



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



Don't ignore the 'unworthy'

By David J Hore CSsR

Gospel Reflection: Mark 7:31-37

It's difficult not to make distinctions. Invariably, we favour some people over others. For example: we choose our friends, we choose a person to be our husband or wife, we choose 'sides' in disputes, we choose to avoid some people, and we choose to forgive some people and condemn others.

In the second reading, St James calls on believers never to make distinctions or show favour on the basis of social class, wealth, position, status or power. Everyone is to be treated equally regardless of their social background, and when it comes to worship, there are to be no seats of honour set aside for VIPs! Everyone ought to feel equally welcome and valued.

St Paul has a similar vision. In his letter to the Galatians (3:28) he declares that in virtue of baptism, "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

Jesus doesn't make distinctions based on social class. In fact, the gospels portray him as having particular concern for the poor, the outcast, the voiceless, the afflicted, the vulnerable and the weak. Today's gospel is a classic example. A deaf man with a speech impediment is brought to Jesus by his friends. In such an oral and aural culture where people were generally illiterate, not to be able to speak or hear properly was a significant disadvantage. Such people were virtually invisible. They couldn't communicate, and they couldn't be communicated with, in any meaningful way. Thankfully, the man in the story is blessed to have caring friends who bring him to Jesus who has a reputation for giving new life. Jesus gives very personal attention to the man. He takes him away from the crowd, so that they can be alone. Although the man can't hear or speak, he *can* experience the sense of touch, and so Jesus touches his ears, puts his fingers into them, and touches the man's tongue with his own spittle. Jesus also looks up to heaven, in prayer, for it was Jesus' relationship with God that will bring new life to the man. It's important to remember that the man was not a Jew. The Decapolis ("ten cities") was predominantly Gentile territory. But, there's no distinction here. Jesus is the Messiah for all nations. He saw a brother in need, and in solidarity, lovingly reached out to him.

St James challenges us to 'look around' our faith community. Do we see any unhealthy favouritism? Are there people being forgotten, ignored or made to feel unwelcome? Are there voices not being heard? Are there people being discouraged from sharing their gifts and talents, or from becoming involved? Are people's contributions being devalued?

Hopefully, such things are not happening; however, it's important for us all to 'keep our eyes and ears open'.

Sunday Mass Times		
Saturday	5:00pm	Mass
Sunday	9:30am	Mass
	5:00pm	Mass
Weekday Mass Times		
Tuesday Sep 10	9:30am	Liturgy
Wednesday Sep 11	11:00am	Exposition
	12:00pm	Liturgy
Thursday Sep 12	9:30am	Mass* @ St Gabriel's
	1:30pm	Requiem Mass for Peter Lorinc
Friday Sep 13	9:30am	Mass

*Mass this Thursday will be held at St Gabriel's Primary School, parishioners are warmly invited and encouraged to join them.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Vincent Maier, Peter Lorinc, Dorothy Smith, Elvira Prezioso, Bruna Fava, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including John Timmers, Joseph Tolbize, Maria Di Sisto, Rita McEntee, Rocco Ierardi, Mary Ohlson, and Brian Cross. *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. During his absence, Father Peter and Deacon Tony will be looking after our parish. Unfortunately there will be **NO Reconciliation** this Wednesday, we apologise for any inconvenience.

FATHER'S DAY APPEAL FOR THE PRIESTS' WELFARE

FOUNDATION OF THE DIOCESE OF SALE: THANK YOU for your generous contributions to the Priests' Welfare Foundation. Last weekend we collected **\$1,049.65** which will go directly to supporting the sick and retired priests and deacons of our Diocese and the overseas priests in time of sickness. It is not too late to donate if you missed out last weekend. Envelopes are available in both church foyers and can be placed in this weekend's collection bowls. You can also donate online at <https://www.cdsale.org.au/priestswelfarefoundation> 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.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Sunday September 08	
6:00pm	Syro-Malabar Mass, St Michael's Church
Tuesday September 10	
Staff Training- Office Closed	
Thursday September 12	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, St Michael's Church
Sunday September 15	
10:30am	J-Walkers Coffee Cart, Mary MacKillop Hall



BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for baptism, **Mikhail Angelo De Villa**, son of Michael and Allyn. 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: Next Sunday September 15 at the 9:30am mass, we will have a special blessing and farewell to our parishioners heading to the Ignite Conference in Sydney on September 26. The J-Walkers coffee cart will also be open afterwards in the Mary MacKillop Hall for cappuccinos and hot chocolates with all money raised going to the Youth Ministry. Come along and enjoy a coffee with friends.

