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Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

29 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

Scripture Commentary: by Dianne Bergant CSA

The prophet addresses the people with a threefold exhortation: Seek the Lord! Seek righteousness! Seek humility! The second part of the reading is an oracle of salvation in which God's loving words offer assurance and hope. A portion of the people will not only survive, they will faithfully conform to the dictates of the covenant. This remnant will be humbled, perhaps sobered by the suffering that it will have to undergo. Aware of their own dismal situation, these people have taken refuge in God. The path of righteousness that the remnant will follow will be the consequence of their deliverance, not the cause of it. Salvation and prosperity all come from the hand of God.

Although covenant is never explicitly mentioned in the psalm response, various themes seem to point to it. There is mention of God's faithfulness and an allusion to God's deliverance of the people from the bondage of Egypt and God's providential care of them during their sojourn in the wilderness. In strict patriarchal societies, women and children are often the most vulnerable. These are the ones for whom God cares.

The final verse praises God as sovereign and eternal ruler in Jerusalem, the very hill that is at the centre of the lives of the people. This is a God who has entered into their history and into the very social fabric of their existence. Such a God deserves praise.

Paul speaks about honour-and-shame. Judged by the standards of society at the time, the Christians are unimportant; they are really nobodies. God chooses the nobodies of the world in order to shame those who think that they are somebodies. At the heart of Jesus' teaching was the promise of a new age when society would be reshaped so that all would gain access to the blessings that life has to offer. Promises such as these would attract people who were oppressed or who felt themselves dispossessed of the things of the world. Paul next turns from ecclesiology to Christology, insisting that every good thing that we have we have received because of Christ.

The sermon of the mount was directed to Jesus' close followers, not to the broader crowds. While the teachings are all in some way directed toward the establishment of the reign of God, the type of behaviour or values that Jesus advocates is frequently the opposite of that espoused by society at large. This fact offers us a way to understand the challenges set before us in the beatitudes. Perhaps the way to interpret them is to look first at the blessings promised. We may see that the behaviour that Jesus is advocating is at odds with what society would say will guarantee the blessing that we seek. It is clear that each and every beatitude invites us to turn our standards and our way of life upside down and inside out.

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Jan 31	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Feb 01	11:00am Reconciliation
	11:00am Exposition
	12:00pm Mass
Thursday Feb 02	9:30am Mass
	11:00am Mass- Dalkeith
Friday Feb 03	9:30am Mass

*Thursday morning mass will be celebrated at St Michael's Church **not** at St Gabriel's Primary School. This Thursday we will celebrate the Presentation of the Lord.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Fr Tao Pham, Louis Wycisk and Kathleen Whitty and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Michael McCabe, Bill Weller, Pat Harrup, Theo Melenhorst, Bronwyn Janssen, Shirley Alford, Guiseppe Agostino, Angelina Agostino and Elizabeth Jones. *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 Mc Kerchar, 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, 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.

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 this **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.



THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Sunday January 29	
9:30am	Feast of the Sto Nino, St Mary's Cathedral Sale
Tuesday January 31	
10:00am	CWL Meeting, Parish Centre
Wednesday February 01	
9:30am	Wednesday Morning Prayer Group, Parish Centre
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday February 02 Presentation of the Lord	
11:00am	Mass- Dalkeith Heights
7:30pm	RCIA Meeting, Parish Centre

BAPTISMS: 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.

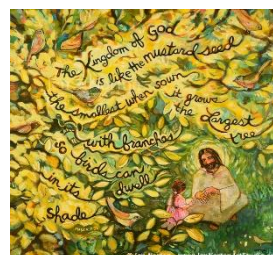
THE GREY ARMY: Would you be interested in joining our newest parish team? We are organizing a group to meet once a fortnight at the church to do minor maintenance and external/internal cleaning activities, followed by a cup of tea and a chance to catch up. If you or someone you know would be interested,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

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE: The first meeting of the Catholic Women's League for 2023 will be on Tuesday January 31 at 10:00am in the Parish Centre.



Mick's Kitchen:

Mick's Kitchen will re-open this Thursday February 02 for sit down meals in the St Vincent de Paul Assistance Centre, on the corner of Kay and Breed Streets Traralgon. Meals will be served from 6pm - 7pm with tea and coffee available from 5:45pm. All are invited and welcome to attend.



