



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 Officers Shane Reid or Sally Darby 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
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



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A - Reflection Love is the Greater Power By W Chris Hackett

A wandering preacher's violent execution by a long-gone empire a couple thousand years ago is the salvation of the world? *That* eccentric rabbi is the king of heaven and earth? Are you joking? He said what? It is more blessed to give than to receive? He taught *who* will inherit the earth? Everybody knows what happens to the meek: they lose. Every time. If I strike you, and you turn the other cheek, I won. Right?

If they remind you of anything, today's readings from Sirach and from the gospel recall the equally startling line in the Our Father: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." The petition makes our forgiveness by God contingent on our forgiving others. It's terribly sobering. It's also deeply rooted in the hopes and aspirations of the historical people of God in their (our) covenant with the Creator.

Let us reflect on the Christian account of true power: Anger slams a door, gentleness waits patiently; arrogance thrusts itself to the front, humility withdraws to the back; strife loudly divides into pieces, peace quietly smooths out; revenge grasps and squeezes, forgiveness lets go; hatred pushes, love embraces. Which is more powerful? "Love is stronger than death," says the author of the Song of Songs. If death is most evidently the greatest power in the world, then what is love? Love is stronger, greater, more powerful in what it effects than death.

Of course, love's greatness of power—even over death—is not evident. If you have suffered the death of a loved one, for example, you are certainly confronted with this fact. No matter how much you love him or her, death has caused a definitive breach between you. Love seems impotent, weak, *non-effective* in the face of death.

Death makes an aggressive claim to be the greatest and most universal power there is. Faith, however, says death is not definitive, not absolute. Faith says love is greater, definitive, absolute, universal.

If Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, if he overcame death, then his suffering on the Cross meant something. It meant, in the first place, that love is stronger than death. Faith seems faint, yet, in reality, it is the epitome of force. Forgiveness seems weak, yet, in reality, it enacts a profound degree of strength. Love appears impotent, but, in reality, it is the greatest power there is.

So, how does this reflection help us understand the line from the Our Father? If forgiveness is the greater social power—disarming antagonism, healing hostility, transforming enemies into partners and foes into friends—then in the prayer we are seeking to be the kind of people that belong to and live from his ultimate Kingdom—that Kingdom where love rules, where forgiveness is the condition of entry.

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Sep 19	9:30am Mass 10:45am Mass @Margery Cole
Wednesday Sep 20	11:00am Reconciliation 11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Mass
Thursday Sep 21	9:30am Mass*
Friday Sep 22	9:30am Mass 10:00am Liturgy @ BUPA

**Due to the school holidays, Mass this Thursday and during the next two Thursdays will be held here at St Michael's Church instead of St Gabriel's Primary School.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Geoff O'Brien, Maria Marino, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Ray Still, Br Jose Vettikatil, Giuseppe Agostino, Richard Moulton, John Timmers, Jim Stephens, and Kathleen Murphy. *Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*



WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: including Ann-Maree Daly, Gary Donchi, Bill Edgar, Bernadette Formaran, Fr Frank Freeman, 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, Sharon Veleff, George Walkan, Roy Ward, Victoria Rohli, Fr John Speekman, James Whitty, Kelly Maher, John Waanders, Peter Dal Pra, Jane Eric, Rose Xuereb and Manuel Xuereb and all those we hold dear in our hearts. *Please let the office know if you, or anyone you know would like a visit from one of our parishioners, Fr Aju or Deacon Tony. We can also arrange for someone to take communion to those at home or hospital if required.*



TAIZE UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS: On Tuesday we had a wonderful time at the Taize Prayer Service with the Lavalla Liturgical Choir and our Grade 6 students from St Michael's and St Gabriel's Primary Schools. Parishioners and families joined the students in song and prayer to reflect on their needs and the needs of those around them. Michael did a wonderful job organizing and leading the service and we are grateful for his time and talent in supporting both the parish and our school community. We are looking forward to making this an annual event and to more chances to experience the very talented and prayerful Lavalla Liturgical Choir ably lead by Shane.

This Week's Events	
Sunday September 17	
10:30am	Devonshire Morning Tea, Mary MacKillop Hall
Tuesday September 19	
10:45am	Mass @ Margery Cole, Yallambee Village for the Aged
Wednesday September 20	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday September 21	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
Friday September 22	
10:00am	Liturgy @ BUPA, BUPA Aged Care

BAPTISM: This weekend we welcome for Baptism, **Scarlett Tracey-Livi Prezioso**, daughter of Jack and Alyssa, **Fallon Joanne Amaira**, daughter of Sam and Julia and **Ava Elizabeth Napoli**, daughter of Dean and Melissa. Congratulations and welcome to our parish! Our next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on Tuesday **October 17 at 7:00pm** in the church. Please contact the parish office on 5174 2060 if you are interested in attending or would like some more information.



RCIA- RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS: St Michael's Parish warmly invites anyone interested in discovering more about the Catholic faith to join our Tuesday night RCIA group. If you, or anyone you know may be interested in attending or learning more, please register your details with the parish office.