Our other Youth Ministry activities have been cancelled this month so the team can focus on preparing for the upcoming Ignite Conference. There will be no J-Walkers or Jr J-Walkers sessions this month, and there will not be a Youth Mass this month either.

Those heading to Ignite will be commissioned at St Mary's Cathedral Sale on **Sunday September 22** by Bishop Greg at the 9:30am mass. St Michael's parishioners are warmly invited and encouraged to join them. Following mass there will be morning tea followed by a workshop for our young ones heading to Sydney so they can get to know each other better.

FATHER'S DAY MORNING TEA AND RAFFLE: Thank you to all who came along and enjoyed morning tea to celebrate Father's Day last Sunday. Thanks to your support, our Catholic Women's League raised \$482 with their raffle, with first prize going to Holly and 2nd place to Corene.

The Catholic Women's League will be having their monthly Morning Coffee Catch Up at Red Annex on **Tuesday September 10 at 10.30am**. All are welcome.

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



St Michael's Parish Traralgon and the Diocese of Sale are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. Mindful of the theme for National Child Protection Week, may we work to create safe spaces where we can have meaningful conversations with children and adults at risk about their safety. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Safeguarding-Sunday-2024>

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. It 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.

CHURCH REPAIRS: Like many in our community, our church was hit hard by the storms on Sunday and Monday. The wild weather has caused some damage to the church roof with some sheets needing to be repaired and some replaced. Repairs will begin on Tuesday morning so please take care when in and around the church building. We are grateful to our parishioners who stepped in and helped with the immediate damage, particularly Allen, Lee and Graham, thank you.

You will also notice some of our glass panels missing from our beautiful windows. This is separate from the storm damage, they have been taken for routine cleaning and maintenance and will be re-installed in the coming weeks.

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE MASS 29 SEPTEMBER AT 3.00PM AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH BERWICK: "God walks with His people",

is the title chosen by Pope Francis for his Message for the upcoming World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The Holy Father reminds us that all of us, God's people, are migrants on this earth, on our way to the "true homeland", the Kingdom of Heaven. St Michael's, Berwick will host this wonderful occasion for all our different cultures to come together and celebrate the diversity within our Diocese. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Greg Bennet, together with Fr Jeff, Fr Paul and priests and deacons from our Diocese, followed by a sit-down function in the St Michael's School Stadium. We would like to have as many countries as possible represented: in food preparation, cultural dancing and singing and general help on the day. Please contact Dorota Shields at the Parish Support Centre on 9707 1355 or secretary@stmichaelsparish.org.au if you can assist in any way. Everyone welcome!!

OFFICE CLOSED: Our office will be closed this Tuesday while Cath and Jen attend a staff training day. They will be available Wednesday to Friday from 9am – 4pm by phone on 5174 2060 or via email at sec@smpt.org.au. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

"Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?" JAMES 2:5

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society tells us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith, we keep God first and experience true joy and peace. When we put possessions first, we soon realize we can never have enough and happiness is fleeting. When we put faith over possessions we truly realize it is better to give than receive.

Rosters for September 14 & 15, 2024			24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B		
	Lector	Commentator	Welcomer	Eucharistic Minister	Musicians
Saturday Sep 14 5:00pm	R Webber	A Taylor	L Kennedy & Volunteer	A Meredith & B O'Brien	Alison, Jeanne & Amanda
Sunday Sep 15 9:30am	M Hansen & C Mavhundu	M Tainsh	M Wilkinson & M Noone	M Hansen, P Abilash & Volunteer	Charismatic Choir
Sunday Sep 15 5:00pm	E Joseph & M Alex	S Darby	2 x Volunteers	M & J McLaughlin	
Church Cleaning	September	Volunteers			
Mick's Kitchen	September 12	McLaughlin Team		September 19	St Michael's Staff
Touring Statue of our Lady	September 08	J McCormick		September 15	H Theissing

First Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:7-10 R v1

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bound down,
the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. **(R.)**

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

James 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James

Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that? Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel Acclamation

see John 6:63 68

*Alleluia, alleluia!**Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.**Alleluia!***Gospel**

Mark 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

Next week's Readings

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

First Reading:	Isaiah 50:5-9
Second Reading:	James 2:14-18
Gospel:	Mark 8:27-35