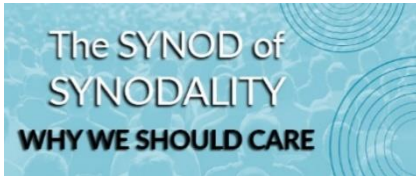
COMBINED STAFF MASS: Thank you to Robyn, Allison, Jodie and teams for organizing a special return to school Mass for our Latrobe Valley parish teachers on Friday. We were joined by Bishop Greg along with teachers from St Michael's and St Gabriel's

Traralgon, Sacred Heart and St Vincent's Morwell, Lumen Christi Churchill and Lavalla Catholic College. It was wonderful to all come together to celebrate the start of the new school year. We also enjoyed catching up with Bishop Greg at an impromptu morning tea with parishioners and principals. It was a great opportunity to say hello and get to know each other a little better.



SYNOD OF BISHOPS: The Church around the world has entered the Continental Stage for the Synod of Bishops on Synodality. 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



CONVOCATION ON SYNODALITY – WHY WE SHOULD CARE: Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, President of the Australian Catholic

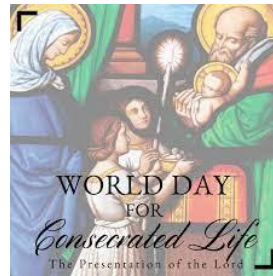
Bishops Conference will introduce a virtual Convocation on synodality, *The Synod on Synodality: Why we should care*, at **7.30pm AEDT on Thursday 2 February**. Speakers, including **Susan Pascoe, Francis Sullivan** and **Patricia Gemmell** will discuss the *Document for the Continental Stage of the Synod* and current work on the imminent Bishops' response. Sponsored by Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform, Garratt Publishing and YTU-University of Divinity. Free registration www.garratt.com.au



Aid to the Church in Need Australia: ACN AUSTRALIA 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>

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



WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE: Celebrated February 02, it is an opportunity to celebrate the gift of consecrated life and pray for men and women discerning a consecrated vocation with the global Catholic Church. In addition, Pope Francis invites worldwide prayer during February for consecrated women and men.

While all the baptized are called to share a common relationship with God: to be "religious" or holy in the broad sense of the word, those choosing to live consecrated lives elect to follow a specific tradition or spirituality often patterned after the life and teaching of the founder of their community. This special day draws attention to the contributions that consecrated men and women make to the Church and society at-large.

Instituted by Pope John Paul II in 1997, World Day for Consecrated Life is a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. The celebration is attached to the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on Feb. 2. This feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. Similarly, consecrated men and women are called to spread the light and love of Jesus Christ through their unique witness of selfless service, such as caring for the poor, the contemplative work of prayer, or through their professional careers.

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. If you or someone you know may be interested please contact the parish office on 03 5174 2060 or Samantha the recruitment officer on 1300 792 856 for a position description or more information.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." MATTHEW 5:3

The phrase "poor in spirit" can be confusing. Think of it in this sense – poor in spirit means depending on God's providence and not depending on our own self-reliance. Being detached from earthly things (power, money, and comfort) and being attached to heavenly things (charity, sacrifice, and mercy). Denying ourselves from satisfying our desires and helping others obtain their basic needs.

Rosters for February 04 & 05, 2023			Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A		
	Lector	Commentator	MERT	Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Feb 04 5:00pm	R Webber	D Smith	Volunteer	M Giddens	Jane & Simon
Sunday Feb 05 9:30am	C McLure & R Diaz	Volunteer	Volunteer	A Sykes & M Blanchard	
Sunday Feb 05 5:00pm	J Panozzo-Tile	Volunteer	Volunteer	J McLaughlin	Jane & Simon
January Cleaning:	Welcomer's Team				
Mick's Kitchen:	Feb 02	McLaughlin Team	Feb 09	St Michael's Staff	

Entrance Antiphon Cf Ps 105:47

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
To give thanks to your holy name,
And make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading Zep 2:3, 3:12-13

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

Seek the Lord
all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.
Seek integrity,
seek humility:
you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.
In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in
the name of the Lord.
They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 26:1 4 13-4 R.v1

**(R.) Happy the poor in spirit;
The kingdom of heaven is theirs!**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**



Next weeks Readings
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1st Reading Is 58:7-10
2nd Reading 1 Cor 2:1-5
Gospel Mt 5:13-16

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

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

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 5:12

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Matthew 5:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:
'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'