



## 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



© Jenny Close

### NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY

by Mary Coloe PBVM

**'We had hoped that he would be the one.'**  
**Letting go our 'had hopes'.**

Perhaps the most important part of this reading is the first sentence about two disciples walking to Emmaus. These disciples had been told by Jesus, 'Wait in Jerusalem' and here they are, with their backs to Jerusalem, walking out on him. They've given up. As they later explain to the stranger who walks with them, they 'had hoped' that Jesus would be the great saviour, but things haven't turned out how they wanted.

These two men give me great heart. Like them I find myself sometimes full of 'had hopes' that don't work out. I 'had hoped' this would happen, or that! And somehow I pinned my faith in God to these 'had hopes', so then when they don't happen it seems God has gone. Jesus explains in this journey that God's plan wasn't the same as the disciples, that in fact their 'had hopes' were unreal. Jesus' way of being the saviour, in some mysterious way included the event of his execution. God's plan went way beyond mere political freedom which his disciples had wanted.

These disciples have all the necessary information. They know of Jesus' death, they have heard about the empty tomb and the declaration that, 'he is alive'. But intellectual information is not the basis of faith. Jesus comes to these two men, unrecognised. He journeys with them and opens up the scriptures in such a way that their vision of God is expanded. In their view, a suffering and dying Messiah was incompatible with God's action. They could not see God in the recent events. Jesus opened their eyes to the possibility that God could be present even in suffering and death. Listening to his words, their hearts burned within them. They shift from intellectual information, to an inner conversion of heart. This change of heart is the basis of faith, and in this new faith perception their eyes were opened to see that the stranger was Jesus.

It is not easy to let go 'had hopes' and to surrender what I want for what God wants, and yet this is the transformation or conversion that is needed if we are to walk within God's path. What heartens me in this story is that while disciples may walk out on Jesus, he doesn't give up on them (us). Jesus joins these two deserters and gradually in mulling things over in his presence they are able to let go their plans and turn around towards Jerusalem to re-join the salvation story.




Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Apr 25	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Apr 26	11:00am Reconciliation 11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Mass
Thursday Apr 27	9:30am* Mass
Friday Apr 28	9:30am Mass

\*Thursday morning mass this week will be held at St Michael's Church NOT St Gabriel's Primary School.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** those who have died recently including Fr Bob Maguire, Liz Sutton, Edward Pirotta, Eileen Langmaid and Inez Sullivan, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Cynthia Francis, Joan Carstairs-Prott, Bob Williams, Ted Berude, Mary James, Pat Brown, Pat Thompson and Kevin Lythgo. *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 Speakman, James Whitty, Pasqualina Loprese, Ria Tactor, Kelly Maher, and John Waanders and all those we hold dear in our hearts.



 CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE  UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY	Corpus Christi College & Catholic Theological College <b>Good Shepherd Sunday          Appeal</b> <i>Support the training of priests          for tomorrow's Church</i> Your tax-deductible donation will support the costs of Corpus Christi College seminarians.	 DE TE VIVERE
<a href="https://ctc.edu.au/community/good-shepherd-sunday-appeal/">https://ctc.edu.au/community/good-shepherd-sunday-appeal/</a>		

**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY:** Next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Easter, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. This reflects the reading from John (10:27-30) where Jesus is described as 'the Good Shepherd'. It is also Vocation Sunday when we give thanks for all our priests, deacons and seminarians. We will have a leaving collection in support of the Diocesan Bursary Fund for the education of students for the priesthood at all Masses next weekend. Please give generously to support those who support us.

This Week's Events	
<b>Tuesday April 25- ANZAC DAY</b>	
Office Closed	
<b>Wednesday April 26</b>	
10:00am	Knights of the Southern Cross, Mary MacKillop Room
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
5:30pm	Liturgy Team Meeting, Parish Centre
<b>Thursday April 27</b>	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
<b>Sunday April 30</b>	
2:30pm	Come and See with Bishop Greg, St Mary's Cathedral, Sale

**BAPTISMS:** 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.



**SACRAMENTS NEWS:** The sacrament of confirmation will be celebrated on Friday June 09 with Bishop Greg Bennet here at St Michael's Church. Families of children in Grade 6 and above who are interested can get an enrolment form from the parish office or St Michael's or St Gabriel's schools. Enrolments are due back to the parish office by **Friday April 28**. An information evening will be held at 6pm on Wednesday May 17 for parents and children.

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:** The next meeting of the Catholic Women's League Traralgon will be held on **Tuesday May 02 at 10am** in the Mary MacKillop Room. All are invited and welcome to attend. They will also be hosting a continuous rosary on Tuesday May 07 in the church after the 9:30am mass, followed by lunch at the Grand Junction. All are welcome.



**PARISH MORNING TEA:** This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Passionist Family Group Movement in Australia. Family Groups have played a vital role in our own parish community for 36 years, building connections and inspiring friendships among many. We will celebrate this huge milestone as a parish on **Sunday May 07** with a special mass at 9:30am followed by morning tea in the Mary MacKillop Hall. Everyone is invited to join in, particularly parishioners and family group members both past and present. Please bring along a plate to share.



**WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023:** Zahra will join 585 young people from the Diocese of Sale and the Archdiocese of Melbourne to travel to Lisbon for the celebration of World Youth Day in August. Zahra is excited to announce that she has reached her fundraising goal and paid her final instalment for her trip. She is very grateful to all who have supported her financially and offered kind words of support and encouragement. Please keep Zahra and the other young people who have come forward to attend the WYD in your prayers.

**The office will be closed on Tuesday April 25 for ANZAC Day**

**SHINING A LIGHT:** St Michael's, along with other parish communities from across the Diocese of Sale participated in a pilot program called 'Shining A Light' workshop. Led by Sr Nicole Rotaru RSM and auspiced by Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV), they enabled parish communities to be better informed and equipped to respond to domestic and family violence. A diocesan group has since formed and will be meeting on the 1st of May 2023 to reflect, discern and plan what needs to be done in our diocese. Please pray that they are guided and enlightened by the Holy Spirit.



**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!

To register your interest or for more information, speak to Johanna Sykes or Kay Radford or contact the parish office.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2023. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please return them to the parish office as soon as you can, or visit [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) and donate online. Your generosity has and will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations*.



**IGNATIAN SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT:** The Campion Team warmly welcomes all who seek a time of rest, contemplation, reflection, spiritual conversation, and prayer in this Ignatian silent Directed Retreat. Your retreats include private accommodation, all meals, spiritual accompaniment, and prayer material. Friday May 12 for either 4 days or 6 days, in Cheltenham Victoria. For bookings and enquiries, contact 1300-392-636 or [info@jisa.org.au](mailto:info@jisa.org.au)

Next week's Readings:  
 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Year A  
 First Reading: Acts 2:14, 36-41  
 Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:20-25  
 Gospel: John 10:1-10

**Come and See**  
 A call to the priesthood

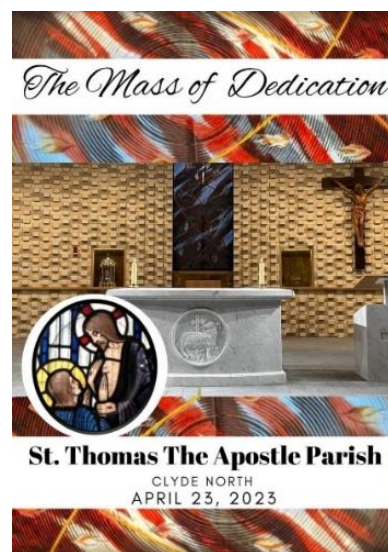
Date: Sunday, April 30th 2023  
 Venue: Chapter House, St Mary's Cathedral, Sale  
 Time: 2:30 - 4:00 pm

Could Jesus be inviting you to share in his ministry as a Priest?

An Opportunity | Meet our priests to discuss their Ministry Prayer and contemplation

**COME AND SEE:** Bishop Greg invites young men (+18yrs) of our Parishes of the Diocese of Sale to come to St Mary's Cathedral on Good Shepherd Sunday, **April 30 2:30 – 4:00pm**, especially those who may have a call from God to life as a priest, or to simply meet Bishop Greg and other priests. It will be an opportunity to meet those living the priestly life, to pray with them and ask questions.

**BLESSING & DEDICATION:** Our friends at Clyde North will be celebrating the official opening of their long-awaited church 'St Thomas the Apostle' this **Sunday April 23**. The blessing and dedication will be honoured by the presence of His Excellency Charles Balvo, Apostolic Nuncio to Australia and Most Rev Gregory Bennet, Bishop of Sale, who will preside at the Concelebrated Ritual Mass of Dedication of the Church and Altar. It will begin at St Peter's College Clyde North at 1pm and walk in procession to enter the new Church at 2pm. The blessing and dedication will be live-streamed at <https://tinyurl.com/bdehm3ft>.



**STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:**

*"Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the scriptures?" Lk 24:32*

How often do we take the time to discern what Jesus wants from us? Are our prayers always petitions, asking Jesus to do things for us? If so, that's a one-sided relationship. Living our faith means developing a personal relationship with Jesus. Just like any friendship, there is give and take, each side listening to each other and helping each other out. Take time in silence to listen to what Jesus is asking of you.

Rosters for April 29 & 30, 2023		4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Year A		
	Lector	Commentator	Welcomer	Musicians
<b>Saturday April 29 5:00pm</b>	R Webber	M Noone	C Payne	Jane & Simon
<b>Sunday April 30 9:30am</b>	U & E Imhagwe	Volunteer	G Imhagwe	Jane & Simon
<b>Sunday April 30 5:00pm</b>	V Vaz & S Harikrishna	J Fleming	J McLaughlin	Jane & Simon

Church Cleaning:	April	Collis Family Group		
Mick's Kitchen:	April 27	McLaughlin Team	May 04	Cartledge Team
Touring Statue of Our Lady:	April 23	E Brand	April 30	E Krieger

**First Reading** Acts 2:14, 22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.*

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,  
for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.  
So my heart was glad  
and my tongue cried out with joy:  
my body, too, will rest in the hope  
that you will not abandon my soul to Hades  
nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.  
You have made known the way of life to me,  
you will fill me with gladness through your presence.  
'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v.11

**(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.  
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.  
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize.' (R.)
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)
4. You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

**Second Reading** 1 Pt 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.*

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in

anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

See Lk 24:32

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:*

*make our hearts burn with love when you speak.*

*Alleluia!*

**Gospel**

Lk 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.*

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.