

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



Weekly Reflection by Greg Sunter

© Greg Sunter

Gospel Reflection: The Lectionary of this Easter season draws out some of the 'classic' gospel passages, particularly some of the discourses from the Gospel of John. Like many 'famous' or familiar passages, it can be true that familiarity breeds contempt – we think we are so familiar with the passage that we don't need to pay it much attention.

At first glance, it appears that there is a certain ruthlessness about the image of the vinedresser pruning the vine: perform or perish! However, the process of cutting away and pruning branches is an incredibly nurturing action; it is removing the unproductive portions of the plant so that the vine has an even better opportunity to produce fruit in the next season. It is an act of love; not an act of economic rationalism. Within our own lives we are called to make decisions about which of our thoughts and actions are life-giving (fruit-bearing) and which are unproductive; negative; crippling; life-diminishing. If we are able to 'prune' our life-diminishing thoughts and actions we allow ourselves the freedom and the ability to really flourish. Feelings of jealousy, greed, resentment, self-doubt and lack of confidence can limit our ability to be fully alive just as addictive and harmful behaviours can physically take away our ability to perform at our best.

I am reminded of the old *Karate Kid* movie when the boy, Daniel, is introduced to the art of bonsai. He is told to close his eyes, imagine the perfect tree and then start clipping and shaping the plant to make real the perfection that lies within it. It is only through a process of cutting away and pruning that we can nurture ourselves to realise the beauty of our potential.

Living the Gospel – Bearing fruit: The vinedresser of this passage cuts away the dead branches and prunes back those that are not bearing fruit. In what way do we bear fruit? When we strive to reach our fullest potential in whatever we do, we bear fruit. When we act out of motivation for the other person rather than ourselves, we bear fruit. When we strive to bring about the reign of God in our small part of the world, we bear fruit. Sometimes we too need to have some of our thoughts and actions pruned so that we might better bear the fruit that we are truly capable of producing.

Scriptural context – In context: The imagery that Jesus used in his parables and in extended metaphors such as the one used in this week's gospel sometimes seems a little foreign to a 21st century audience. However, the world in which Jesus lived and taught was dominated by small scale farmers and producers in an agrarian economy. His use of images such as 'shepherd', 'vine', 'tenants', 'farmers' and 'wineskins' would all have been immediately recognisable to his audience. They would also have appreciated much more than we do the subtlety of Jesus' use of such images when he twists them in an unexpected way.

Sunday Mass Times		
Saturday	5:00pm	Mass
Sunday	9:30am	Mass
	5:00pm	Mass
Weekday Mass Times		
Tuesday Apr 30	9:30am	Mass
Wednesday May 01	11:00am	Reconciliation
	11:00am	Exposition
	12:00pm	Mass
Thursday May 02	9:30am	Mass* @ St Gabriel's
	11:00am	Mass @ Dalkeith
Friday May 03	9:30am	Mass

**This Thursday mass will return to St Gabriel's Primary School, all are invited and welcome to attend.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Pat Patton, Roy Ward, Frank McGrath, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Kevin Lythgo, Dorothy McLean, Bev Brown, Merrilyn Lia, Geoffrey Chapman, Lawrance John, Giustina Mosele, Ted and Sheila Caldwell, Bob Williams, Joan Carstairs-Prot, and Mary Huelsebus. *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, 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, Rosemarie Kays, Fr Andrew Wise 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.

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. Father Francis will lead us this Thursday as we focus on the theme 'New Life in God's Spirit'.



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

May 02 New Life in God's Spirit

May 09 Growth & Community

Come and join us, all are welcome and morning tea is provided.



Pentecost Sunday

On **Sunday May 19**, we will celebrate Pentecost with a multi-cultural Mass at 9:30am, which will be followed by a multi-cultural celebration in the Mary MacKillop Hall, where our parishioners are invited to share their

cultural foods, music and costumes. We are currently seeking leaders from our various cultural groups to lead and help organise this wonderful celebration. If you are interested in helping, or have ideas to share, please contact the parish office.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Tuesday April 30	
10:00am	Catholic Women's League Meeting, Mary MacKillop Room
Wednesday May 01	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
6:00pm	Confirmation Parent Information Meeting, St Michael's Church
Thursday May 02	
10:30am	Life in the Spirit Seminar, St Michael's Church
11:00am	Mass at Dalkeith, Dalkeith Gardens, Traralgon
Friday May 03	
12:15pm	Finance Committee Meeting, Parish Centre

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS- SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday April 28: @ 5:00pm

Youth Mass & Supper in the Hall

Sunday May 12: after 9:30am Mass

Mother's Day Morning Tea, Mary MacKillop Hall

Tuesday May 07: 10am – 12pm

Continuous Rosary, St Michael's Church

Sunday May 19: 9:30am

Pentecost Multi-Cultural Mass and Morning Tea

Friday May 24: 5:30pm

Sacrament of Confirmation, St Michael's Church

Sunday May 26: 12:30pm

Fr Peter's 50th Anniversary Mass, St Michael's Church

BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for Baptism **Roman Desmond Powell**, son of Samuel and Nicole, **Elaya Maria Prezioso**, daughter of Jamie and Jessica, **Charlie John** and **Spencer Edward Cummins** sons of Leigh and Hailey.



