



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 vulnerable adults: 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. 5174 2060 if you have any concerns.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1; Mark 1:40-45

'Of course I want to! Be cured.'

This would be one of my favourite Gospel passages. So often I come to prayer feeling like this leper in need of Jesus' healing touch. I hear the desperation in his voice as he pleads, 'If you want to you can cure me.' But deep down he wonders who would want to have anything to do with a leper. Lepers are outcasts, the disfigured castoffs of a society that only wants perfection. What's more, in those times lepers were obviously sinners and this was God's punishment. They deserve it. Who would want to respond to a leper? Note that any disfiguring skin disease or rash was called leprosy.

Jesus does respond in a way far beyond this man's hopes. He touches him. He doesn't step back and cure from a distance with words, but actually reaches out and places his hand on this wretched human body. In this touch more than physical healing is accomplished. He is no longer alienated but has been joined by another. This encounter impacts also on Jesus. He now becomes the outcast as he is forced to stay outside the towns in places where no-one lives. The text doesn't tell us why this is and sometimes it is interpreted as if Jesus is so popular that he is besieged and so stays away from the villages. But it is also possible that the people are afraid of Jesus since he has had physical contact with a leper and so he is now considered diseased, and forced to live where lepers live.

Rather than physical leprosy, today's Gospel causes me to reflect on social and cultural leprosy. I think of those alienated from society today through mental illness, and our own ignorance and fear of such illness. I think of those who want to be part of our Australian community but we put up barriers because they are different – they are non-European, non-Christian, non-profitable. Would Australia welcome Jesus? I suspect not. He comes from a Middle-Eastern country, has no financial backing or education, and has no essential trade qualification. If he managed to smuggle aboard a leaky boat seeking refugee status due to religious oppression he would probably end up being processed off-shore or spending years in a detention centre.

In the reading today the leper says, 'If you want to, you can make me clean.' I think of the hundreds seeking asylum in this country saying to us, 'If you want to, you can help me.' But do we want to? How can we call ourselves Christians and not want to?

The passage from 1 Corinthians concludes the entire discussion from chapter 8 onwards where the concern was Christian liberty when faced with the practical issue of meat that had been offered to Greek idols. Paul concludes with a positive principle – whether you eat or drink – it doesn't matter – just do all for God's glory. Try not to offend others outside the community – either Jews or Greeks – so that others may be attracted to the community and thus be drawn into the saving power of Christ. Just as Paul is able to adapt to serve the needs of others, so he advises the Corinthians to imitate him as he imitates Christ. *(Continued on page 3)*

St Michael's Parish Information

Fr Francis Otobo Parish Priest

Fr Ajin Albarnas IVD Assistant Priest

Parish Centre 5174 2060

Priests' Residence: 5174 6765

Deacon Tony Aspinall

Phone 5174 8167

Em: deacontony8@gmail.com

Sr Doreen Dagge RSJ 5174 9997

Monsignor John Allman

O'Mara House 5174 9674

St Michael's Parish Office 5174 2060

35 Kay Street, Traralgon

PO Box 103, Traralgon 3844

Office hours –

Tues to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm

Parish Secretary: Bev O'Brien

Email: sec@smpt.org.au

Sacraments / Youth Jenifer Hanratty

Email: sacraments@smpt.org.au

After office hours - in case of an emergency please call 0448 529 712 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: Greg Imhagve Chairperson, Fr Francis, Sr Doreen, Lia Di Corleto, Watson Gomez, Jenifer Hanratty, Steve Kimani, Judi McLaughlin, Thomas Mathew, Amanda Reid, Kevin Taylor, Jodie Ware, Ros Joyner, Doug Doherty and Bev O'Brien.

