

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 12:1-4a | 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 |
| Matthew 17:1-9 |

Think for a moment about some of the things you have on your walls at home. They don't have to be fancy or expensive. They might be photos of your family or perhaps of deceased grandparents. They might be prints of famous paintings or posters with sayings that mean a lot to you. It is very common that Christians have special things: crucifixes or images of saints. All of these things inspire us in one way or another. If ever you have had to pack up to move house and looked at your bare walls as you leave, they will seem empty and colourless.

Art is one of the things that transfigures our world and makes it more beautiful. Other things do this as well: laughter, tears, cooking, music, hugs and sharing stories. They all transfigure our houses and allow us to see them as homes. They unlock the true potential of an otherwise ordinary space.

This week Project Compassion, organised by Caritas Australia, presents us with the story of Teresa, a 27-year-old indigenous woman from Western Sydney, the area with the largest urban indigenous population in the country. Teresa became pregnant at the age of 16.

With your help, Project Compassion has been able to support the Mums and Bubs program run by Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation. This allowed Teresa to find accommodation, gain skills and continue her education. She was also able to connect with her culture. Her glorious artwork was featured on the Wulugul Walk during Sydney's Vivid Light festival last year. Her use of light and colour transfigured the environment where it was displayed. In so many places, Project Compassion helps people to achieve their vision.

Of course, the transfiguration of Jesus is unique. We hear in today's Gospel that Jesus took his closest friends to the top of a high mountain. His face shone like the sun and his face became 'as white as the light.' A voice from heaven said 'this is my beloved son; listen to him.' Peter said how wonderful it was to be there. The transfiguration may have only lasted a few minutes but it was clear that Jesus' friends never forgot it. Like a work of art on a wall, the memory made the world seem very different. During Lent, we are also called to transfigure the world, to make a difference.

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Mar 07	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Mar 08	11:00am Reconciliation 11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Mass
Thursday Mar 09	9:30am* Mass @ St Gabriel's 7:30pm Lenten Liturgy
Friday Mar 10	9:30am Mass

*Thursday morning mass will be celebrated at St Gabriel's Primary School. Everyone is welcome.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Jennifer Karoussis, Barry Bennett, Pat Lammans and Sister Eileen O'Loughlin, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Frank Valencic, Fr Tom O'Connell, Thomas Rigg, Jeanette Smith, Enio Bastianutto, Mary Holmes, Patrick Gorman, Milka Zidar, Nora Harte, Maureen Carberry, and Connie Falzon. *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, Sharon Veleff, George Walkan, Roy Ward, Victoria Rohli, Father John Speakman, James Whitty, Pasqualina Loprese, Ria Tactor, Martin McLaughlin and Kelly Maher, and all those we hold dear in our hearts.



**LENTEN
LITURGY:
Community of
the Cross
THURSDAY
MARCH 9 @
7:30PM**

All are welcome, come and join us!

As the nights lengthen and the sun weakens and time stretches through the darkening days of Lent, may we be reminded of the pattern of these days...

*Beyond the encroaching night there is the new dawn,
Below the seeping cold there is the warmth of hope,
Behind the daily struggle there is the memory of joy,
Above our heads is the transforming vision of the cross.*

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023: A wonderful day of prayer was held at St James Anglican Church on Friday. Thank you to the parishioners of St James and the wider Traralgon faith community for organizing the day and making everyone feel so welcome. It was especially wonderful to see children from our local schools in attendance too. We look forward to hosting the event next year.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Tuesday March 07	
11:30am	Funeral Prayers for Jennifer Karoussis, St Michael's Church
Wednesday March 08	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday March 09	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
12:00pm	Requiem Mass for Barry Bennett, St Michael's Church
7:30pm	Lenten Liturgy, St Michael's Church
Friday March 10	
7:00pm	Stations of the Cross, St Michael's Church

BAPTISMS: The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on **Tuesday March 21st at 7:00pm** in the Church. Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 if you are interested in attending.



RCIA NEWS: Congratulations to Tess and Lorraine who celebrated The Rite of Election along with catechumens and candidates from around the Diocese of Sale, with Bishop Greg Bennet at St Mary's Cathedral last Sunday. Thank you to their wonderful sponsors, families and our RCIA team for their ongoing support. Please keep them all in your prayers as they continue their journey towards Easter.



SACRAMENTS NEWS: We welcome our sacraments families who are preparing for their first reconciliation and celebrating their commitment mass this weekend. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue on their journey of faith. The Sacrament of First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Wednesday March 29.