FIRST COMMUNION: Enrolments have now closed for children wishing to prepare for the Sacrament of First Communion. First Communion will be celebrated at parish masses on the weekend of November 25/26. A parent information night will be held in the St Michael's Church on **Wednesday October 25 at 6pm**. Please contact Jen at sacraments@smpt.org.au for more information.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS: As Term 3 comes to a close we wish all our school staff, children and families a happy and restful holiday break. We hope you enjoy your time off and come back refreshed and ready for a new term.

YOUTH MINISTRY: Our J-Walkers will enjoy a break over the school holidays and will not be running their coffee cart for the next three weekends. We are grateful for their hard work during the term and for providing this much appreciated service to our parish community. They in turn are thankful for the support of parishioners who have been attending their coffee mornings and donating so generously to our youth ministry.



Devonshire Morning Tea

This Sunday our lovely ladies from the Catholic Women's League will be filling the gap and hosting a Devonshire Morning Tea. Please join them after the 9:30am mass in the Mary MacKillop Hall for a cup of tea and a scone.

Entry is \$5 and all funds raised will go to the Youth Ministry.

PWF FATHER'S DAY APPEAL: Thank you for your generous contributions to the Priests' Welfare Foundation. We have had some more money come in during the week to bring our Parish total to \$1,335.00. Your donation goes directly towards the support of sick or retired priests and deacons in our diocese and is very much needed and appreciated. You can still drop your Special Collection Envelope in this week's collection or to the parish office if you missed out.

WHAT WILL OUR PARISH LOOK LIKE IN 5 YEARS TIME: What is your vision for our parish? Where are we headed? Who will lead us there? How? What can we do better? What are we doing well? What sort of ministries will we have? What do our weekend masses look like? What is our dream for our parish? We have placed vision boards in the Church Street entrance and in the Mary MacKillop Room for you to add your ideas. We would love to hear what you have to say and look forward to your responses. Some of the ideas that have been brought forward so far include - excursions; opportunities for formation and catechesis; guest speakers; social gatherings and prayer teams. What do you think?

CLERGY RETREAT: Father Aju will be joining Bishop Greg and priests and deacons from around the Diocese of Sale for a clergy retreat next week from Tuesday September 26 – Thursday September 28. During this period we will not be having masses but parish liturgies instead.

PERSONAL SAFETY: Please take care when visiting the chapel and the church outside of ordinary hours, or when you are by yourself. We have had some people loitering around the Parish Centre overnight and want to make sure everyone is staying safe and looking after each other. If you see or hear anything suspicious, please let Fr Aju and the office team know.

Come and See

A call to the priesthood



COME AND SEE- A CALL TO THE PRIESTHOOD: Bishop Greg has called for the young men of our Parishes of the Diocese to come to St Michael's Parish Support Centre - 121-123 High Street, Berwick on Sunday, 15th October at 2:00pm particularly those who sense a call from God to life as a priest. Or, who simply want to come and enquire. It will be an opportunity to meet and greet those living the life, to pray with them and have all your questions answered. And, remember, "the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it" Mt13:45

THE NEW DIOCESAN MISSION

COUNCIL: Diversity of Membership: The Diocesan Mission Council membership will reflect the diversity of life within the Diocese. In the selection of members, the Bishop and his advisors will take into consideration that the composition of the Council reflects a mix of experience and skills, balancing age, gender, regional, ethnic, and social representation.



All around Australia this week we are being encouraged to check in with our neighbours, workmates and family members, to ask if they are okay. It is a good reminder that this is something we should be doing everyday, to listen to those around us and really hear them. It is also important to check in on both the young and the old, the weak and the strong. This week's readings and reflection remind us of the importance of forgiveness and of the Lord's mercy and compassion. It is a good week for compassion, check in with your neighbour, those you love and those you may not know well. Perhaps reach out to someone you have lost contact with or someone you have been slow to forgive. We can also arrange a visit from a parishioner, Fr Aju or Deacon Tony, if you are lonely or unwell. Also, if you or anyone you know is struggling, help is available 24/7, you can call Lifeline for crisis support and suicide prevention services on 13 11 14, and Beyond Blue on 1300 22 4636 for advice, referral and support from a trained mental health professional.

"A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just."
Pope Francis

FEAST OF SAINT MICHAEL: On **Friday September 29** we celebrate the feast of St Michael. To commemorate this special day, join us for mass at 9:30am followed by morning tea in the Mary MacKillop Room.

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:

"For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." (Romans 14:8)

This is the essence of stewardship – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God daily and ask Him how He is calling you to live the life that He intended for you.

Rosters for September 23 & 24, 2023		25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A		
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Sep 23 5:00pm	B O'Brien	A Taylor	M Giddens	
Sunday Sep 24 9:30am	T Denny	C McCabe	M Wilkinson	Charismatic Choir
Sunday Sep 24 5:00pm	V Vaz & S Harikrishna	C Hill	T Biancon	
Church Cleaning:	September 27	Volunteers		
Touring Statue of Our Lady:	September 17	H Theissling	September 23	J Scholtes
<i>Mick's Kitchen:</i>	September 21	McLaughlin Team	September 28	Cartledge Team

Entrance Antiphon Cf Sir 36:18

*Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.*

First Reading Sir 27:30 – 28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

**(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.
(R.)
3. His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults **(R.)**
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** Rom 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation See Eph 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Next week's Readings: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16