

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



Sunday Reflection: Called to be Prophetic Witnesses By Sophie Clements

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To his Nazi captors, Polish priest and Conventual Franciscan friar Maximilian Kolbe was prisoner number 16670. But to Franciszek Gajowniczek, his fellow inmate in Auschwitz, Maximilian was much more and his sacrifice would change his life forever.

In late July 1941, a prisoner escape in Auschwitz prompted the deputy camp commander to order the deaths of 10 men to deter future escape attempts. When Maximilian heard Franciszek, who was one of the ten selected, cry out for his wife and children, he volunteered to take his place. Franciszek was reunited with his wife after the war and lived to be 93. He said that, as long as he lived, he would tell everyone about Maximilian's courageous act of love.

Jesus's dying and rising again, like Maximilian's act of sacrifice and love, was not only a moving act of humanity; it was also a prophetic witness of God's redemptive love.

The gospel reading today describes a vivid post-Resurrection appearance of Jesus. The disciples met Jesus on the road but only recognised him in the breaking of the bread. Then, quite dramatically, they see him standing in their midst and they were both terrified and overjoyed to see him again. He invites them to touch his hands and feet. He eats a piece of fish which they give him.

At Easter, we enter into the mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus. God, in his love for us, yearns to draw us into his presence for all eternity. It is a profound paradox that his gift of eternal life and love entailed the ultimate sacrifice of an excruciating death on the cross.

For each of us, taking up our cross also means we are utterly vulnerable to pain, suffering and death. Nevertheless, with the grace of One who has also walked this path, we find strength to do the same. St John of the Cross likened suffering to being like a log in the fire. We are consumed by his love and are forever transformed by the experience. Our suffering becomes transformative if we yield ourselves entirely to God.

Yet, our faith is not only a source of grace in own individual suffering and death. It is a prophetic witness for all time. Jesus reminds his disciples that everything that was written about him in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms has now been fulfilled, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning with Jerusalem.

We are called to rise with Jesus to a new life. In communion with our faith companions and all the saints from ages past, present and future, we are also called to be prophetic witnesses to his redemptive love. Clothed in our baptismal garments, anointed by holy oil, and redeemed by blood, let us proclaim this Easter promise to everyone. He is risen indeed.

Sourced from www.majellan.media

Sunday Mass Times		
Saturday	5:00pm	Mass
Sunday	9:30am	Mass
	5:00pm	Mass
Weekday Mass Times		
Tuesday Apr 16	9:30am	Mass
	10:45am	Mass @ Margery Cole
Wednesday Apr 17	11:00am	Reconciliation
	11:00am	Exposition
	12:00pm	Mass
Thursday Apr 18	9:30am	Mass*
Friday Apr 19	9:30am	Mass

***This Thursday and next Thursday our parish mass will continue to be held at St Michael's Church NOT St Gabriel's Primary School.**

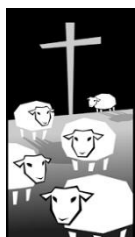
PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Olga Karapulka, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Lou Biancon, Mick Collis, Philomena Marxsen, Anna Sola, Joan Quigley, and Mary Lang. *Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*



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: Special thanks to our wonderful parishioners who teamed up to clean the church on Tuesday. It was very messy after our wonderful Easter services and we are so grateful that they came to sort everything out and vacuum up all that candle wax! Thank you.

NURSING HOME MASSES: Join us for Mass at Margery Cole this Tuesday April 16 at 10:45am. We will also be holding a special liturgy at BUPA Aged Care on Friday April 26 at 9:00am. You are all welcome to join us as we connect with our older parishioners and community members for a time or prayer and worship.



GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY: Next weekend we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday. It is also Vocation Sunday when we give thanks for all our priests, deacons and seminarians. We will have a leaving collection in support of the Diocesan Bursary Fund for the education of students for the priesthood after each of our Masses next weekend. Your donation will support the provision of living arrangements and education for the seminary students of Corpus Christi College. Please give generously to support the training of our priests for tomorrow's Church.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Tuesday April 16	
10:45am	Mass at Margery Cole, Yallambee, 1 Matthews Cres Traralgon
Wednesday April 17	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
5:30pm	Liturgy Team Meeting, Parish Centre
Thursday April 18	
10:30am	Life in the Spirit Seminar, St Michael's Church

BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for baptism **Arlo Mae** and **Archie Matthew Johnson**, children of Matthew and Jessica, **Amira Concetta Sartori**, daughter of Nicholas and Mariska, and **Lylah Mae Rendell**, daughter of Tyler and Abbi. Congratulations and welcome to our parish!



Our next Baptism Preparation meeting will be held on **Tuesday May 21 at 7pm** in the church. Please contact the parish office for more information and to register your interest.

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 next **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.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR: Join us for praise and worship, guest speakers and testimonies, and time for prayer and sharing. Opportunities for baptism in the Holy Spirit. This Thursday we welcome our Guest Speaker Cathy McLure who will lead us in exploring the Gift of God's Spirit.



