

## 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: Fifth Sunday of Lent by Michael McGirr

Ezek 37:12-14 Rom 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45

It must be difficult for somebody who has never experienced love to understand the Gospels. They are so full of different emotions, many of them tender. Just think of the beautiful reconciliation between Jesus and Peter after the resurrection. Jesus allows Peter to say that he loves him on no less than three occasions. Thankfully, most of us can write down a long list of people we have loved and also of those who have loved us. Many names would appear on both lists! We keep a special place in our hearts and prayers for the people we know who have died. Even after a long time, their memory will still bring a tear to our eyes. That sorrow comes from a place of deep gratitude. God changes the world one heart at a time. When we encounter today's Gospel, the story of the raising of Lazarus, we are in a world of emotion. Martha and Mary are grieving for their brother. Jesus loves these two women. Thomas, the twin, is full of bravado and bluster, just as he was later when he wanted proof of the resurrection. Both Martha and Mary are disappointed, even angry, that Jesus has not come sooner. Jesus weeps at the grave of his friend. The mourners who have come to comfort the family must also have been sensitive to the situation. When Jesus says 'I am the resurrection and the life' he is not explaining an idea. He is responding to the deepest longings of our hearts, as he always does.

Today's Psalm reminds us 'My soul is longing for the Lord more than the watcher for daybreak.' Over the last few weeks we have shared some of the stories presented to us by Caritas Australia to make us more aware of the inspirational work we can support through Project Compassion. There have been stories from Zimbabwe, Vietnam, Nepal and First Australians. Through your generosity, Caritas Australia is able to support partners in 18 different countries. These are all people who, not unlike Lazarus, are longing to be unbound and set free. The Gospel calls us to believe in the Life to which Jesus invites us; that Life is built on justice and compassion.



**Priscillia's grandchildren, Obry (8) and Jayden (7), read their school books at their home in Hwange district, north-western Zimbabwe. Photo: Richard Wainwright Caritas Australia**

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Mar 28	9:30am Mass 1:00pm Funeral Prayers- Tony Buhagiar
Wednesday Mar 29	11:00am Reconciliation 11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Mass 1:30pm Funeral Prayers- Helen Rijs
Thursday Mar 30	9:30am* Mass @ St Gabriel's
Friday Mar 31	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 Bev Cook, Ignatius (Tony) Buhagiar, Helen Rijs and Frank Van Elteren, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Denis O'Brien, Bill McMahon, Myra King, Maria Frescura, Brian Hourigan, George Hodgson, Cosimo Prestipino, Wil Waanders, and Arch Graham. *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, Fr John Speekman, James Whitty, Pasqualina Loprese, Ria Tactor, Martin McLaughlin, Kelly Maher, and John Waanders and all those we hold dear in our hearts.

## SUNDAY 2ND APRIL



**5PM MASS**

**YOUTH MASS**

LEARN TO READ  
COMMENTATE  
ALTAR SERVE  
MONEY  
COLLECT AT  
MASS.  
JOIN US FOR PIZZA  
AFTERWARDS IN THE  
MARY MACKILLOP  
HALL NEXT TO THE  
CHURCH

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH TRARALGON

CONTACT JEN. 51742060 SACRAMENTS@SMPT.ORG.AU

**YOUTH NEWS:** Please join us on **Friday March 31 at 7pm** for our youth led Stations of the Cross, all are welcome. Any young people who would like to read or help organise the evening should contact Cath or Jen in the parish office. Our young people will also lead and organise our **5pm Palm Sunday Mass on Sunday April 02**. We invite all our parishioners and families to join us to celebrate the young people in our parish, particularly those who have just completed their first reconciliation. Please join us for pizza afterwards in the School Hall.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Tuesday March 28	
10:00am	Catholic Women's League, Mary MacKillop Room
Wednesday March 29	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
4:30pm & 6:00pm	First Reconciliation Celebration, St Michael's Church
Thursday March 30	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
7:30pm	RCIA, Parish Centre
Friday March 31	
7:00pm	Stations of the Cross, St Michael's Church

**BAPTISMS:** This week we welcome for baptism **Jett and Emmy Read**, children of John and Daniella. Congratulations and welcome to our parish! The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on **Tuesday May 02 at 7:00pm** in the Church. Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 if you are interested in attending.



**RCIA NEWS:** This week our parish will present Tess and Lorraine with the Lord's Prayer as they face the Second Scrutiny on their next steps towards joining our church at Easter. Thank you to their sponsors, families and our RCIA team for their ongoing encouragement and support. Please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers.

**SACRAMENTS NEWS:** This weekend, we welcome the children who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of First Reconciliation, together with their families. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers as the children take this important step in their sacramental journeys. First Reconciliation will be celebrated at St Michael's Church next Wednesday March 29, for Grade 3 students and above.



