

## 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 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



### Weekly Reflection: by Michael McGirr

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 | Romans 5:12-19 | Matthew 4:1-11

Nelson Mandela said that education was the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world. There are plenty of people who would agree with him, one of them is Oprah Winfrey. She said that education was the way to move mountains, build bridges and to change the world. Today's readings certainly suggest the value of learning.

The story from the Book of Genesis comes from pre-history. It has often been misunderstood to suggest that sin entered the world through one woman, yet this is not true. On the contrary, the readings tell us that the world is good. When humans try to overstretch their boundaries, trouble follows and the experience of beauty and harmony is threatened. We need to choose our teachers. Are we going to listen to God or the serpent?

In our modern world, the serpent takes many forms. There are many threats to the harmony of the human race and the beauty of our natural environment. Likewise, today's story of the temptations in the wilderness from Matthew's Gospel shows us that some lessons are difficult. Jesus actually teaches the devil, telling the evil one that God is in charge. Jesus has to decide which voices he will follow, and has to learn that some ideas may not be as good as they sound. All the kingdoms of the world, Jesus learns, are no substitute for an honest and life-giving relationship with God.



*Laxmi (16) facilitating a wall magazine poster making session with Child Club members at her old school in Jajarkot district, western Nepal.*

*Photo: Richard Wainwright  
Caritas Australia*

Each week during Lent, Caritas Australia asks us to think about a special story. The story focuses on someone who has benefitted from your generosity through Project Compassion. This week, we hear about 16-year-old Laxmi who lives in a remote part of Nepal. Your help has enabled her to overcome family hardship to pursue her education. She was tempted to give up on school, but Project Compassion enabled her to follow a more positive direction and to realise what she could achieve for her community by becoming an engineer. The evil spirit will always get us to focus on what we don't have. The spirit of light will show us what is truly possible.

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Feb 28	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Mar 01	11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Liturgy
Thursday Mar 02	9:30am* Liturgy @ St Gabriel's
Friday Mar 03	9:30am Liturgy

\*Thursday morning liturgy and communion will be celebrated at St Gabriel's Primary School. Everyone is welcome.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** those who have died recently including Bryan Vivian and Peter Pacunskis, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Patrick Gorman, Milka Zidar, Nora Harte, Maureen Carberry, Connie Falzon, Antonio Panozzo-Tile and John Zahra. *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, 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.



**SAVE THE DATE:**

- Sunday February 26:** Rite of Election, 3:00pm
- Wednesday March 01:** First Reconciliation Meeting 6:00pm
- Friday March 03:** World Day of Prayer, St James, 10:30am
- Saturday March 04:** A Day With the Spirit, 10am – 4pm

**MICK'S ARMY:** Will be meeting at the Parish Centre this Thursday at 10:30am to continue their work around the parish. We have lots of bark to spread over the gardens so please bring along your rake, shovel or wheelbarrow. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come along and join the fun.


## A DAY WITH THE SPIRIT



**Saturday March 04**  
10am – 4pm  
Starting with Mass  
in the Church and  
following in  
Mary MacKillop  
Hall,  
St Michael's School.

Invite your friends to a wonderful day of worship, teaching and fellowship, led by Father Francis Otobo. All are welcome. BYO lunch.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Tuesday February 28	
10:00am	Catholic Women's League, Mary MacKillop Room
6:00pm	Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Centre
Wednesday March 01	
6:00pm	1st Reconciliation Parent/Child Workshop St Michael's Church
Thursday March 02	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
10:30am	Mick's Army, Parish Centre
7:30pm	RCIA Meeting, Parish Centre
Friday March 03	
10:30am	World Day of Prayer, St James Anglican Church
7:00pm	Stations of the Cross, St Michael's Church
Saturday March 04	
10:00am	A Day With the Spirit, Mary MacKillop Hall

**BAPTISMS:** This weekend we welcome for Baptism, **Clare Rose Theissling**, daughter of Lee and Hollie. Congratulations!   
The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on **Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm** in the Church. Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 if you are interested in attending.



We will be running a baptism preparation program for school aged children during March. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact the parish office for more information.



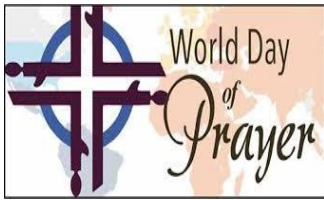
**RITE OF ELECTION 2023:** The Rite of Election will be celebrated by Bishop Greg Bennet at St Mary's Cathedral Sale on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 3.00 pm**. An invitation is extended to all catechumens, candidates, and their families, RCIA team members and parishioners. Come along and support Tess and Lorraine and stay for afternoon tea afterwards.

