



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
Telephone: 5174 9012

St Michael's Parish Office
Telephone: 5174 2060
Address: 35 Kay Street, Traralgon
PO Box 103, Traralgon 3844

Office hours – by phone and email
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



What is in our hearts matter

By Anne Hunt

Gospel Reflection: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Having observed that Jesus' disciples were not complying with the religious purification laws of the time which required one to wash one's hands thoroughly before eating, the Pharisees challenged Jesus once again.

Not following those laws meant that the disciples were eating with hands that were deemed to be "unclean" or "impure". The Pharisees were infuriated Jesus appeared to be unconcerned about this matter of ritual purification.

"You hypocrites," Jesus replied. "You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition." The hand-washing law, he implied, is a human tradition, a man-made regulation. Jesus threw the challenge back at them: ritual purity is not a matter of cleaning one's hands, he insists, but of purity of heart! He explains: "Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile."

By Jesus' time, the rabbis had identified 613 commands that were prescribed in the Torah (the first five books of the Bible), not just the 10 commandments given to Moses. It was the impossible burden of compliance with all 613 commands that prompted the Pharisees, on another occasion, to ask Jesus which was the greatest commandment.

With simplicity and clarity, he replied: love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and love your neighbour as yourself. It is love that is commanded of us as his followers.

Jesus' challenge to the religious leaders also applies to us and to the Church in our time. Jesus firstly challenges all of us as Church to reflect very carefully on the rules and regulations we set before people. Are they God's commandments? Or are they human constructs? Are they in fact burdens that we have imposed on people? Might some of our rules and regulations actually impede people's progress on their faith journey? The rules may be well-intentioned, but they might also be misguided, not in fact closely aligned to God's commands.

Jesus leaves us in no doubt as to what really matters: it is what is in and comes from our hearts. It is, as the Psalmist says, a matter of justice. "One who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord." Here is the benchmark! It is justice.

Justice pertains to the way we live our daily lives, how we relate to others; it is right judgement, right intention and right action in all of our dealings.

What I want, says God to the prophet Hosea, is mercy. As Jesus stressed, it is a pure heart that is demanded of us; a heart that lives justly, shows mercy, responds compassionately and loves tenderly. The Letter of James echoes the same message: "Be doers of the word and not hearers only."

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Sep 03	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Sep 04	11:00am Reconciliation
	11:00am Exposition
	12:00pm Mass
Thursday Sep 05	9:30am Mass* @ St Gabriel's
	11:00am Funeral Prayers for Dorothy Smith
	11:00am Liturgy with Communion Dalkeith
Friday Sep 06	9:30am Mass

*Mass this Thursday will be held at St Gabriel's Primary School with their Grade 3 students. Parishioners are warmly invited and encouraged to join them.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Dorothy Smith, Elvira Prezioso, Bruna Fava, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Maria Di Sisto, Mal Xuereb, Rita McEntee, Rocco Ierardi, Mary Ohlson, Brian Cross, Marjorie Gilbert, Alba Cabbai, Kay Ruane, David Noon, and Patricia Clement. *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, Peter Dal Pra, Jane Eric, Rose Xuereb, Peter Lorinc, Don Barnes, Paul Laurie, Gus Agostino, Sharon Veleff, Jenny Hansch, Rosemaree Kays, Fr Andrew Wise, Jaime Mack, Greg Doyle, Eileen Rossiter 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 the parish.*

FATHER AJU AWAY: Fr Aju will be away from September 2 - 20 as he will be attending the **International Eucharistic Congress** to be held in Quito, Ecuador (South America) from September 8 to 15. He will be representing both our parish and the Diocese of Sale and has been selected as our Diocesan Ambassador for future events which may occur in Australia 2028.

What are Eucharistic Congresses?

They are an expression of a particular veneration and love of the Universal Church for the Eucharistic Mystery, source of fraternity and peace. An International Eucharistic Congress aims to make known, love and better serve Our Lord Jesus Christ in his Eucharistic Mystery, the centre of life and the mission to heal the wounds of the world.

We wish Father Aju all the best and look forward to learning more about the Eucharistic Conference upon his return. During his absence, Father Peter and Deacon Tony will be looking after our parish.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Sunday September 01	
10:30am	Father's Day Morning Tea, Mary MacKillop Hall
Wednesday September 04	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday September 05	
11:00am	Liturgy with Communion, Dalkeith Gardens
Sunday September 08	
6:00pm	Syro Malabar Mass, St Michael's Church



BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for baptism, **Paul Joseph Theissling**, son of Lee and Hollie, and **Lenny John Fazioli**, son of Adrian and Danielle.

Congratulations and welcome to our parish!

Our next Baptism Preparation meeting will be held on **Tuesday September 24 at 7pm** in the church. Please contact the parish office for more information and to register your interest.

RCIA: Are you, or someone you know interested in becoming a Catholic? Or learning more about the Catholic Faith? Join us on Tuesday nights at 7:30pm, where we can answer your questions and shed light on what Catholics believe. Enrolments are closing soon so please contact the parish office for more information or to register your interest as soon as possible.



SACRAMENTS NEWS: The sacrament of First Holy Communion will be celebrated next term and enrolments are closing soon. Please contact the parish office if your child is in Grade 4 or above and you would like some more information.



YOUTH NEWS: Last Sunday our Jr J-Walkers met before Youth Mass for an afternoon of faith and formation. They completed a scavenger hunt, and shared their favourite bible stories before organizing and preparing for mass. Our students who recently completed their first reconciliation joined them for mass followed by pizzas in the hall. Thank you to our Youth Team for their leadership and hospitality, and to our parishioners and sacraments families who came along and had fun. It was great to see so many people of all ages joining together to celebrate the young ones of our parish.