Our Schools:

St Gabriel's School 5174 5515

Principal: Mrs Roslyn Joyner

St Michael's School 5174 3295

Principal: Mrs Jodie Ware

Lavalla Catholic College 5174 5272

Principal: Mr John Freeman

Kildare Campus 5174 8111

St Paul's Campus 5174 7355

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm
Sunday	9:00am 10:30am 5:00pm
Attendance numbers at our Masses are limited to 180 people. <u>Please arrive 15 minutes early to register your attendance.</u> Covid safety practices apply	
Weekday Mass Times	
Tues Feb 16	9:30am Mass
<i>residents only</i>	10:30am Mass, Margery Cole
Weds Feb 17	Ash Wednesday
	11:00am Adoration
	12:00pm Mass
	5:30pm Mass
Thurs Feb 11	9:30 am Mass
Fri 12	9:30am Mass
Parishioners attending weekday Masses are asked to <u>arrive 15 minutes before Mass to ensure their attendance is recorded.</u>	

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We remember those who have died recently including John Vellar, George Spalding, Archbishop Philip Wilson (Emeritus of Adelaide), Riley Pearce and Pietrangelo (Peter) Di Ciero and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Gemma Ross, Joseph Lapuh, Gorga Bonnelo and family.

Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK including Maria Alessandrini, Lee Allman, Fr Bernard Buckley, Conceicao Carvalho, Peter Dal Pra, Ann-Maree Daly, Anthony Derham, Gary Donchi, Bill Edgar, Bernadette Formaran, Fr Frank Freeman, Marj Gilbert, Carolyn Gleeson, Robert Hazelman, Imogen Hillier, Marie Howard, Joan Lamont, Peter Lont, Joyce Martin, Ivy May, Deborah McKerchar, Ben Melenhorst, Maree Morris, Joan Quigley, Joan Riggall, Kath Ryan, Jerry Templar, Julie Vaz, Brian Vivian, Celie Smith, Wil Waanders, George Walkan and Roy Ward and all those we hold dear in our hearts.

Our Church and Parish Centre are again closed as of 11:59pm on Friday 12th February.

We will open again in compliance with Covid restrictions when advised we may.

Pray for each other, stay safe.

BAPTISMS: Unfortunately, these Baptisms have been postponed.

Lilah Rentsch, daughter of **Stephen and Michelle**; and

Robert Gil Johnson, son of **Robert and Archel**.



Congratulations to the families, from us all, welcome to the Parish family, we look forward to getting to know you better.

The next Baptism Preparation meeting will be held in the Church on **Tuesday March 23 at 7:00pm**. Please contact the Parish office if you are wishing to attend.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: The Parish is planning to celebrate the Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent at 7:00pm in the Church. All are welcome to attend. **(Perhaps)**

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM:

First Holy Communion: We were blessed to enjoy three First Communion Masses last weekend, where 56 children celebrated First Holy Communion for their first time. The Masses were all beautiful celebrations, though a little different from our 'traditional' experiences in the past. Our sincere thanks to the families of the children for their patience and for their willingness to comply with the limited numbers of our current Covid-safety restrictions.

Reconciliation: Our Sacramental Team are busy again already, working diligently to prepare this years Grade 3 students and any students who missed out on this Sacrament last year. Enrolments for First Reconciliation are now open, if you know of anyone with children in this age bracket, could you please check they are aware of the dates.

First Reconciliation will be celebrated in the Parish on March 16, 17, 18 & 19, covid restrictions allowing.

PARISH OFFICE NEWS: Our office is again closed due to covid restrictions.

MOBILE PHONE WORRIES: On WhatsApp, someone has been sending messages in Fr Francis' name asking people to buy gift cards and send the barcodes to that phone number (which is not Fr Francis' number). These messages are not from Fr Francis, please report them should you receive one. The police have been notified of this possibly fraudulent activity.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Tuesday Feb 16

7:00pm Mick's Kitchen Meeting
St Vincent's Parish Centre

cancelled

Wednesday Feb 17

9:00am Weds am Prayer Group
Mary MacKillop Room
1:00pm Weds pm Prayer Group,
Mary MacKillop Room

cancelled

7:00pm PPC Meeting, Parish Centre

Thursday Feb 18 (Perhaps)

7:00pm Finance Team, Parish Centre
7:30pm RCIA, Mary MacKillop Room

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant (continued)

The only valid teacher is the one who lives out what is taught – Paul says look at me, look at how I live and copy this, as I look at Jesus and try to copy him. This is the process of Christian formation. We are meant to be visible and clear signs in the world of different values so the world can look at us, can see how we live and want to copy it.

