



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. Please contact our Safeguarding Officers, Chris DiCorleto and Shane Reid on 5174 2060 if you have any concerns.

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

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM © Mary Coloe

You are my Beloved

Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10

There, in their presence, he was transfigured.

Last Sunday's Gospel described Jesus' entry into the wilderness and I suggested that this is a time of encountering God. In today's Gospel, while the setting is different, we glimpse such a moment of encounter. It is described as a moment of transformation, or transfiguration. An encounter with God changes us. In the Gospel this is depicted as the outer change in Jesus' appearance, but for most of us, the experience of God brings about an inner change, a change of heart. Jesus knows himself in this moment to be God's beloved one. When I have listened to people speak of their moments of experiencing God, they too speak of knowing themselves as God's beloved.

Sometimes things get in the way of our knowing this about ourselves. Some have grown up with harsh images of God, some may look on life events and see themselves as unlovable but the Gospel insists on another truth. 'God so loved the world he gave his son.' God so loves me he gives his son! Wow! Can I believe this? Dare I believe God loves me?

In Hebrew the word for 'wilderness' is *mid'bar*, and the term for 'word' is *d'bar*. Wilderness and word are related which is why so many

prophets spent time in the wilderness to seek God's word. Listen to the words of today's Gospel again, 'This is my beloved.' Take these words into your heart this week as you continue this invitation into a wilderness time. If we were reading Mark in its narrative context we would notice that this episode of encountering God on a mountain follows on from Jesus' first announcement of what awaits him in Jerusalem, namely his death. Peter, who has just confessed Jesus as the Christ, rebukes Jesus for saying such things leading Jesus to speak further of the need for disciples to follow Jesus' pattern of self-denial. The Transfiguration episode comes therefore at a time to reaffirm Jesus' identity as the Beloved, even as he faces the cross. The experience also serves to bolster the faith of Peter, James and John who are awed by their experience. As Jesus begins his journey to the cross he receives the strength needed to be faithful to his mission. Even the two prophets, Moses and Elijah, can offer comfort since they too knew times of conflict and persecution.

If we seriously enter into the journey of Lent, there can be times of discouragement when our weakness can undermine our resolutions. The gospel encourages us to know that God is still present to us, still calling us, 'My Beloved One'.

The reading from Romans has a similar message – God is on our side and with

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 March 02	9:30am Mass
Weds March 03	No Mass
Thurs March 04	9:30 am Mass 10:30am Mass, Dalkeith
Fri March 04	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 Milka Zidar, and Connie Falzon and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Graeme Membrey, Ian McLean, Violeta Maupty, Annie Hanrahan, John Zahra and the Saliba 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, Jenny Hansch, 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 Templer, Julie Vaz, Brian Vivian, Celie Smith, Wil Waanders, George Walkan and Roy Ward and all those we hold dear in our hearts.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Wednesday March 03

9:00am Weds am Prayer Group
Mary MacKillop Centre
1:00pm Weds pm Cells Group,
Mary MacKillop Room
7:00pm PPC, Parish Centre

Thursday March 04

10:00am Charismatic Prayer Group
Mary MacKillop Room
7:30pm RCIA, Parish Centre

Friday March 05

12:30pm Finance Team
Parish Centre

BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for baptism – **Oliver Paull Pearson**, son of *Gavin and Rose*. Congratulations Rose and Gavin from us all, we look forward to getting to know young Oliver 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. Stations will be led by the Cells Prayer Group this coming Friday. All are welcome to attend.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: **Reconciliation** - Our Sacramental Team are busy 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 closed. It's marvellous to report that we have around 120 children wishing to make their First Reconciliation this year. First Reconciliation will be celebrated in the Parish on March 17, 18 & 19, covid restrictions allowing.

RCIA NEWS: Please remember to keep **Bianca Grundy** and **Rachel Williams-Rankin**, their families and the RCIA Team in your prayers, as they continue their journeys to Easter.



INTRODUCING THE "CWL WALK":

All ladies welcome. We will walk on the **1st & 3rd Tuesdays** of the month, **10.00am - 11.00 am**. Meet at the 'Our Lady of the Way' Grotto, St. Michael's Church (Kay Street)

First walk ... 2nd March.

Further Information please call 0413 4809 704 or just come along. [comfortable clothing/shoes, water, walk at own pace etc]

NO MASS ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 03, 2021.

Parishioners please note that Mass will not be celebrated on Wednesday March 03, as Fr Francis, Fr Ajin and Deacon Tony will be attending a Clergy Reflection Day.

New Testament Commentary – continued from Pg 1

The reading from Romans has a similar message – God is on our side and with God on our side how can we possibly fail? Jesus is the sign of God's generous love for us and nothing can destroy such love – especially not our frailty. Paul is here writing to the Christian community in Rome who are experience tension that will eventually become persecution. Paul reassures the members of the community that even in times of struggle and weakness these are not signs that God has abandoned them. The reading goes on to ask a series of rhetorical questions: 'Who can separate us from the love of Christ?' 'Could tribulation or distress or persecution . . .' Paul's answer is a resounding, 'No! . . . Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.'

It is helpful today to hear the words, 'Beloved' and 'Chosen'. While Lent is a time of discipline, a time of penance, its purpose is not to make us morbidly focussed on our unworthiness, but rather to consider the immensity of God's love. It is in response to this love that we embark on the journey of a disciple and discipline ourselves so we become more and more images of Christ. © Mary Coloe

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-position the mask.
- To then return to their seat via a different pathway.



STARTING OUR PARISH UP AGAIN:

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 |

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

"Here I am!" he

answered."- Genesis 22:11

It is easy to say, "Here I am, Lord," when we are kneeling in church. But how easy is it to say "Here I am, Lord," when a neighbor needs our help, when we are invited to join a parish ministry, or when we are asked to provide financial support? Often times we are called when it's not convenient for us. Discipleship is not always easy, most of the time it will make us uncomfortable and vulnerable.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: 'Pray for Vanuatu'

Our local World Day of Prayer service will be held on Friday 5th March at 10:00am at the Seventh day Adventist Church, Stuart Street, Traralgon.

All are welcome to attend.



Margaret is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands that suffered long-term water shortages and damage from Tropical Cyclone Harold. With Caritas Australia's support, Margret's school installed water tanks, repaired cyclone damage and implemented COVID-19 prevention measures, and is now planning to boost food security.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help people living with disabilities in the Solomon Islands gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to protect our common home.

Rosters for Saturday March 06 & Sunday March 07, 2021

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Ushers
Sat 5:00pm	B O'Brien	S Grout	Volunteer required
Sun 9:00am	C McLure / R Diaz	L Van der Velden	Volunteer required
Sun 10:30am	T Denny	C McCabe	Volunteer required
Sun 5:00pm	E Harte	Volunteer required	Volunteer required

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 26:8-9

*Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.*

First Reading Genesis 22:1-2 9-13 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 115:10 15-19 R 114:9

(R.) *I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.*

1. I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted.'
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. **(R.)**
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name. **(R.)**
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation See Mt 17:5

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is
heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Gospel Mk 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

