

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 (chairperson), Kim Zerafa, Michael Hansen (deputy chairperson), 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



SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Dianne Bergant CSA
Acts 4:32-35 1 John 5:1-6 John 20:19-31

This short passage is one of the best known descriptions of the early Christian community (cf. Acts 2:42-47). Although it depicts values and relationships that were highly prized by the early Christians, the picture sketched is probably more theologically idealised than it is historically accurate. The principal values that characterise this community are: unity in mind and heart; sharing of possessions; and apostolic witness. Sharing possessions was a response to an ancient Jewish directive (cf. Deut 15:4): being of one mind and heart characterises the Greek concept of friendship. This picture of communal harmony espouses values from both cultures. The noble ideals of this Christian community held out a way of life that is attainable through the grace of the resurrection.

The responsorial psalm begins with a call to give testimony to the goodness of God. The Hebrew word for mercy (*hesed*), is a technical term, denoting God's steadfast love for those in covenant with God. The second section is a testimony to deliverance by God from a situation of great distress. This elicits a song of praise. The congregation announces that the one who had been rejected and hard pressed by enemies has now been saved and exalted by God. In true liturgical fashion, the psalm brings us to the present moment. Although the salvation described occurred in the past, the psalmist insists that *today* is the day that the Lord made; *today* is the day that we rejoice in God's saving work.

The Letter of John is a testimony to Trinitarian faith: God (the Father) begets; Jesus is the Son of God; and the Spirit testifies to the triumph of Jesus' death and resurrection. The letter declares: Jesus is the Christ: Faith in Jesus, who is both Messiah and Son of God, brings one into the family of God, where one is expected to love God and all others begotten of God through faith in the same Jesus. Love of God and of others are so connected that it makes little difference which comes first. One form of love always results in the other. Finally, It is through faith in Jesus that believers can conquer the evils that threaten them.

In the gospel, the closed doors not only secured the disciples from harm, but also underscore the mysterious character of Jesus' risen body. The wish of peace was a prayer for the eschatological blessing. Finally, Jesus' wounds showed the disciples that he was really the crucified one now risen. Thomas should not be remembered as the one who was absent or who doubted. He represents the second generation of Christians and those like us, who are called to believe on the testimony of others. In fact, he has insights that the others in the story do not have. They recognised that the one in their midst was their Lord. Thomas declared that the risen Lord was God.

Sunday Mass Times		
Saturday	5:00pm	Mass
Sunday	9:30am	Mass
	5:00pm	Mass
Weekday Mass Times		
Monday Apr 08	1:00pm	Requiem Mass for Olga Karapulka
Tuesday Apr 09	9:30am	Liturgy
Wednesday Apr 10	11:00am	Exposition
	12:00pm	Liturgy
Thursday Apr 11	9:30am	Liturgy*
Friday Apr 12	9:30am	Liturgy

**This Thursday we will have a parish led liturgy at St Michael's Church as Fr Aju is away.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Olga Karapulka, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Philomena Marxsen, Anna Sola, Joan Quigley, Mary Lang and Eileen Langmaid. A Requiem Mass for Olga Karapulka will be held in the church on Monday at 1:00pm, with the Rosary at 12:30pm. All are invited and welcome to come and join us as we celebrate Olga's 101 years with us. *Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*



WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: including Bernadette Formaran, Fr Frank Freeman, Carolyn Gleeson, Jacqui Granville, Barbara Greaves, Ellen Hammond, Robert Hazelman, Imogen Hillier, Joyce Martin, Ivy May, Deborah Mckerchar, Ben Melenhorst, Maree Morris, Henry Polo, Joan Riggall, Theresa Rosello, Jerry Templer, Damiano Tripodi, George Walkan, Roy Ward, Victoria Rolih, James Whitty, John Waanders, Peter Dal Pra, Jane Eric, Rose Xuereb, Manuel Xuereb, Peter Lorinc, Don Barnes, Paul Laurie, Gus Agostino, Sharon Veleff, Jenny Hansch, Rosemaree Kays 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.*

thank you

It was wonderful to see so many parishioners attend and enjoy our Holy Week celebrations. We are so grateful to all those who shared their time, energy and talents, both behind the scenes and at each mass and service to ensure they ran smoothly. Thanks to everyone involved, including but not limited to, our liturgy team, our church cleaners, our flower ladies, lectors, commentators, our banner hangers, statue drapers, 'palm' providers, eucharistic ministers, sacristans, musicians, welcomers, hall openers and closers, supper providers, money collectors and altar servers. Thank you to our RCIA team for organizing our wonderful Easter Vigil and for their ongoing support and preparation of our newest parishioners, and to all those who helped and attended the parish supper, and especially for those who cleaned up afterwards. Thank you to Father Aju for his leadership and spiritual guidance during what is a very special and very busy time.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Tuesday April 09 – Friday April 12	
<i>Clergy Retreat- Fr Aju and Deacon Tony away</i>	
Tuesday April 09	
7:00pm	Baptism Preparation Meeting, St Michael's Church
Wednesday April 10- NO RECONCILIATION	
Thursday April 11	
10:30am	Life in the Spirit Seminar, St Michael's Church

BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for baptism **Ivy Rose, Violet Grace and Rory Richard Rutter**, children of Aaron and Meghan. Congratulations and welcome to our parish!



