Angelina Agostino, Elizabeth Jones, Williamina Battista, Roger Biancon, Jack Dessent, Jonathan Phelan, and Ellen Koch. *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, 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, Jerry Templer, Damiano Tripodi, Julie Vaz, Brian Vivian, Sharon Veleff, George Walkan, Roy Ward, Victoria Rohli, Father John Speekman, James Whitty, Pasqualina Loprese, Ria Tactor, Kathleen Whitty, Martin McLaughlin and Kelly Maher, and all those we hold dear in our hearts.



TOURING STATUE OF OUR LADY: We would like to restart our Touring Statue of our Lady Ministry. If this is something you have been a part of before, or would like to learn more about, please contact the parish office. We are also looking for someone to oversee the roster.

LENTEN RESOURCES: We are delighted to present Garratt Publishing's new 2023 Lenten program for Year A, *God is on the Journey, Too* by Chris Monaghan. Chris says, 'At every stage of the journey of faith, there is something to learn, invitations for us to grow, and opportunities for our relationships with God and others to be strengthened, healed, and renewed.' In addition to the scriptural readings, a selection of quotes are included in the program featuring both ancient and modern saints, as well as contemporary sources of wisdom. These have been chosen because they shed their own light on this time of grace, acting as trustworthy and wise guides for the journey that lies ahead.

If this is something you would be interested in, please let the parish office know as soon as possible so we can include you in our order. Books will be sold at the RRP of \$8.95.

| THIS WEEK'S EVENTS: | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday January 24 | |
| 7:00pm | Mick's Kitchen Team Leaders, St Vincent de Paul Centre |
| Wednesday January 25 | |
| 11:00am | Reconciliation, St Michael's Church |
| Thursday January 26- Australia Day Public Holiday | |
| 7:30pm | RCIA Meeting, Parish Centre |
| Friday January 27 | |
| 9:30am | Back to school Mass for Latrobe Valley teachers, St Michael's Church |
| Sunday January 29 | |
| 9:30am | Feast of the Sto Nino, St Mary's Cathedral Sale |

BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for Baptism **Nadia May Kosakiewicz**, daughter of Justin and Domenica, **Lexi Hazel Lee Griffiths** and **Abigail Judith Griffiths**, daughters of Gavin and Mariah. Congratulations and welcome to our parish! The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held **Tuesday February 7th at 7:00pm** in the Church. Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 if you are interested in attending.



R.C.I.A.: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
St Michael's Parish warmly invites anyone interested in discovering more about the Catholic faith to come along to our meetings which are held on Thursday evenings in the Parish Centre, 7:30 - 9:00pm. Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060, if you, or someone you know might be interested.



THE GREY ARMY: Would you be interested in joining our newest parish team? We are organizing a group to meet once a fortnight at the church to do minor maintenance and external/internal cleaning activities, followed by a cup of tea and a chance to catch up. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact the parish office.



CHURCH CLEANING: Our volunteers will be cleaning the church this Friday at 1pm, anyone who is interested or available to help please come along, all are welcome. We are in particular need of people to vacuum, but there are plenty of other jobs too!

CAR PARKING: We are currently unable to use the St Michael's school yard to park our cars for weekend masses while the gates are being replaced.

CHAPLAIN NEEDED: A part time chaplaincy position has become available at a local primary school to begin in February 2023. The aim of the role is to support the emotional wellbeing of students and the broader school community. Applicants should have completed or be working towards a Certificate IV in chaplaincy, youth work, community services, or ministry or equivalent. Please also note that degrees such as teaching, social working, nursing, counselling and psychology may be considered. If you or someone you know may be interested please contact the parish office or Samantha the recruitment officer on 1300 792 856 for a position description or more information.



2023 FEAST OF THE STO NINO at St Mary's Cathedral, Sale:

The 13th Fiesta Gathering of the Filipino Community of the Sale and Districts in honour of Sto Nino (Holy Infant Jesus) will take place on **Sunday 29 January at 9.30am in St Mary's Cathedral**. We will begin with Mass celebrated

by Bishop Gregory Bennet and the Bayanihan Circle (Filipino Choir) at 9:30am, followed by morning tea from 10:30am hosted by the Bayanihan Circle and friends.

-Anyone with a Sto Nino statue can bring it along for a blessing.