WORLD YOUTH DAY: Zahra would like to thank everyone for their encouragement and support of her upcoming pilgrimage to Portugal for World Youth Day 2023. Places are still available for young people aged 16 – 35 who may be interested in attending. Please contact Cath or Jen in the parish office as soon as possible for more information. **Registrations close March 17 2023.**

FOLLOWING THE FOOTPRINTS OF JESUS: Fr. Joseph Abutu, Parish Priest from St Agatha's Parish Cranbourne, will be leading a 14-day pilgrimage to the Holy land from 30th April to 13th May 2023. This pilgrimage organised by Magi Pilgrimages will feature Jordan, the Dead Sea, Petra, Mt Nebo, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Bethlehem, Mt Tabor, Jericho, and Jerusalem. This Pilgrimage costs inclusive flights, accommodation in 4-star hotels, and meals. Mass will be celebrated daily at various holy sites. More than 85% of the intended Pilgrims have made their deposits. However, if you wish to join the group, please make your reservation by 20th March 2023. You can contact the parish office on 5996 1985.



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.

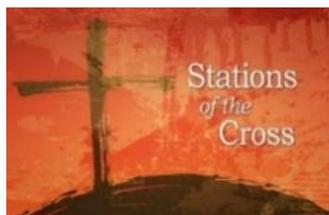
Please submit your entries to the following school offices (St Michael's and St Gabriel's) or the St Michael's Parish office, including the following details on the back: Name, Class, Age, School and a parent's phone number.



PROJECT COMPASSION: Tereesa is a Gamilaroi woman from Western Sydney who struggled with homelessness while raising her four children. At just 16 years old, she had to leave school after falling pregnant with her first child. A single mother struggling with homelessness, Tereesa's only concern was finding stability for her children. Seeking a better

future for her family, Tereesa joined Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs Group, supported by Caritas Australia. Baabayn helped Tereesa access housing and psychological support. Today, Tereesa is studying a certificate in Community Services so that she can strengthen her skills and give back to her community. Tereesa now works at Baabayn, providing support to young mothers and mentoring the next generation of young people. 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, or by calling 1800 024 413.



**Stations of the Cross
Fridays during Lent
@ 7pm in the
Church
All are welcome.**

Next week will be led by the Catholic Women's League.

LENTEN JOURNEY 2023 via ZOOM: You are invited to gather & engage with others focusing on prayer, discussion and fellowship via Zoom. Over the next six weeks, we will journey, reflecting on the Scriptures we will hear from the Sunday Gospels. They call us to consider our baptismal call and our response to that call as we head towards the great feast of Easter. We will be using a Lenten Companion called Spirit and Truth, The Power of Christ Revealed, issued by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. If you can partake in only some of the sessions, your attendance is always welcome. For further details or enquiries, please contact Michelle Grimsted at the St Mary's Parish Centre, Bairnsdale on 5152 2942.

**When: Monday 20th February, 27th February, 6th March, 13th March, 20th March, 27th March
Time: 8 pm – 9 pm**

STEWARSHIP REFLECTION:

*"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you."
(Genesis 12:1)*

God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow Him, placing our complete trust in Him. Some of the old ways that we may have to struggle to leave behind might be materialism, selfishness, and greed. Yet God promises to show us a new land and a better way to live. Remember what St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "God does not call us to be successful, God calls us to be faithful."

Rosters for March 11 & 12, 2023			Third Sunday of Lent, Year A		
	Lector	Commentator	MERT	Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Mar 11 5:00pm	R Webber	M Noone	Volunteer	C Payne	Jane & Simon
Sunday Mar 12 9:30am	A Thomas & E Babu	S Grout	Volunteer	D Bau	Diamente Family
Sunday Mar 12 5:00pm	E Harte	S Darby	Volunteer	B McNulty	Jane & Simon
Church Cleaning: Mick's Kitchen:	March- St Gabriel's Primary School Staff Mar 09 Van Berkel Team		Mar 16	McLaughlin Team	

Entrance Antiphon Cf Ps 24:15-16

*Of you my heart has spoken, seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.*

First Reading Genesis 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:4-5 18-20 22 Rv22

(R.) *Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.*

1. The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** 2 Tim 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

God has saved us, and called us to be holy

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 17:5

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Gospel 17:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

Next weeks Readings: Third Sunday of Lent

1 st Reading:	Exodus 17:3-7
2 nd Reading:	Rom 5:1-2 5-8
Gospel:	John 4:5-42