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:

Congratulations to Jun, Adriana and Phillipe who officially joined our parish and the catholic church at the Easter Vigil last weekend. Well done and thank you to our RCIA team for guiding and supporting them on their journey.

SACRAMENTS NEWS: The sacrament of confirmation will be celebrated on Friday May 24 with Bishop Greg Bennet here at St Michael's Church. Families of children in Grade 6 and above who are interested and not yet enrolled should contact the parish office as soon as possible as enrolments are now due.



YOUTH NEWS: Join us for a cappuccino or hot chocolate on **Sunday April 21** after the 9:30am Mass at the J-Walkers Coffee Cart in the Mary MacKillop Hall. All money raised

goes towards supporting our Youth Ministry.

Our next Youth Mass will be held on **Sunday, April 28 at 5:00pm**. We invite you to come along and support our young ones as they learn and lead the different parts of the mass. We also encourage you to bring along your children and grandchildren to come along and join in.

DIOCESAN CLERGY RETREAT 9th – 12th APRIL: Father Aju, Deacon Tony and Father Peter will be away next week as they are attending the Diocesan Clergy Retreat along with Bishop Greg and the other priests and deacons of our Diocese. Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion will continue during normal Mass times in their absence, but there will be **no reconciliation on Wednesday April 10**.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR: Join us for praise and worship, guest speakers and testimonies, prayer and sharing.

St Michael's Church,

10:30am Thursdays, April 04 - May 09.

This Thursday April 11 we will focus on the theme of 'Jesus is Lord'. Come and join us, all are welcome! Contact the parish office for more information or to register your interest.

COLLECTIONS: From next weekend we will go back to having two separate collections at each mass. The first collection will go towards supporting our church and parish, including planned giving envelopes. The second collection will be used to support our priest, deacon and the presbytery.



HOLY LAND COLLECTION: Thank you to our generous parishioners who donated **\$1,496.35** on Good Friday for the Holy Land Commisariat. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing, Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Thanks to your generosity and others like you, their important work in the holy land will continue.



Divine Mercy Sunday
Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion- inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

Please join us for the Divine Mercy Chaplet this Sunday April 07 after 9:30am Mass

Source thedivinemercy.org.au



DIVINE RENOVATION WORKSHOP:
Saturday April 13, 9:15am – 4:30pm
Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Narre Warren

Get ready to ignite your passion and unlock your potential! Join us for the Divine Renovation **Equipped for Mission: Answering the call to 'Go Make Disciples'** event, where we'll empower you to make a real difference in your parish. **Find inspiration** in the keynote presentation by Dan O'Rourke, President of Divine Renovation. **Learn how** to effectively utilise Alpha as a tool for evangelisation from Barb Conlon, Catholic Engagement Specialist at Alpha Australia. **Connect** with priests and parish leaders who share your passion for mission. **Engage** in interactive mission-focused workshops. **Hear about the transformation** from members of Our Lady Help of Christians parish. **Equip yourself** with valuable resources from Divine Renovation and Alpha.

Don't miss out on this transformative experience. Join other parishioners from St Michael's and from parishes around the Diocese to share this experience and take the next step towards becoming a missionary disciple in our parish community by reserving your spot today. Register at divinerenovation.org/events

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

THANK YOU: Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2024. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online.

Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.

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 your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

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

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL:



FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN

"Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world."
- Pope Francis -

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:

"The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own..." - ACTS 4:32

All that we are and all that we have is a gift from God! Think of your family, your friends, your life, your talents and your money – these are all gifts from God! We aren't really owners of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has blessed us with. We are called to be grateful and generous with all of our gifts for the benefit of others.



Rosters for April 13 & 14, 2024		Third Sunday of Easter, Year B		
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Apr 13 5:00pm	R Webber	M Noone	M Giddens	
Sunday Apr 14 9:30am	E Babu & A Thomas	M Tainsh	M Wilkinson & M Noone	Filipino Choir
Sunday Apr 14 5:00pm	E Joseph & M Alex	J Fleming	J McLaughlin	Jane & Simon
Church Cleaning	April	Collis Family Group		
Mick's Kitchen	April 11	Van Berkel Team	April 18	McLaughlin Team
Touring Statue of Our Lady	April 07	A & G Symonds	April 14	E Hiney

First Reading

Acts 4:32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole group was united, heart and soul.

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R. v.1

**(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting**

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.' **(R.)**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;

his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live

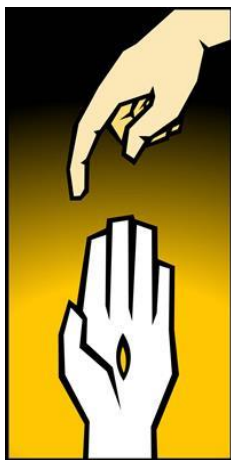
and recount his deeds.

I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,
but not doomed to die. **(R.)**

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**



Next weeks Readings	3 rd Sunday of Easter
First Reading:	Acts 3:13-15 17-19
Second Reading:	1 John 2:1-5
Gospel:	Luke 24:35-48

Second Reading

1 Jn 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of St John

Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is –

keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas,

because you have seen me;

happy are those who have not seen me,

but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.