



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



WEEKLY REFLECTIONS FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 9:8–15 | 1 Peter 3:18–22 | Mark 1:12–15

Written by Michael McGirr

Mark's Gospel is bold and challenging. It doesn't beat around the bush. Throughout this year, there will be many Sundays when we really need to tune in because Mark's Gospel doesn't wait for the reader to be ready. It is right in your face, to use a modern expression. Sometimes Mark reminds us of the wise old person who doesn't use many words, but every one of those words counts. There can't be many books of so few pages that have had such a mighty impact on the world.

Today, a few lines tell us that Jesus went into the desert for 40 days and 'was tempted by Satan.' He was 'with the wild beasts', meaning he was vulnerable as he was immersed in the natural world. This was surely an experience of struggle and growth. Then suddenly Jesus discovers that John the Baptist has been arrested. In a few lines, Mark creates the impression of a challenging time.

How did Jesus respond? He seems to have been enlivened, to have decided to create change. He is full of energy and purpose. 'The time has come,' he says. In his vulnerability, he has discovered that 'the kingdom of God is close at hand.'

This year, through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia will ask us to consider several stories of vulnerability and hope in action. Over the coming weeks, we will meet a number of extraordinary women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. They remind us that in many situations around the world, women are the heart of the community and the drivers of change. In each case, a partnership involving Caritas Australia and local agencies has led to new opportunities not just for an individual but for families and communities. The kingdom of God is, indeed, closer than we think. Together with Ronita, Leaia and Memory, our decisions help to bring it to reality around the globe.

Perhaps we might spend time with the words of today's Psalm: 'God guides me in the right path; God teaches the Lord's way to the poor.'



Ronita (Philippines)



Leaia (Samoa)



Memory (Malawi)

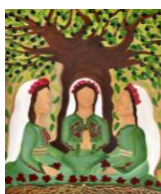
Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass
	5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Feb 20	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Feb 21	11:00am Reconciliation
	11:00am Exposition
	6:00pm Mass
Thursday Feb 22	9:30am Liturgy with Communion*
Friday Feb 23	9:30am Mass

***This Thursday we will have a liturgy with communion at St Michael's Church as Father Aju will be attending the Diocesan Lenten Reflection Day in Berwick.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Donal Hiney, John Erickson (father of Jane Mitchell) Josephine Fairbrother, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including John Anderson, Antonio Panozzo-Tile, Connie Falzon, Milka Zidar, George Spalding, Archbishop Philip Wilson, John Vellar and Bryan Vivian. *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 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, 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.*



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.

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.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Wednesday February 21	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday February 22- Clergy Retreat	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
Friday February 23	
7:00pm	Stations of the Cross, St Michael's Church
Sunday February 25	
3:00pm	Junior J-Walkers, Mary MacKillop Hall
5:00pm	Youth Mass, St Michael's Church

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Sunday February 25** Youth Mass
- Friday March 01** World Day of Prayer
- Thursday March 07** Lenten Liturgy
- Thursday March 14** Fr Rob Galea
- Sunday March 24** Palm Sunday
- Wednesday March 27** Tenebrae Service
- Friday March 29** Good Friday
- Sunday March 31** Easter Sunday
- Friday May 24** Confirmation
- Sunday May 26** Fr Peter's 50th Anniversary



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.



YOUTH NEWS: Our Coffee Cart will be re-opening this **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. Next **Sunday February 25** we will have our first meeting of the Junior J-Walkers at 3:00pm in the St Michael's School Hall. We invite children from Grade 6 – Year 9 to join us for a monthly meeting of faith formation and friendship, followed by Youth Mass at 5pm. Please contact the parish office for more information or to register your child. Everyone is invited to come along to the 5pm mass which will be led by our Youth Ministry on the fourth Sunday of each month. Our first one for the year will be held next **Sunday February 25 at 5pm** followed by supper in the hall. Come and join us!



STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Fridays during Lent @ 7pm in the Church. We are grateful to the Charismatic Prayer Group for leading us this week and to the St Vincent de Paul team for leading next Friday. Come and join us, all are welcome.



Project Compassion 2024 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**

Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes which are available in the church foyers, to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **for all future generations.** With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. To donate online or for more information visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion.

