

## 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:** Fr Aju Varghese, Deacon Tony Aspinall, Ben Kennedy, Brett Van Berkel, Cath Hill, Cathy McLure, Elizabeth Joseph, Jenifer Hanratty, Jodie Ware, Judi McLaughlin, Kim Serafa, Michael Hansen, Michelle Charlton, and Roy Varghese.

### 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



### Healing the Unclean by Joseph Doyle

The Old Testament Law existed to protect God's people from physical and moral hazards that could harm the whole community. The Law's emphasis on spiritual and bodily purity established how God's people could live together in a healthy relationship with God and each other.

And a leper was a danger to the whole community. While leprosy, more commonly known today as Hansen's disease, is still a highly contagious infection, in ancient times, it was incurable, and its diagnosis was virtually a death sentence.

The only thing a community could do to protect itself was to quarantine those infected permanently. As a result, lepers had to live outside walled cities, could no longer enter God's presence in the Temple and were forbidden to interact with the community. Even a chance encounter with a leper could make someone unclean.

To re-enter right relationship with God and the community, a leper would need to be healed and ceremonially purified. The process required a Temple priest to investigate a leper claiming to have been healed and then pronouncing them fit to re-enter contact with God and with other people. The healing of leprosy was so rare that many rabbis considered it akin to raising someone from the dead and the rare holiness of the healer.

The leper in today's gospel identifies Jesus as the one through whom the power of God is uniquely present. Instead of notifying Jesus of his condition by shouting "unclean, unclean" and avoiding contact with Jesus, as the Law demanded, the leper's plea of "If you wish, you can make me clean" shows his utter confidence in Jesus' power. And instead of avoiding the leper to preserve his cleanness, Jesus touches him. From the perspective of the leper, this may have been the first time another human being touched him in years. In this moment, Jesus restores both human and divine contact to the leper who had been cut off from both.

The response of Jesus to the leper is his response to all of us who have been devastated by the effects of sin, sickness, and death. Jesus is not disturbed, scandalised, or tainted by any human impurity. Instead, he restores in us the capacity for communion with God and others.

As St Paul reminds us, the true fulfilment of the Law, and the primary healing work of God, is cleanness from the disease of sin, which rots the inside of a person and prevents authentic communion. As Jesus says elsewhere in the gospels, "First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may become clean."

Jesus' holiness goes beyond what the Temple priests could accomplish and what the Law of Moses could prescribe. Jesus can purge uncleanness from everyone who comes to him in faith since no defilement can touch him. Jesus does not just pronounce us clean, like the Temple priests could, but he makes the whole person clean, inside and out.

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Feb 13	9:30am Mass
<b>Wednesday Feb 14 Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>9:30am Mass</b> <b>12:00pm Mass</b> <b>6:00pm Mass</b>
Thursday Feb 15	9:30am Mass* 1:00pm Requiem Mass for Josephine Fairbrother
Friday Feb 16	9:30am Mass

*\*This Thursday we will celebrate mass here at St Michael's Church.*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** those who have died recently including Josephine Fairbrother, Monica Duquemin, Manfred Buckard, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Bryan Vivian, Bruce Power, Ray Smith, Peter Di Ciero, and Santo Alicata. *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, 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.*



You are invited and encouraged to come along to any of the following Ash Wednesday Mass times at St Michael's Church this **Wednesday February 14:**

**9:30am** with St Gabriel's Primary School

**12:00pm** with St Michael's Primary School

**6:00pm** Evening Mass

**YOUTH NEWS:** Our Coffee Cart will be re-opening next **Sunday February 18** in the Mary MacKillop Hall after the 9:30am mass. Our J-Walkers will be on hand making cappuccinos and hot chocolates with all funds raised going to the youth ministry. Come along and say hello and enjoy a cuppa and a catch up with friends.



**Our next Youth Mass will be held on February 25 at 5pm.**

This Week's Events	
Wednesday February 14	
9:30am	Ash Wednesday Mass with St Gabriel's PS, St Michael's Church
12:00pm	Ash Wednesday Mass with St Michael's PS St Michael's Church
6:00pm	Ash Wednesday Mass, St Michael's Church
Thursday February 15	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
7:00pm	Jnr-J Walkers Team Leaders Meeting, Mary MacKillop Room
Friday February 16	
7:00pm	Stations of the Cross, St Michael's Church

**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Wednesday February 14	Ash Wednesday
Sunday February 25	Youth Mass
Friday March 01	World Day of Prayer
Thursday March 14	Fr Rob Galea
Sunday March 24	Palm Sunday
Friday March 29	Good Friday
Sunday March 31	Easter Sunday
Sunday May 19	Pentecost
Friday May 24	Confirmation

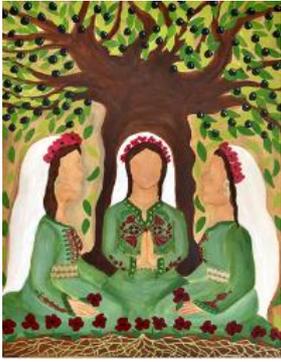


**BAPTISMS:** Our next Baptism Preparation meeting will be held on **Tuesday February 27 at 7pm** in the church. Please contact the parish office for more information and to register your interest.

