

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: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Written by Michael McGirr

Genesis 22:1–2, 9–13, 15–18 | Romans 8:31–34 | Mark 9:2–10

When Jesus took his closest friends to the top of a high mountain, they experienced something quite extraordinary. The transfiguration gave them a glimpse of what it meant for Jesus to be the son of God. It is hardly surprising that Peter said, 'it is wonderful for us to be here.' The Gospel also tells us that Jesus' friends were frightened, and this is also easy to understand. They were overwhelmed. Nevertheless, it's not long before Jesus reminds them that he is destined to die. His friends must come down from the mountain and walk with Jesus through all the ordinary and arduous days and weeks that lie ahead.

We can all say 'it is wonderful for us to be here' no matter where that happens to be. Life is full of wonder. That doesn't mean it is always easy. We live in the arms of a very deep mystery. God's love enfolds us.

Throughout Lent, we are called to support Project Compassion, an initiative of Caritas Australia. This year, Project Compassion celebrates 60 years of partnership with some of the most marginal communities in the world. With your help, we have walked alongside literally millions of people in dozens of countries.

This week we encounter the story of Ronita who lives in Quezon City, part of metro Manila in the Philippines. Becoming a mother at a young age meant that her schooling was cut short. Her husband, Lean, leaves for work at 3am and returns at 9pm, earning less than \$US10 per day in a demanding job in waste disposal. On such a small income, Ronita and Lean, along with two young children, are able to rent a room of about 10 square metres.

With your help through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia has been able to support the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to run the Alternative Learning System program. This program has meant that Ronita has been able to continue her education. The FCJ sisters provide a safe space for many young people such as Ronita to finish school and find better jobs. Ronita has had the opportunity to change her life.

Caritas Australia believes that the world can be transfigured to become more like the kingdom of God of which Jesus spoke. We can encounter people whom others choose to ignore. When we do so, we discover that here too are children of God. We are asked to listen to them.

Please donate to Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.** You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from both church foyers or from the parish office, or by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Feb 27	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Feb 28	11:00am Reconciliation 11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Mass
Thursday Feb 29	9:30am Mass*
Friday Mar 01	9:30am Mass

**This Thursday's 9:30am Mass will be celebrated here at St Michael's Church NOT at St Gabriel's Primary School.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Donal Hiney, John Erickson (father of Jane Mitchell), and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Nora Harte, Maureen Carberry, John Anderson, Antonio Panozzo-Tile, Connie Falzon, Milka Zidar, George Spalding, Archbishop Philip Wilson, and John Vella. *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, Paul Laurie 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:
St Michael's Church
Friday March 01 @ 10:30am**

Come and join us next Friday for a special liturgy here at St Michael's, as we celebrate the World Day of Prayer. This year's liturgy is a culmination of many years of prayer and discernment from the women of palestine and will be read throughout the world in churches of many denominations and in many languages. This year St Michael's will be hosting the Traralgon liturgy and we invite parishioners to come along and join Christians throughout our community to pray for peace and unity, followed by tea and coffee in the Mary MacKillop Room.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Next Friday join our J-Walkers Youth Ministry for Stations of the Cross at **7pm in the Church**. All are welcome.

PALM SUNDAY PALMS: We are collecting last year's Palm Sunday palms to be turned into Ashes for next year's Ash Wednesday Mass. You can return yours to the parish office or leave them with Fr Aju or Deacon Tony after mass.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Tuesday February 27	
10:00am	Catholic Women's League Meeting, Mary MacKillop Room
Wednesday February 28	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday February 29	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
Friday March 01	
10:30am	World Day of Prayer Liturgy, St Michael's Church
7:00pm	Stations of the Cross, St Michael's Church

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 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: This weekend we welcome for Baptism, **Charlotte Catherine Gemin**, daughter of Alex and Bianca. Congratulations and welcome to our parish! 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: Thank you to our parishioners who came along and supported our first Coffee-Cart morning of 2024. We will continue to open on the third Sunday of each month and look forward to seeing you all on Sunday March 17 after the 9:30am mass. This Sunday we welcome you to our 5pm Youth Mass and invite you to join us for supper afterwards in the Mary MacKillop Hall. Join us next Friday for Stations of the Cross in the church at 7pm.



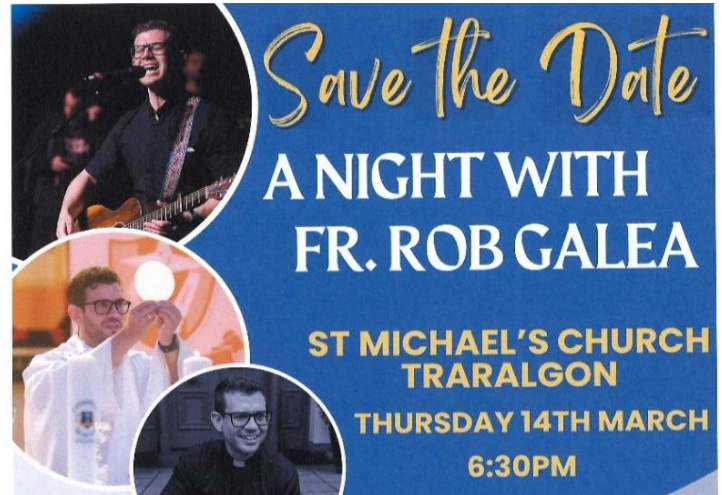
COME AND SEE: Bishop Greg has called for the young men of our Parishes of the Diocese to come to St Agatha's Parish, 129 Sladen St, Cranbourne VIC 3977 on Sunday, 7th April 2024 at 2:00pm particularly those who sense a call from God to life as a priest. Or, who simply want to come and enquire. It will 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