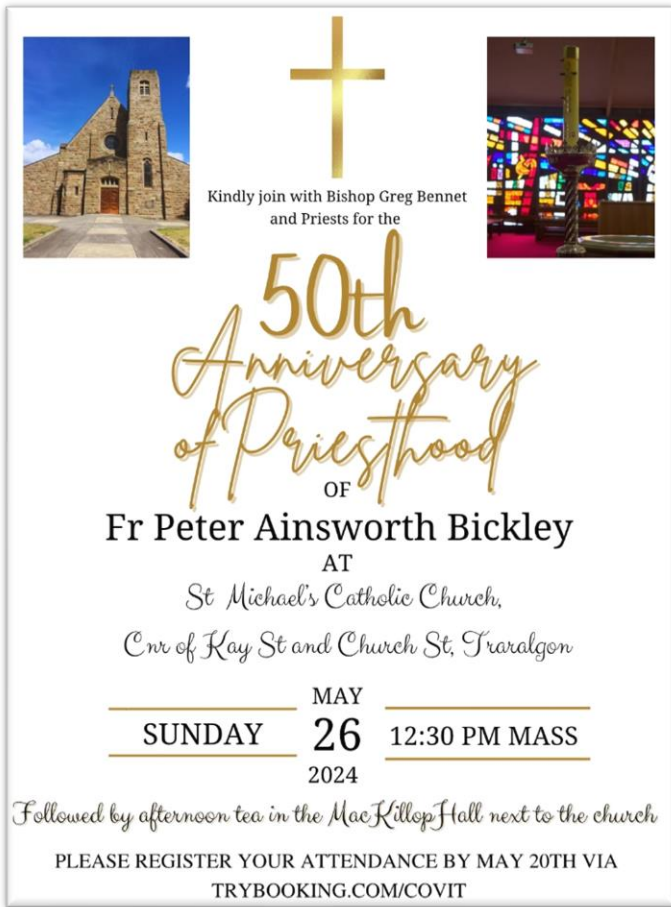
St Michael's Church, 10:30am Thursdays, April 04 - May 09.

April 18	Gift of God's Spirit
April 25	Forgiveness, Healing & Reconciliation
May 02	New Life in God's Spirit
May 09	Growth & Community

Come and join us, all are welcome! Contact the parish office for more information or to register your interest.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: In the coming weeks we will have information and training sessions for anyone wishing to learn more about becoming a Eucharistic Minister. This is an important and rewarding ministry in our church and we encourage as many of you as possible to come and learn more about it. It is also important that current and past Eucharistic Ministers join us on this day so we can all touch base and make sure we are up to date with our training and knowledge.

FR PETER'S ANNIVERSARY: Please join us on **Sunday May 26** to celebrate Father Peter's 50th anniversary. We will begin with Mass at St Michael's Church at 12:30pm followed by afternoon tea in the Mary MacKillop Hall. Please RSVP via the trybooking link trybooking.com/COVIT for catering purposes.



Kindly join with Bishop Greg Bennet and Priests for the

50th Anniversary of Priesthood
OF
Fr Peter Ainsworth Bickley
AT
St Michael's Catholic Church,
Cnr of Kay St and Church St, Traralgon

MAY
SUNDAY 26 12:30 PM MASS
2024

Followed by afternoon tea in the MacKillop Hall next to the church

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE BY MAY 20TH VIA
TRYBOOKING.COM/COVIT

FINANCE MATTERS: Thank you for your ongoing financial support of our parish and wider church community. During the month of March the following funds were received:

Presbytery Collection:	\$5,492.60
Easter Collection:	\$2,348.60
Planned Giving:	\$12,990.10
Good Friday Holy Lands:	\$1,606.35
Easter Offerings:	\$835.05
Project Compassion:	\$2,232.10



We also received \$185 in donations to our parish through the Quest Tapper in the Kay Street Foyer. This is attached to the wall and is set up to take \$5 donations through the tap and go method, using either your credit card, Apple Pay or Google Pay. Tap once for \$5, twice for \$10 etc. It is very handy for those of us who never seem to have cash but would like to support the parish financially.

COLLECTIONS: From this weekend we will go back to having two collections at each of our masses. This is so parishioners can choose to put money in either the church collection or the presbytery collection. To avoid confusion, Planned Giving Envelopes along with donations to the church will be in the second collection, and money for the presbytery should go in the first collection.

As in the past, the first collection will take place after the homily, and the second collection after the Prayers of the Faithful. Thank you for your patience as we work to get back to where we were. Your support is very much appreciated.

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

“Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ But they were startled and frightened...” - LUKE 24:36-37

Throughout the day we have many opportunities to “see the face of Jesus” in others and to “be the face of Jesus” to others. Do we take that opportunity to provide “peace” to those we encounter or are we afraid of what others will think of us and do nothing? Pray for the strength and courage to live a “God-centered” life and not a “self-centered” life.



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.*

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.

Save the Date	
Youth Mass	Sunday April 28
Mother's Day Morning Tea	Sunday May 12
Pentecost Multicultural Day	Sunday May 19
Confirmation	Friday May 24
Fr Peter's Anniversary	Sunday May 26

Rosters for April 20 & 21, 2024			Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B	
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Apr 20 5:00pm	R Foote & T Larkin	S Grout	C Payne	Alison, Jeanne & Amanda
Sunday Apr 21 9:30am	J Dal Pra & C Mavhundu	M Wilkinson	M Blanchard & A Sykes	Charismatic Choir
Sunday Apr 21 5:00pm	T Denny	S Darby	B McNulty	
Church Cleaning	April	Collis Family Group		
Mick's Kitchen	April 18	McLaughlin Team	April 25	Cartledge Team
Touring Statue of Our Lady	April 14	E Hiney	April 21	E Brand

First Reading Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

You have killed the prince of life; God, however, raised him from the dead.

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7

(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice; from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me! **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves; the Lord hears me whenever I call him. **(R.)**
3. 'What can bring us happiness?' many say. Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. **(R.)**
4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Jn 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St John

Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and those of the whole world.

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's.

We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth.

But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

Gospel Acclamation cf :Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:

make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 24:35-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'



Next weeks Readings	4 th Sunday of Easter
First Reading:	Acts 4:8-12
Second Reading:	1 John 3:1-2
Gospel:	John 10:11-18