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie: Discussing this Gospel, Pope Francis once said that ‘Lent is a time of repentance, yes, but it is not a time of sorrow!’ The Pope wanted to remind Christians that Lent is a season of ‘a joyous and serious commitment to strip ourselves of our selfishness ... and to renew ourselves according to the grace of our Baptism.’ Note his emphasis on it being ‘joyous’.

In one of his major teaching documents, *Evangelii Gaudium*, the Pope begins as follows: ‘The Joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus.’ He goes on to say that ‘With Christ joy is constantly born anew.’ This is the kind of Lent we should all strive for: a joyful one. Later in the same document the Pope expresses concern about joyless seriousness. ‘There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter.’ The Pope then reminds us that ‘Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved.’ Our Lent should be a time of joyful response to that love. Fasts and penances should be helping us find joy in Christ, not misery. After all, Jesus emerged from the desert proclaiming ‘Good News’.

INVITE US DEEPER- Author Unknown

Almighty and ever living God,

You invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent.

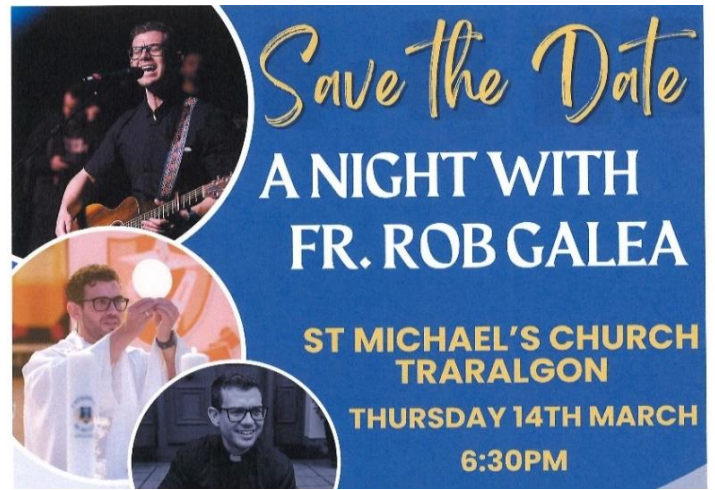
May this time be one of outward focus;

Seeking you in those we often ignore.

Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter.

Give us hearts hungry to serve you

And those who need what we have to give.



We are very excited to announce that we are hosting a night with Father Rob Galea. This is an event for EVERYONE; young, old and anyone in between. Fr Rob is an ordained Catholic Priest, currently serving in the Sandhurst Diocese, Victoria after moving to Australia from Malta. He is the founder and executive director of ICON Ministry (formerly known as FRG Ministries) a charity organisation that ministers to over 1.4 million people each year throughout the world.

Fr Rob is an internationally acclaimed author, singer and songwriter who has been featured in newspapers, magazines and TV Shows worldwide. He is passionate about sharing the Good News, recognising that before everything that he is a follower of Christ, a priest and only then, a speaker, musician and artist. He has a significant evangelistic and outreach ministry, speaking and singing to students and teaching staff, as well as conferences and churches around the globe.

Come along for an evening of music and testimony here at St Michael's Church on **Thursday March 14 at 6:30pm**. An event not to be missed! All are welcome!

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:

“After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...” - Mark 1:14

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

Rosters for February 24 & 25, 2024			2nd Sunday of Lent, Year B	
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Feb 24 5:00pm	B O'Brien & A Taylor	S Luscombe	L Kennedy	Diamente Family
Sunday Feb 25 9:30am	C McLure & R Diaz	M Wilkinson	M Blanchard & A Sykes	Jane & Simon
Sunday Feb 25 5:00pm	Youth Mass	Youth Mass	Youth Mass	Zahra & Kevin
Church Cleaning	February	St Michael's School		
Mick's Kitchen	February 22	Burns Team	February 29	McLaughlin Team
Touring Statue of Our Lady	February 28	M & J Hanratty		

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-15

A reading from the book of Genesis

I will recall the covenant between myself and you... the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

Readings for the 2nd Sunday of Lent Year B

First Reading:	Genesis 22:1-2 9-13 15-18
Second Reading:	Romans 8:31-34
Gospel:	Mark 9:2-10

Second Reading

1 Pt 3:18-22

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 4:4

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!***

Gospel

Mk 1: 12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

