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Third Sunday of Lent, Year B

March 03, 2024

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.

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: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Written by Michael McGirr

Exodus 20:1–17 | 1 Corinthians 1:22–25 | John 2:13–25

If the world is one great classroom, then God is a fantastic teacher. We have all had experience of this: the firm and gentle way that God opens our minds and helps us to understand.

Today's readings show three different ways that God tries to get through to us. In the first reading, God sets some clear expectations for behaviour. They are all based around respect, both for the teacher and for those with whom we share the class! At the same time, God reminds us 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the house of slavery.' In other words, these are not random rules. They are designed to protect our deepest freedom. Disregarding them sends us back into captivity.

In the Gospel, Jesus is annoyed by people who think they know everything but who have not properly understood the basic lesson about justice and reverence. 'Stop turning my father's house into a market.' Finally, St Paul speaks about wisdom. 'God's weakness is stronger than human strength.' This is another style again: inviting us into a mystery, almost using riddles to get us to think outside the box.

It is no surprise that the Catholic community has always valued education and done a great deal to make it accessible for people around the world. Just as God teaches us, so too do we try to share the wonderful gift of learning with others.

This week, Project Compassion brings us the story of Leaia, who lives in Samoa. With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed in Leaia's home to harvest rainwater. This means that her family can now have access to clean water to drink and bathe. The time that was previously spent walking to collect water in buckets from a neighbour down the street can now be used for other essential tasks and, most importantly, her children don't have to miss out on school. School is a doorway that opens onto a better world.

The Gospel today says that Jesus knew what a person had in them. We should try to be the same: to see the potential, not just the surface.

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 Mar 05	9:30am	Mass
Wednesday Mar 06	11:00am	Reconciliation
	11:00am	Exposition
	12:00pm	Mass
Thursday Mar 07	9:30am	Mass @ St Gabriel's PS
	11:00am	Mass @ Dalkeith
Friday Mar 08	9:30am	Mass

This Thursday's 9:30am Parish Mass will be celebrated at St Gabriel's Primary School, all are welcome to join. We will also celebrate Mass on Friday at 9:30am here at St Michael's, with the students from St Michael's Primary School, all our parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend both of these masses.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Aliya Paul, Mary Montague, John Teo Kok Kiong, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Barry Bennett, Robert Crump, Frank Valencic, Elizabeth Cross, Nora Harte, and Maureen Carberry. *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.*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays during Lent @ 7pm in the Church

Thank you to our Youth Ministry for leading our Stations of the Cross this week. We look forward to our Syro-Malabar community leading next week's stations. Come and join us in the church, every **Friday at 7pm** during Lent.



**LENTEN LITURGY:
COMMUNITY OF THE CROSS
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH
THURSDAY MARCH 07 @ 7:30PM
ALL ARE WELCOME**

Let us join together for an evening of prayer and reflection as we gather as one and go gladly on our journey towards Easter. All are welcome and invited to this Ecumenical Lenten Liturgy. Join us as we journey from where we are to where God is calling us to be, next **Thursday March 07 at 7:30pm.**

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Wednesday March 06	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday March 07	
9:30am	Mass with St Gabriel's PS Gr 3&4, St Gabriel's Primary School
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
11:00am	Mass @ Dalkeith, Dalkeith Gardens
7:30pm	Lenten Liturgy, St Michael's Church
Friday March 08	
9:30am	Mass with St Michael's PS, St Michael's Church
7:00pm	Stations of the Cross, St Michael's Church

Fr Rob Galea is coming to St Michael's!

Join us on Thursday March 14 from 6:00pm for an evening of music and testimony followed by supper in the hall. This is a free event for ALL ages.

**Register at Trybooking using the following link
<https://www.trybooking.com/CPOBR>**

Holy Week 2024

PALM SUNDAY Sunday March 24

(Procession 9:30am & 5pm)

PARISH RECONCILIATION Tuesday March 26 - 6pm

TENEBRAE SERVICE Wednesday March 27 - 7:30pm

HOLY THURSDAY Thursday March 28 - 7:30pm

GOOD FRIDAY Friday March 29 - 3:00pm

(Stations of the Cross @ 9:30am)

EASTER VIGIL Saturday March 30 - 7:30pm

EASTER SUNDAY Sunday March 31 - 9:30am

(no evening mass)



BAPTISMS: Our next Baptism Preparation meeting will be held on **Tuesday April 09 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.