IGNITE UPDATE: Our Ignite group got together last week in preparation for their upcoming Ignite Conference in Sydney. We are especially grateful to those who journeyed from Sale and the parents of our J-Walkers who came along to support them. It was a great opportunity for them to get to know each other better, learn more about the Ignite Conference and share their hopes and concerns. They are grateful for your ongoing support and ask you again to keep them in your prayers as they continue their faith journey.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: This Thursday's meeting of the Charismatic Prayer Group has been cancelled so members can attend the funeral of their long time friend and supporter Dorothy Smith. The prayer group will return next Thursday at 10:30am in the church, all are welcome.

SYRO-MALABAR MASS: Next **Sunday September 08** we will host a Syro-Malabar Mass here at St Michael's Church at 6pm led by Father Avinash. All are invited and welcome to join in.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: Thank you to those who have committed to our current Planned Giving program and for your ongoing financial support of our parish. Envelopes are now available in the front of the church for those who have pledged to give via envelopes. Planned Giving allows us to plan and budget for the year ahead as we know how much money has been pledged by parishioners. This money, along with any donations into the second collection, go towards supporting our church and our parish, including formation opportunities, our ministries, utilities and maintenance. If you would like to join our planned giving program, please contact Cath in the office for more information on 5174 2060.

You can also donate directly into our church account:

Account Name: St Michael's Church
 BSB Number: 083 879
 Acct Number: 48885 1289



FATHER'S DAY MORNING TEA
Sunday September 01, 10:30am
Mary MacKillop Hall
All are welcome, please bring along a plate to share

FATHER'S DAY MORNING TEA AND RAFFLE: Happy Father's Day to all the fathers and grandfathers in our parish, whether biological or spiritual. Our Catholic Women's League will be hosting morning tea to celebrate this **Sunday September 01** after the 9:30am Mass, in the Mary MacKillop Hall. All are welcome as we join together to celebrate this special day. There will also be a raffle held on the day, with raffle tickets being sold after mass.

FATHER'S DAY APPEAL FOR THE PRIESTS' WELFARE FOUNDATION OF THE DIOCESE OF SALE: Today we will have a Leaving Collection for the Priests' Welfare Foundation. All proceeds will go towards the support of the sick or retired priests and deacons of our Diocese and the overseas priests in time of sickness. The easiest way to donate is to go online and visit <https://www.cdsale.org.au/priestswelfarefoundation> Envelopes will also be available in both foyers if you prefer to make a donation via cheque or credit card. All donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible and a receipt for tax deduction purposes will be automatically sent if an email address is provided.

THANK YOU: We are grateful to our friends at the Traralgon and District Baptist Church who have collected and donated a large amount of food pantry items to be used at Mick's Kitchen. Thank you for your support, your donations will go to those in need in our community.

-OUR STORIES - OUR CHURCH - OUR MISSION- DIOCESAN CONSULTATION PHASE ONE:

The Diocese has put together a summary of responses from parishes around the Diocese as part of Phase One of the Diocesan Consultation. The document is available in both church foyers and we encourage you to have a look at all the different experiences and challenges the Diocese has faced since the last Diocesan Assembly in 2019. The next phase begins in September when we will be looking forward to the future of our Diocese.



SEASON OF CREATION CONVOCATION: Wonder-Weave-Heal Catholic Earth care, a part of Caritas Australia, is inviting you to join the Season of Creation Convocation!

Date: Thursday September 12 – Saturday September 14
 Cost: \$100 for 3 days. Groups of 4 or more receive a 50% discount! You can also register for 1 or 2 days with the same group discount. The Diocesan Hub experience includes morning tea and lunch. For more information and to register, visit www.caritas.org.au/soc-convocation

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

"Be doers of the word and not hearers only..." JAMES 1:22
 It's easy to understand the definition of stewardship – living a grateful and generous life. The hard part is doing it!
 How do your actions reflect God's word?
 Do you share your time in prayer with God?
 Do you use your talent to help those in need?
 Are you generous with your financial resources?
 If not, what are you waiting for?

Rosters for September 07 & 08, 2024			23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B		
	Lector	Commentator	Welcomer	Eucharistic Minister	Musicians
Saturday Sep 07 5:00pm	C Di Corleto	M Noone	A Membrey & Volunteer	A Meredith & B O'Brien	
Sunday Sep 08 9:30am	U & E Imhagwe	M Wilkinson	W Banks-Smith & D Bau	M Hansen, P Abilash & Volunteer	Diamente Family
Sunday Sep 08 5:00pm	V Vaz & S Harikrishna	C Hill	T Biancon and Volunteer	M & J McLaughlin	
Church Cleaning	September	Volunteers			
Mick's Kitchen	September 05	Van Berkel Team		September 12	McLaughlin Team
Touring Statue of our Lady	September 01	B Wilksch		September 08	J McCormick

First Reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you – keep the commands of the Lord.

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 14:2-5 Rv1

(R.) The just will live

in the presence of the Lord.

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart. **(R.)**

He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. **(R.)**

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. **(R.)**



Next week's Readings
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7
Second Reading: James 2:1-5
Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

Second Reading James 1:17-18 21-22 27

A reading from the letter of St James

Be doers of the word.

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

Gospel Acclamation see John 6:63 68

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The Father gave us birth by his message of truth,
that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Mark 7:1-8 14-15 21-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

You forget the commandments of God and hold on to human tradition.

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'