FRANCIS' FOCUS- GOSPEL REFLECTION by **Nick Brodie:** 'We too are called to climb up the mountain,' says Pope Francis, like the chosen disciples. But, as he points out, we are also called to bring our experience back down the mountain. In our own lives, one way of understanding this is to contemplate our personal spiritual behaviours. The Pope takes the opportunity of this Gospel to remind us to beware of the risk of 'spiritual laziness'. Are we tempted to 'remain on the mountain and enjoy the bliss of this encounter on our own'? Do we risk taking too much private and possessive comfort from 'our prayers and liturgies'? As the Pope points out, we cannot stay on the mountain. 'Jesus himself brings us back to the valley, among our brothers and sisters and into daily life.' There is work to be done. It is not enough to come to Mass and posture and pray in a way that is cut off from life. The Church should never become a means of escaping reality or responsibility. 'We', the Pope proclaims, 'are called to experience the encounter with Christ so that, enlightened by his light, we might take it and make it shine everywhere.' Called up the mountain, we are sent down the mountain to go forth and take the mystery of the Transfigured One with us wherever we may go. We cannot do that if we keep our heads stuck in tents of our own making.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL SALE LENTEN DEVOTIONS: St Mary's Cathedral Community invites you to join them on Friday's During Lent at St Mary's Cathedral Sale from 5:00pm – 6:15pm. We are all invited and encouraged to participate in a five Friday's journey of Lenten devotion and retreat, focusing on the Biblical character called King David, the man after God's heart. The central theme for our reflection is: "A Pure Heart Create For Me, O God" (Ps 51:10). What made David so special in the sight of God? Despite all the choices he made how did he become a man after God's heart? How can we translate this into our own spiritual experiences today? Following on from Francis' reflection on the freedom to which we are called, the story of David gives us a pathway through acknowledgment, acceptance, contrition, and peace. Therein lies true freedom. As we come together for these days of reflection, adoration, and Mass, may the Holy Spirit lead us gently through our Lenten observances to the glories of Easter. Alleluia! Amen!! God bless you.

ST MARY'S MAFFRA CHURCH CENTENARY: Join us in celebrating the Saint Mary's Maffra Church Centenary on Sunday, April 28, 2024, with a Mass at 11 a.m. in Maffra, followed by lunch at the Parish Hall. Kindly RSVP to 51471921 for catering purposes. All are welcome.



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. 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 and we encourage all parishioners to attend and bring a friend. There is no cost but we ask you to register your attendance via Trybooking using the following link <https://www.trybooking.com/CPOBR>

There is an opportunity for further formation on **Friday March 15** with the teachers of St Michael's and St Gabriel's Primary Schools. This is a great opportunity for our parish leaders, volunteers and all those who serve to hear Fr Rob speak about his experiences and our call to mission. For more information and to register visit <https://www.trybooking.com/CPMTH>

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:

"Here I am!" he answered."- Genesis 22:11

It is easy to say, "Here I am, Lord," when we are kneeling in church. But how easy is it to say "Here I am, Lord," when a neighbor needs our help, when we are invited to join a parish ministry, or when we are asked to provide financial support? Often times we are called when it's not convenient for us. Discipleship is not always easy, most of the time it will make us uncomfortable and vulnerable.

Rosters for March 02 & 03, 2024			3rd Sunday of Lent, Year B	
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Mar 02 5:00pm	S & S Reid	M Noone	A Membrey	Jane & Simon
Sunday Mar 03 9:30am	U & E Ihagwe	M Wilkinson	W Banks-Smith & D Bau	Filipino Choir
Sunday Mar 03 5:00pm	E Harte	S Grout	T Biancon	Jane & Simon
Church Cleaning	March	St Gabriel's School		
Mick's Kitchen	February 29	McLaughlin Team	March 07	Cartledge Team
Touring Statue of Our Lady	February 25	M & J Hanratty	March 03	A & C O'Neil

First Reading

Genesis 22:1-2 9-13 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 115:10 15-19 R 114:9

**(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.**

- I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted.'
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. **(R.)**
- Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name. **(R.)**
- My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation

See Mt 17:5

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is
heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Gospel

Mk 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.



Next week's readings: 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year B

First Reading	Ex 20:1-17
Second Reading	1 Cor 1:22-25
Gospel	Jn 2:13-25