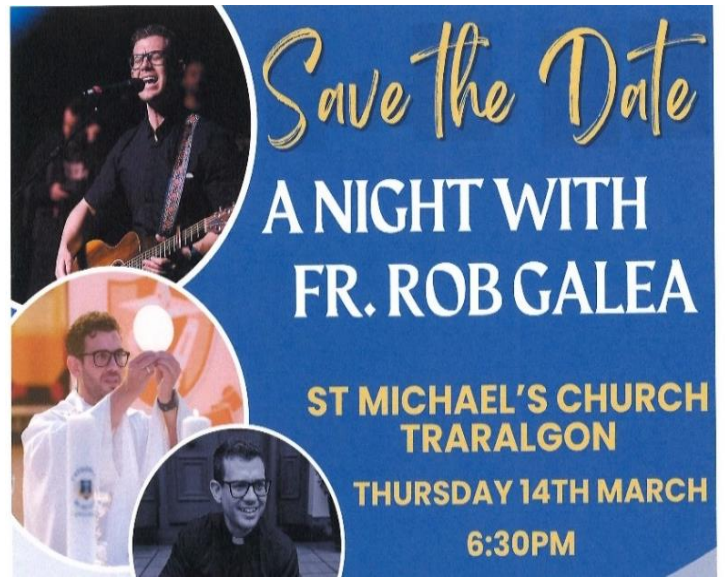
YOUTH NEWS: Last Sunday our Junior J-Walkers met for the first time. They set up tents and discussed the weekly gospel reading, particularly the importance of climbing the mountain but then coming back down again. They sang, they danced, they shared stories. Lots of fun was had by all and we encourage our other parishioners from Grade 6 – Year 9 to join us next time on Sunday March 23. Contact the parish office for more information or to register your child.



DIOCESAN NEWS: Diocesan Mission Council Formation Day

Report: On Saturday, 24th February, the members of the new Diocesan Mission Council met at the St Mary’s Cathedral Chapter House, Sale. The intention of this first gathering was for members to get to know each other, to be aware of what is happening in the Diocese, and to begin working towards developing a common vision of the role and key functions of the Council. At the end of the day, members expressed feeling privileged, excited, hopeful, and energised to participate in the mandate of the DMC. Some spoke of the honour and trust they felt in being representative of, and connected to, all the people of the Diocese. They acknowledged the importance of listening to the Holy Spirit and grasping the call to co-responsibility for mission. Appreciation was also expressed for the new initiatives developing in the Diocese. **New Pastoral Life & Mission Team:** Bishop Greg Bennet has established a new Pastoral Life & Mission Team, appointing Tara Bau, Anne Taylor, Siji Dominic, and Br. Tony Clark as team members. The team will coordinate the support people in the Diocese who hold key pastoral leadership roles (priests and lay leaders) through consultation, providing formation opportunities, and building strong networks.

A MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS – MARCH 2024: “This month, I want to tell you a story that is a reflection of the Church today. It is the story of a little-known witness of faith. Visiting a refugee camp in Lesbos, a man told me, “Father, I am Muslim. My wife was Christian. Terrorists came to our place, looked at us and asked what our religion was. They approached my wife with a crucifix and told her to throw it on the ground. She didn’t do it, and they slit her throat in front of me.” That’s what happened. I know he held no grudges. He was focused on his wife’s example of love, a love for Christ that led her to accept, and to be faithful to the point of death. Brothers, sisters, there will always be martyrs among us. This is a sign that we’re on the right path. A person who knows told me there are more martyrs today than at the beginning of Christianity. The courage of the martyrs, the witness of the martyrs, is a blessing for everyone. Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive. And to be open to the grace of martyrdom.”



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.

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>

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.



FOR THE MARTYRS OF OUR DAY, WITNESSES TO CHRIST

“Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.”
- Pope Francis -

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:

“You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything...” - Exodus 20:4

How many “gods” do you put before God? “Idols” do not always take the shape of physical things, things we can touch and feel. Those are easy to recognize. Many times they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot like pride, power, ego, time, comfort or health. Pray for God’s help to prune our vices and to grow in virtue.

Rosters for March 09 & 10, 2024			4th Sunday of Lent, Year B	
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Mar 09 5:00pm	R Webber	S Luscombe	M Giddens	
Sunday Mar 10 9:30am	J Dal Pra & A Thomas	M Tainsh	M Wilkinson	Diamente Family
Sunday Mar 10 5:00pm	E Joseph & M Alex	J Fleming	J McLaughlin	
Church Cleaning	March	St Gabriel’s School		
Mick’s Kitchen	March 07	Cartledge Team	March 14	St Michael’s Staff
Touring Statue of Our Lady	March 03	A & C O’Neil	March 10	M Munari

First Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Law was given through Moses.

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, not your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill. 'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal. 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68

(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. **(R.)**

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **(R.)**

They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Cor 1:22-25

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

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 3:16

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,

that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

Jn 2:13-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

Next week's Readings: 4 th Sunday of Lent Year B	
First Reading:	Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23
Second Reading:	Ephesians 2:4-10
Gospel:	John 3:14-21