-Wearing of traditional Filipino costumes is encouraged.

-Everyone is invited to share a Filipino feast organised by the Bayanihan Circle and friends in the assembly area of the Cathedral after Mass.



PILGRIMAGE TO MARY MACKILLOP PLACE: The Catholic Women's League is organizing a pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Place in Sydney from the 5th – 7th June 2023. The tour includes return travel via bus from the Latrobe Valley to Sydney, and 2 nights accommodation. For more information speak with Johanna Sykes or contact the parish office.

Prayer for the New Year

God of this new year,
we are walking into mystery.

We face the future,
not knowing what the days and months
will bring to us or how we will respond.

Be love in us as we journey.

May we welcome all who come our way.

Deepen our faith to see all of life through your eyes.

Fill us with hope and an abiding trust
that you dwell in us amidst our joys and sorrows.

Thank you for the treasure of our faith life.

Thank you for the gift of being able to rise each day with the
assurance of your walking through the day with us.

God of this new year, we praise you.

Amen.

May I Have This Dance? An Invitation to Faithful Prayer throughout the Year, by Joyce Rupp (Ave Maria Press), 1992, 2007

The parish office will be closed on Thursday January 26 due to the Australia Day public holiday.



SYNOD OF BISHOPS: The Church around the world has entered the Continental Stage for the Synod of Bishops on Synodality. Groups around the country are praying with and responding to the Document for the Continental Stage,

which was published recently. Groups around Australia have spent time in responding to the Document which reflect the voices of the People of God from over 114 countries around the world. A collation of the Australian submissions is being prepared for the Bishops from the Oceania region when they meet in Fiji in February 2023. Access the Document for the Continental Stage www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch



Aid to the Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church.

Aid to the Church in Need is asking for support to aid sisters in Kenya in building a new mother house and formation centre for their local community. Hunger, illiteracy, and lack of medical provision, combined with desperately poor roads and a lack of clean drinking water make life incredibly difficult for many people in Kenya. The diocesan congregation of the "Visitation Daughters of the Immaculate Heart" were established in order to help this needy population - but to continue their work they need your help! The sisters' work includes caring for expectant mothers, acting as midwives, providing counselling, caring for the sick and looking after the elderly and orphans who are frequently abandoned by society. Your support will help these sisters to continue their mission by providing them with a permanent convent.

To make an offering and learn more visit <https://aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject>

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION:

"He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him." (Matthew 4:22)
Just as Jesus called the first apostles, He calls each of us to follow Him, too. Not everyone is called to leave their business or family behind, but we are expected to put God first in everything. Everything from our time in daily prayer, our talent in participating in one of our parish ministries, and our treasure to support the financial needs of our parish mission.

| Rosters for January 28 & 29, 2023 | | | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------|
| | Lector | Commentator | MERT | Welcomer | Musicians |
| Saturday Jan 28 5:00pm | R Foote & T Larkin | B Purcell | Volunteer | A Membrey | Jane & Simon |
| Sunday Jan 29 9:30am | K & L Roy | Volunteer | Volunteer | M Wilkinson & W Banks-Smith | Jane & Simon |
| Sunday Jan 29 5:00pm | V Vaz & S Harikrishna | S Darby | Volunteer | T Biancon | Jane & Simon |
| January Cleaning: | Welcomer's Team | | | | |
| Mick's Kitchen: | Feb 02 | McLaughlin Team | Feb 09 | St Michael's Staff | |

Entrance Antiphon Cf Ps 95:1, 6

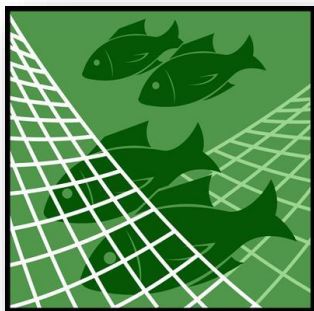
*O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.*

First Reading Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.
In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.
The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 26:1 4 13-4 R.v1**(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
Before whom shall I shrink? **(R.)**
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. **(R.)**
3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**



Next weeks Readings
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1st Reading Zeph 2:3, 3:12-13
2nd Reading 1 Cor 1:26-31
Gospel Mt 5:1-12

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 17

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

I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:23

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the
kingdom and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Matthew 4:12-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him. He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.