**SACRAMENTS NEWS:** Enrolments are now open for the sacrament of first reconciliation. There will be a parent and child information evening held on Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6pm in the church. The Sacrament of First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Wednesday March 29.



**Stations of the Cross**  
**Fridays during Lent @**  
**7pm in the Church**

*Next week will be led by the St Vincent de Paul Team.*



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023:**

The WDP is celebrated in over 170 countries around the world on the first Friday of March. This year's ecumenical prayer service has been

designed by the women of Taiwan. All parishioners are most welcome to attend. Please bring something to share at morning tea.

There will be a collection to assist the Bible Society of Taiwan to reach half a million immigrant brides offering them a chance to connect and an opportunity to belong.

Contact Mike Hansen or the Parish Office for any extra details.

**March 3rd 10:30am**

**St James Anglican Church, Traralgon**

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:** Thank you to the CWL ladies for hosting a fantastic morning tea last weekend. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other better and learn more about World Youth Day. The day was a big success, with lots of money raised for World Youth Day and lots of fun was had by all. The next meeting of the CWL will be on **Tuesday February 28** in the newly refurbished Mary MacKillop Room at **10am**.



**WORLD YOUTH DAY UPDATE:** Zahra would like to thank everyone for supporting her this past weekend. After speaking at all 3 Masses, she was overwhelmed with so much love and encouragement for her upcoming trip to

Portugal in July. With the help of the Catholic Women's League and countless donations that came through this week she raised \$2203. What an amazing weekend for our Parish community. Thank you everyone! Registrations are still open until March 17 if anyone aged 16 - 35yo is interested.

**STEWARSHIP REFLECTION:**

*"It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve." (Matthew 4:10)*

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the centre of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things. Ask God how he is calling you to serve.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Laxmi, 16, lives in in Jajarkot, a remote district in Nepal where almost half of the population live below the poverty line. Tragedy struck when Laxmi was 10 years old and her father passed away. Her father worked hard to pay for his children's education and after losing him Laxmi was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty. With the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club at her school where she was encouraged to resume her education. Through the child's club, Laxmi developed the skills and confidence to become a leader, advocating for clean water taps at her school. Laxmi is now excelling in her studies and working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She continues to be involved in the child's club, serving as an advisor and mentoring the next generation of young leaders at her old school. 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 [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.



**Art Competition**  
**THEME: HOLY WEEK - the meaning of Easter**

St Michael's Parish is running another Art Competition for all students. Get your creative cap on and draw, paint or sketch a masterpiece that represents the theme of **HOLY WEEK**. Entries close **March 20th 2023**. The winning artwork will feature on the home page of St Michael's Parish website and all artworks will be displayed in the church throughout our Easter celebrations. Artworks will be judged by a panel and prizes will be presented to the most creative entries. Prizes presented to winners at Mass on April 2nd at 5pm. Please submit your entries to the following school offices (St Michael's and St Gabriel's) or the St Michael's Parish office, including the following details on the back: Name, Class, Age, School and a parent's phone number.

Next Week's Readings: Second Sunday of Lent  
1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Genesis 12:1-4  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Tim 1:8-10  
Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Rosters for March 04 & 05, 2023			Second Sunday of Lent, Year A		
	Lector	Commentator	MERT	Welcomer	Musicians
<b>Saturday Mar 04 5:00pm</b>	B O'Brien & A Taylor	D Smith	Volunteer	M Giddens	
<b>Sunday Mar 05 9:30am</b>	C McLure & R Diaz	M Tainsh	Volunteer	A Sykes & M Blanchard	Filipino Choir
<b>Sunday Mar 04 5:00pm</b>	J Panozzo-Tile	Volunteer	Volunteer	J McLaughlin	
Mick's Kitchen:	Mar 02	Burns Team		Mar 09	Van Berkel Team

**Entrance Antiphon** Cf Ps 24:15-16

*When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.*

**First Reading** Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis

*Creation of our first parents, and sin.*

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 50:2-6 12-14 R seeV3  
**(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**
2. My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done. **(R.)**
3. A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R.)**
4. Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** Rom 5:12-19

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.*

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one

could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

**Gospel Acclamation** Matthew 4:4

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

*No one lives on bread alone,*

*but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

**Gospel** Matthew 4:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.*

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.'

Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.