**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.

**CWL COFFEE MORNINGS:** Our Catholic Women's League meet for coffee on the second Tuesday of the month at Red Annexe Cafe at 10:30am. All are warmly invited to join them at their next catch up this Tuesday February 13.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** According to the Diocese of Sale, a Parish Pastoral Council is an important consultative planning body in the life and work of the parish. Its members are called from the parish community, to serve and to enable that community to carry forward the mission of Jesus Christ. The Parish Pastoral Council works co-responsibly with the pastoral leadership exercised by the Parish Priest. This weekend at our 9:30am Mass we welcome our new Parish Pastoral Council members for their commissioning. Led by Father Aju and Deacon Tony, we welcome parishioners Ben Kennedy, Cath Hill, Cathy McLure, Elizabeth Joseph, Jenifer Hanratty, Judi McLaughlin, Kim Serafa, Michael Hansen and Roy Varghese to the Parish Pastoral council, along with our school leaders and representatives Brett Van Berkel (Lavalla), Jodie Ware (St Michael's) and Michelle Charlton (St Gabriel's). Thank you for answering the call to serve your parish community, to help us grow in faith and respond to our universal call to mission.



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024:**

*'I beg you...bear with one another in love'*

Join us to celebrate the World Day of Prayer here at St Michael's Church on **Friday March 01 at 10:30am**. The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian day of prayer celebrated each year in over 170 countries on the first Friday of March. An ecumenical group of

Palestinian Christian women have prayed and reflected together over the past several years to respond to the invitation to write the 2024 program. Their program calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression.

**RITE OF ELECTION 2024:** Next Sunday February 18 you are invited to join the catechumens and candidates from around the Diocese for the rite of election at St Mary's Cathedral Sale. This is a significant step on the journey towards full initiation into the Catholic Church and is an integral part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. All catechumens and candidates are expected to attend this celebration, however it would be wonderful for our parishioners to go along and support them and participate in the liturgy as well.

**Sunday February 18 @ 3:00pm**  
**St Mary's Cathedral Sale**

**RITE OF ELECTION-PARISH SINGERS AND MUSICIANS NEEDED:**

As in past years, we are forming a Diocesan choir for the Rite of Election on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024, at 3.00 pm** at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sale. Choir rehearsal from 1:30 – 2:30pm. To register your interest, please contact Sophy Morley on [Sophymorley@gmail.com](mailto:Sophymorley@gmail.com)

**COME AND SEE:** Bishop Greg has called for the young men of our Parishes of the Diocese to come to St Agatha's Parish, 129 Sladen St, Cranbourne VIC 3977 on Sunday, 7th April 2024 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

**ST MARY'S MAFFRA CENTENARY:** Join us in celebrating the St Mary's Maffra Church Centenary on Sunday, April 28 with Mass celebrated by Bishop Greg at 11am followed by lunch at the Parish Hall. Kindly RSVP to 5147 1921 for catering purposes.



**Fr Rob Galea is an ordained Catholic Priest, currently serving in Sandhurst Diocese, after moving to Australia from Malta.**

**Fr Rob is an internationally acclaimed author, singer, and songwriter.**

**Fr Rob has a significant evangelistic and outreach ministry as a speaker to students and teaching staff, as well as speaking and singing at conferences and churches around Australia and the world.**

**POPE'S LENTEN MESSAGE:** Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2024 is titled "Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom". In his message for Lent 2024, Pope Francis invites the faithful to "pause" for prayer and to assist our brothers and sisters in need, in order to change our own lives and the lives of our communities.

To read the full message visit <http://tinyurl.com/4vahetan>

**STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:**

*"Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."*  
*1 Corinthians 10:31*

Do a quick check of your priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If He's not first, you have some work to do. Putting God first in everything helps us from putting other "gods" (like our pride, ego, money and possessions) before God. Before making a decision, ask yourself, "Am I doing this for the glory of God or for the glory of me?"

Rosters for February 17 & 18, 2024			1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, Year B	
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
<b>Saturday Feb 17 5:00pm</b>	R Foote & T Larkin	T Denny	C Payne	Jane & Simon
<b>Sunday Feb 18 9:30am</b>	M Hansen & C Mavhundu	B Purcell	J & P Dal Pra	Diamente Family
<b>Sunday Feb 18 5:00pm</b>	J Panozzo-Tile	S Darby	Volunteer	
Church Cleaning February	St Michael's School		February 22	Burns Team
Mick's Kitchen February 15	Scholtes Team			

**First Reading** Lv 13:1-2. 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus

*As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7

**(R.)** *I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.*

- Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted.  
O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. **(R.)**
- But now I have acknowledged my sins; my guilt I did not hide.  
I said: 'I will confess my offence to the Lord.'  
And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin. **(R.)**
- Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just!  
O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** 1 Cor 10:31 – 11:1

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

*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

**Gospel Acclamation** Lk 7:16

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.*

*Alleluia!*

**Gospel** Mk 1:40-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*The leprosy left him and he was cured.*

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured.

Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

**Readings for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

First Reading:	Genesis 9:8-15
Second Reading:	1 Peter 3:18-22
Gospel:	Mark 1:12-15