



## 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



NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM

### Taking a risk

© Mary Coloe

1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20; John 1:35-42

### 'Where do you dwell?' 'Come and see.'

The Christmas season concludes with the Feast of the Epiphany and so the liturgical cycle returns to 'Ordinary Time'. In many ways this is a misnomer. It could be called 'Extraordinary Time', since nothing about God's presence and action in our world can be labelled 'ordinary'. Though the stories might be familiar, if we contemplate them afresh they can be filled with wonder. The Gospel today reveals the sense of wonder experienced by Jesus' disciples. They had been following John, a strange, rather wild prophet from the desert, but now John has pointed them towards Jesus. Thus their wonder begins.

Their question, 'Where do you dwell?' is the right question for disciples to ask. In John's Gospel Jesus dwells in the heart of the Father (John 1:18) and so if disciples want to draw close to God, they need to draw close to Jesus, to discover where he dwells. Dwelling with Jesus will lead disciples to also dwell in the heart of God. The Greek word used here is *menein*, which means to dwell or remain. As the Gospel unfolds this word takes on the rich theological sense of the divine mutual indwelling – God in us, and we in God. Unfortunately the rich meaning of the word is often missed when it is translated as 'live'.

In this passage Jesus is given a number of titles, 'Lamb of God', 'Rabbi' and 'Messiah'. One of the issues faced by people who met Jesus was the question, 'Who is he?' Is he a teacher like the Pharisees? Is he a prophet like the prophets of old? Is he the long awaited son of David who will establish a free and independent Kingdom? What is striking about the first disciples is that without having fully clear answers there was something about Jesus and his teaching that captivated them, leading them to follow him. They took an enormous risk in this.

In our world today there are many ways that people seem prepared to take a risk. Some try the stock market, others enjoy a bet, and many young people leave the country to work and travel abroad for a few years. Even our important commitments involve risk-taking. And yet, surrounded by so many risks, and unknown answers, I find some people want absolute certainty in religious matters. They want proof about God, or clear black and white answers to complex moral questions. Why should religious issues be any different from other aspects of normal human living?

Paul speaks to the Corinthians from this same theological insight of God's dwelling with and in the community. During the Old Testament time, the great symbol of God's dwelling with Israel was the Temple and so Paul speaks of Christians as a living temple. Paul's context is a community living in Greece who have taken enthusiastically to his teaching, but in their enthusiasm have over-spiritualised the Gospel.

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Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Jan 16	9:30am Mass 10:45am Mass @ Margery Cole
Wednesday Jan 17	11:00am Reconciliation 11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Mass
Thursday Jan 18	9:30am Mass* 11:00am Funeral of Bernard Ferguson
Friday Jan 19	9:30am Mass

**\*This Thursday we will have mass at St Michael's Church not St Gabriel's Primary School as they are still on holidays.**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** those who have died recently including Alice Otopo, mother of Father Francis Otopo, Jean Hill, Bernard Ferguson and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Irene Bau, Maria Nadone, Guiseppe Agostino, Angelina Agostino, Bishop Patrick Whelan, and Bishop Noel Daly. *Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*



The funeral for Alice Otopo will be held in Nigeria on Friday January 19. Please keep Father Francis and the Otopo family in your prayers.

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:** including Ann-Maree Daly, Gary Donchi, Bernadette Formaran, Fr Frank Freeman, 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, Sharon Veleff, George Walkan, Roy Ward, Victoria Rohli, Fr John Speekman, James Whitty, John Waanders, Peter Dal Pra, Jane Eric, Rose Xuereb, Manuel Xuereb, Peter Lorinc, Don Barnes 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.*

**NURSING HOME MASSES:** Next Tuesday we will celebrate mass at Margery Cole Aged Care at 10:45am. Parishioners and family members are invited and encouraged to come along and catch up with some of our older parishioners who are no longer able to attend mass. Monthly masses are also held at Dalkeith on the first Thursday of the month, and Deacon Tony leads a fortnightly liturgy with communion at BUPA. You are welcome to attend at anytime however you can also commit to going along and helping out with the service and visiting residents afterwards. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact the parish office for more information.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY:**

**For the gift of diversity in the Church:**

"Let us pray that the Spirit help us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian communities, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions within the Catholic Church."

This Week's Events	
Tuesday January 16	
10:45am	Margery Cole Mass, Margery Cole, Yallambee
7:00pm	Baptism Preparation Meeting, St Michael's Church
7:30pm	RCIA Meeting, Parish Centre
Wednesday January 17	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday January 18	
11:00am	Funeral Prayers for Bernard Ferguson, St Michael's Church

**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Wednesday February 14	Ash Wednesday
Friday March 01	World Day of Prayer
Sunday March 24	Palm Sunday
Friday March 29	Good Friday
Sunday March 31	Easter Sunday
Sunday May 19	Pentecost
Friday May 24	Confirmation



**BAPTISMS:** Our next Baptism Preparation meeting will be held on **Tuesday January 16 at 7pm** in the church. Please contact the parish office for more information and to register your interest.

**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.



**WELCOME BACK:**

This weekend we welcome back Father Aju and thank Father Peter for taking such good care of us while he was away. Our office has also returned to its normal hours of 9am to 4pm Tuesday – Friday. It is still fairly quiet around our parish at the moment however ministries and meetings will start returning in the next few weeks:

- RCIA will resume on Tuesday January 16
- CWL will return on Tuesday January 30
- Mick's Kitchen will reopen on Thursday February 01
- Charismatic Prayer Group will return on Thursday February 8
- Thursday morning mass will continue to be in the church not at St Gabriel's Primary School.