In the TV series *Kath and Kim*, there was the great line spoken by Kath: ‘Look at moi, look at moi.’ Would we dare take this as our motto and dare to be living witnesses to our faith values? Jesus did. Paul did. © Mary Coloe

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RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION:

In this time of pandemic, we need to follow these instructions when receiving Holy Communion.

All worshippers are to wear a face mask throughout the celebration of Mass and the other Sacraments.

The communicant is required –

- To maintain the proper distancing in communion queue.
- To wear a mask
- To engage in the dialogue with the communion minister and receive the host in the hand, while wearing the mask.
- To take two steps to the side, and away from the priest.
- To then remove one side of their mask to place the Host in their mouth with the other hand.
- To re-positions the mask.
- To then return to their seat via a different pathway.



STARTING OUR PARISH UP AGAIN: (In hope, we wait)

As we gratefully return to Masses in our Church, we are again in need of volunteers to help our Parish function and our Masses to be well run and meaningful celebrations:-

- We are looking for volunteers in the following areas:-
- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Readers | Commentators |
| Ushers | Eucharistic Ministers |
| Youth Ministry Leaders | Church cleaning |
| Money Counters | Banking Team |

All these roles are essential to our Masses and to our Parish, and as the old saying goes, ‘many hands make light work’.

So please contact the Office on 5174 2060 or by email to sec@smpt.org.au and advise that you are able to assist in one of these ministries.

We are all the parish of St Michael’s, each one of us is responsible for the good stewardship of our buildings and grounds, and for ensuring our Masses are well run and meaningful.

It is wonderful that our Parish Groups are, with certain conditions, able to meet again providing we comply with numbers limits and cleaning protocols.

At this point in time, parish groups who wish to hold meetings during Parish Office hours are welcome to use the Mary MacKillop Room. Groups who usually meet outside of office hours may use the meeting room in the Parish Centre, again in accordance with numbers restrictions and cleaning protocols.

Please contact the office if you are interested in your group using Church premises for meetings. (5174 2060 or sec@smpt.org.au)

We now have a QR code available for parishioners to use to record their attendance at Mass. If you have a smart phone, you only need to scan in the QR code, and register your name via your phone. Your details are recorded directly with the Department of Health and Human Services.

If you do not own a smart phone, then do not fear. You may record your name and phone number on the attendance sheets provided using either your own pen or a ‘clean’ pen. Please arrive to Mass 15-20 minutes early to ensure your attendance is recorded.

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS *“Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.”*
1 Corinthians 10:31

Do a quick check of your priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If He’s not first, you have some work to do. Putting God first in everything helps us from putting other “gods” (like our pride, ego, money and possessions) before God. Before making a decision, ask yourself, “Am I doing this for the glory of God or for the glory of me?”

Rosters for Saturday February 20 & Sunday 21 February, 2021 (possibly)

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Ushers
Sat 5:00pm	R Foote / B Purcell	D Smith	Volunteer required
Sun 9:00am	M Hansen	M Tainsh	Volunteer required
Sun 10:30am	S Grout	M Noone	Volunteer required
Sun 5:00pm	E Joseph	S Luscombe	Volunteer required

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 30:3-4

*Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your
name.*

First Reading Lv 13:1-2. 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus

As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7

(R.) *I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble,
and you fill me with the joy of
salvation.*

- Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,
whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord
imputes no guilt,
in whose spirit is no guile. **(R.)**
- But now I have acknowledged my sins;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess
my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven
the guilt of my sin. **(R.)**
- Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,
exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy,
all you upright of heart. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** 1 Cor 10:31 – 11:1

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 7:16

*Alleluia, alleluia!
A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Mk 1:40-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
The leprosy left him and he was cured.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured.

Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

**Readings for the 1st Sunday of Lent**

<i>First Reading:</i>	<i>Genesis 9:8-15</i>
<i>Second Reading:</i>	<i>1 Peter 3:18-22</i>
<i>Gospel:</i>	<i>Mark 1:12-15</i>