Catholic Women's  
League Pilgrimage to  
Mary MacKillop Place

MARY MACKILLOP PLACE

**MARY MACKILLOP PILGRIMAGE:** The Catholic Women's League is organizing a pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Place in Sydney from the 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2023. The tour includes return travel via bus from the Latrobe Valley to Sydney, and two nights accommodation. It is an exciting opportunity to travel in a safe and supportive group environment, all the plans and details have been organized for you. Come and Join Us! For more information speak to Johanna Sykes or contact the parish office for more information.

**CHRISM MASS:** Join Bishop Greg Bennet and the Clergy of our Diocese at St Mary's Cathedral Sale, on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 11:00am** as they bless the three Holy oils and renew their commitment to their ministry for the church.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Parishioners who would like to help organise or take part in our Holy Week Masses should contact the parish office. We would love to have more people involved as there are many tasks and roles to share.

**TENEBRAE: the Service of Shadows** There is always a somber and sobering element to the Lenten Season as we prepare for the events of Holy Week...even the darker days of Autumn seem to announce the coming solemnities. As Lent draws to an end and Palm Sunday is behind us, we take pause to immerse ourselves in the coming shadow times of Jesus' last days...the shadows of his aloneness and betrayal, the shadows of his mockery and death. In Scripture, song and silence we place ourselves in the presence of the Saviour's passion.

Gather in as one in Holy Week to celebrate our faith in the One Lord. Come and Join Us!

**Tuesday April 04 at 7:30pm at St Michael's Church**

**FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION SATURDAY MARCH 25:**



The icon of the Annunciation translated by Mike Hansen from an original by Lviv-based contemporary icon artist Ivanka Demchuk.

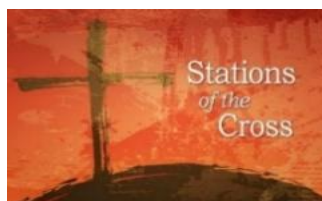
**PROJECT COMPASSION:**

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 the church foyer or the parish office, or online at [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or call 1800 024 413.



**ART COMPETITION:** Thank you to all our amazing artists who have submitted some wonderful pieces to our Holy Week Art Competition. They have been displayed around the church, so take a moment to go and have a look. The due date has been extended to Thursday March 30 so it is not too late to enter. Prizes will be presented to winners at the Youth Mass on April 2nd at 5pm.

**PIETY STALL:** The Piety Stall is open each weekend for 15 minutes after each mass. It will also be open on Wednesday March 29 from 4-5pm and from 530 – 630pm for sacraments families wanting to buy gifts to celebrate first reconciliation.



Next Friday our Youth Ministry will lead us through the Stations of the Cross. Please join us at 7pm in the Church, all are welcome.



Holy Week and Easter 2023	
Sunday April 02	9:30am Palm Sunday 5:00pm Palm Sunday
Tuesday April 04	7:30pm Tenebrae Service
Wednesday April 05	6:00pm Lenten Reconciliation
Thursday April 06	7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday April 07	9:30am Stations of the Cross 3:00pm The Passion of the Lord
Saturday April 08	7:30pm Easter Vigil
Sunday April 09	9:30am Easter Sunday Mass

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION:**

*"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?'" (John 11:40)*

Many of us say that we believe in God. We go to church on Sunday. We volunteer for events at our parish. But when life gets hard and the pressure is on, when things aren't going our way, do we really believe and put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, being thankful for the gifts we have been given, we really do see that God is providing all that we need. It opens our hearts to see God's active presence in our daily lives.

***"May I stand in solidarity today with all my brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering. May we be united in your love, and may I work to build your kingdom here on earth. Amen"***

**Next weeks Readings: Palm Sunday**

**Is 50:4-7**

**Phil 2:6-11**

**Mt 26:14-27:66:**

**Rosters for April 01 & 02, 2023**

**Palm Sunday, Year A**

	Lector	Commentator	MERT	Welcomer	Musicians
<b>Saturday Apr 01 5:00pm</b>	R Foote & T Larkin	D Smith		M Giddens	Jane & Simon
<b>Sunday Apr 02 9:30am</b>	C McLure & R Diaz	M Wilkinson		A Sykes & M Blanchard	Filipino Choir
<b>Sunday Apr 02 5:00pm</b>	C Mavhundu & A Thomas	E Babu		Youth Ministry	Jane & Simon

Church Cleaning: April Collis Family Group  
 Mick's Kitchen: March 30 Hemming Team  
 Touring Statue of Our Lady: March 26 D & J Doherty

April 06 Scholtes Team  
 April 02 G & I Imhagwe

**First Reading**

Ez 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

*I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.*

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 129. R. v.7**(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading. **(R.)**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you. **(R.)**
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak.  
(Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.) **(R.)**
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

Rom 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

**Gospel Acclamation** See Jn 11:25. 26*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!***Gospel**

Jn 11:1-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day?

A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,

and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.