**2023 ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINE:** During Advent, parishes around Australia raised money to support people in the war-torn Ukraine through the work of *Mudra Sprava* (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. Our parish collected \$1,056.05 through our leaving collections on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of December which will be used to support the work of *Mudra Sprava* (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in the Ukraine. They focus on the evacuation of people from frontline territories; food packages for people in need; and shelters for internally displaced persons. Thank you for your generosity.

**NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY contd from page 1:** From the time of Plato and the great philosophers there was a strong tendency to dualism in Greek thought – body/mind; spirit/matter. This community has so emphasised the gift of God’s Spirit that they have overlooked the embodied reality of their lives. Some have come to the conclusion that since they have the gift of the Spirit then what they do with their bodies was no longer of ethical importance. Who we sleep with, does not matter. So Paul has to correct this over-spiritualising of the Gospel. The body does matter. The Gospel is not some holy thought, or spirit filled interior disposition; since we are embodied persons the Gospel necessarily has an ethical and social dimension. How we live, our practical decisions, our relationships – these also need to be holy so that we are truly the Body of Christ. So Christianity avoids an excessive piety without social obligations, even as it recognises the importance of living Spirit-filled lives. Our God has become incarnate and the bodily resurrection of Jesus affirms the importance of really living an embodied existence in this world with the values of the Gospel.



**SAINT ANTHONY THE GREAT:** This Wednesday January 17 we celebrate the feast day of St Anthony the Great, also known as St Anthony of Egypt. The life of Anthony will remind many people of Saint Francis of Assisi. At 20, Anthony was so moved by the Gospel message, “Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor” (Mark 10:21b), that he actually did just that with his large inheritance. He is different from Francis in that most of Anthony’s life was spent in solitude. He saw the world completely covered with snares, and gave the Church and the world the witness of solitary asceticism, great personal mortification and prayer. But no saint is antisocial, and Anthony drew many people to himself for spiritual healing and guidance.

At 54, he responded to many requests and founded a sort of monastery of scattered cells. Again, like Francis, he had great fear of “stately buildings and well-laden tables.” At 60, he hoped to be a martyr in the renewed Roman persecution of 311, fearlessly exposing himself to danger while giving moral and material support to those in prison. At 88, he was fighting the Arian heresy, that massive trauma from which it took the Church centuries to recover. “The mule kicking over the altar” denied the divinity of Christ.

Anthony is associated in art with a T-shaped cross, a pig and a book. The pig and the cross are symbols of his valiant warfare with the devil—the cross his constant means of power over evil spirits, the pig a symbol of the devil himself. The book recalls his preference for “the book of nature” over the printed word. Anthony died in solitude at age 105.

Source: franciscanmedia.org



**LENTEN DAILY REFLECTIONS:** The Lenten season is quickly approaching with the official start on Ash Wednesday February 14. Our parish is looking at studying the Evangelisation Brisbane daily reflections program ‘A Resurrected Life.’ Written for busy individuals but easily adapted for groups, each day includes a scripture reading and a reflection upon it, some questions to aid prayer and discussion, and relevant quotes from Pope Francis. Each booklet is available for \$6.00 however we may be able to get a group discount if we have enough interest. We are also able to provide a meeting space in the Parish Centre if you would like to organise your own prayer group. If you would like to order a copy of the booklet or join a Lenten prayer group in the parish, please contact Cath in the office for more information.



**SYNOD 2023-2024:** The official English version of the Synthesis Report of the First Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, "A Synodal Church on Mission." Is now published. The 41-page report summarises the discussions from the first assembly with every item in the report being approved by at least a two-thirds majority of the voting members of the Synod. This "is not a final document but an instrument in the service of ongoing discernment." This Document can be found at <https://bit.ly/3qYiozA>

**FINANCE MATTERS- DECEMBER 2023:**

Christmas Collection	\$ 2, 741.80
Christmas Offerings	\$ 845.00
Presbytery Loose Collection	\$ 6, 601.25
Church Planned Giving	\$13, 262.50

Thank you for your generous financial support. If you would like to join our planned giving program, please contact the parish office for more information.

**STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:**

*“Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’” - John 1:38*

When we recognize who we are, it is easier to find what we are looking for. Once we see ourselves, and others, as children of God, we spend less time looking for the material comforts of the world. Instead, our hearts long for something deeper that can only be filled by God. Ask God daily how He wants you to live the life He intended for you.

Rosters for January 20 & 21, 2024		3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B		
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
<b>Saturday Jan 20 5:00pm</b>	R Foote & T Larkin	T Denny	C Payne	Jane & Simon
<b>Sunday Jan 21 9:30am</b>	M Hansen & C Mavhundu	C McCabe	J & P Dal Pra	Filipino Choir
<b>Sunday Jan 21 5:00pm</b>	S & S Reid	S Grout	J McLaughlin	Jane & Simon



**First Reading** 1 Samuel 3:3-10.19

A reading from the first book of Samuel

*Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening.*

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am'. Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv. 8.9

**(R.) Here am I, Lord;  
I come to do your will.**

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord.  
and he stooped down to me;  
he heard my cry.  
He put a new song into my mouth,  
praise of our God. (R.)
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,  
but an open ear.  
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.  
Instead, here am I. (R.)
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written  
that I should do your will.  
My God, I delight in your law  
in the depth of my heart. (R.)
4. Your justice I have proclaimed  
in the great assembly.  
My lips I have not sealed;  
you know it, O Lord. (R.)

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*Your bodies are members of the body of Christ.*

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too. You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

**Gospel Acclamation** John 1:41. 17

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have found the Messiah:

Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

Alleluia!

**Gospel** John 1:35-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed with him.*

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

**Next Week's Readings:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Second Reading: 1 Cor 7:29-31

Gospel: Mk 1:14-20