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 at 5:30pm** with Bishop Greg Bennet here at St Michael's Church. An important parent information night will be held in the church this Wednesday **May 01 at 6pm**. 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: Come along and join us this **Sunday, April 28 at 5:00pm** for our monthly Youth Mass followed by supper in the Mary MacKillop Hall. We invite you to come

along and support our young ones as they learn and lead the different parts of the mass. All ages are welcome.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: In the coming weeks we will have information and training sessions for anyone wishing to learn more about becoming a Eucharistic Minister. Our first session will be on **Thursday May 07 at 7:30pm** in the church. This is an important and rewarding ministry and we encourage as many of you as possible to come and learn more about it.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE: The next meeting of the Catholic Women's League will be held next **Tuesday, April 30 at 10am** in the Mary MacKillop Room. All are invited and welcome. They will also host a continuous rosary to celebrate the month of Mary on Tuesday May 14 in the church from 10am – 12pm, all are welcome.

Thank you!

A huge thanks to the lovely ladies in the Catholic Women's League who have donated a brand new dishwasher to the Mary MacKillop Room for all to use. Thank you so much for your generosity, it is greatly appreciated.

CLEANING ROSTER: We are looking for three new teams to join our cleaning roster. If anyone is interested in organising or joining a team, please contact the parish office. May is currently free so we are looking for volunteers to help clean the church in the coming weeks. Many hands make light work, and you can choose a day and time that suits your team best. It only needs to be done twice each month.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY APPEAL: Thanks to your generosity our parish raised **\$1,314.25** in support of the Diocesan Bursary Fund for the education of students for the priesthood. Your donation will support the provision of living arrangements and education for the seminary students of Corpus Christi College. Donations can still be placed in an envelope in the weekend collections or dropped to the parish office.

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

DIOCESAN MYSTAGOGIA MASS: The Diocesan Mystagogia Mass will be held on **Saturday 11th May at the 6pm** Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle Church Clyde North. This Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated by Bishop Greg and is a fitting conclusion to the formal journey of RCIA each year. All are welcome.

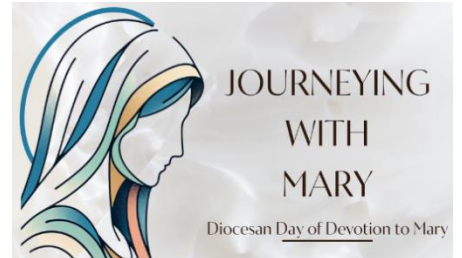
COLLECTIONS: Thank you to our money collectors and parishioners for assisting in our move back to two collections. We stopped passing the bowl around during the pandemic, then went back to one and now we are finally back to two. This is so parishioners can choose to put money in either the church collection 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.

CELEBRATE MARY IN MAY: During the month of May, Mary is specially honoured by devotions around the world. May is traditionally dedicated in a special way to honouring and seeking the intercession of Mary as the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church. Please join us to celebrate Mary on the following dates- **Saturday May 11**, Diocesan May Devotion, Our Lady Help of Christians, Narre Warren; **Tuesday May 14**, continuous Rosary after 930am Mass, St Michael's Church Traralgon; **every Saturday at 10am**, pray the Rosary in our chapel here at St Michael's.

Bishop Greg and the Catholic Diocese of Sale community invite you to attend the diocesan May devotion themed "Journeying with Mary", to be held in Narre Warren on Saturday May 11.

DIOCESAN DAY OF DEVOTION TO MARY:

Saturday May 11
9:15am – 2:00pm
Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Narre Warren.



Join us for a day devoted to Mary, including Mass, Adoration, Personal Reflection, Prayer, Rosary and Benediction. BYO Lunch. All are welcome.

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

"Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." - 1 JOHN 3:18

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you "walk the talk?" Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs? If not, it's not too late to start!

Rosters for May 04 & 05, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year B

	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday May 04 5:00pm	J Panozzo-Tile	A Taylor	A Membrey	Jane & Simon
Sunday May 05 9:30am	U & E Imhagwe	C McCabe	W Banks-Smith & D Bau	Filipino Choir
Sunday May 05 5:00pm	E Joseph & M Alex	C Hill	T Biancon	Jane & Simon
Church Cleaning	May	Volunteers		
Mick's Kitchen	May 02	St Michael's Staff	May 09	Hemming Team
Touring Statue of Our Lady	April 28	E Krieger	May 05	P Ayres

First Reading Acts 9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26

**(R.) I will praise you, Lord,
in the assembly of your people.**

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever! **(R.)**

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **(R.)**

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done.' **(R.)**

**Second Reading** 1 Jn 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John

His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 15:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you.

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

Next weeks Readings 6th Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 10:25-26 34-35,44-48

Second Reading: 1 Jn 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17