

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

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The commandments provide a sketch of the God with whom the people were in covenant, and they outlined how these covenanted people were to revere their God and live with each other. Deliverance from bondage to Egypt is the basis of conformity to the commandments. Commitment to the one God is the reason the Israelites were forbidden to revere other gods. Since one's name contained something of one's own identity, the vain use of God's name was considered a profanation of God's divine being. Observance of the Sabbath was rooted in the creation of the world. All the commandments are meant for adults, including the one to honour parents. Murder, adultery, stealing, lying and coveting all threaten the social fabric of the group.

Although the general theme of the psalm is praise, its tone is didactic and exhortative. It describes the blessings that acceptance of the law can impart. It both describes the law and persuades the people to embrace it as the will of God and to live in accord with it. The qualities associated with the law found in this psalm are some of the most highly prized attributes of any tradition. Each one of the statements in this psalm identifies the law as belonging to the Lord.

The law that is praised here is not just any religious law; it is uniquely Israel's, because in a very specific way it represents the will of the all-holy God of Israel.

Paul criticises the Jews for their demand for signs and the Greeks for their preference for knowledge. He insists that the crucified Christ is the standard against which everything is judged. Though both traditions would reject a humiliated man, he argues that the vulnerable and debased Christ is in fact the power of God; the ridiculous and despised Christ is really the wisdom of God. In this light, it becomes clear that what the Jews and the Greeks rejected as foolishness was actually authentic wisdom, and what they cherished as wisdom was really misguided and folly. Those who are called and who are open to this call will be able to recognise it.

Jesus' actions in the temple are acted-out prophecy and his words are prophetic forthtelling. With his actions and his words, Jesus makes a double claim. By driving the merchants out of the temple precincts, he announces that the time of fulfilment has come. Then, identifying God as his Father affirms his right to make such a claim and to act in accord with it. The Jews, most likely the temple authorities, demand that Jesus justify his actions. Playing on a word for temple, he predicts his death and resurrection. This corresponds to the earlier allusion to Zechariah and the replacement of the temple sacrifice by his own suffering. Only after the resurrection will the disciples understand this last saying.

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| Sunday Mass Times | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Saturday | 5:00pm |
| Sunday | 9:00am 10:30am 5:00pm |
| Attendance numbers at our Masses are limited to 180 people. Please arrive 15 minutes early to register your attendance. Covid safety practices apply | |
| Weekday Mass Times | |
| Tues March 09 | 9:30am Mass |
| Weds March 10 | 11:00am Exposition |
| | 12:00pm Mass |
| Thurs March 04 | 9:30 am Mass |
| Fri March 04 | 9:30am Mass |
| Parishioners attending weekday Masses are asked to arrive 15 minutes before Mass to ensure their attendance is recorded. | |

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We remember those who have died recently including Fr Tom O'Connell, and Connie Falzon and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Frank Valencic, Thomas Rigg, Jeanette Smith, Patrick Gorman, Enio Bastianutto, Mary Holmes, Ray Baker, Graeme Membrey, Ian McLean, Violeta Maputy and Annie Hanrahan.

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 10

9:00am Weds am Prayer Group
Mary MacKillop Centre
1:00pm Weds pm Prayer Group,
Mary MacKillop Room
7:30pm Risk Management Team

Thursday March 11

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

BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for baptism –

• **Evelyn Clark**, daughter of Conor and Louise
Congratulations Louise & Conor from us all, we look forward to getting to know young Evelyn as she grows.

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.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: Reconciliation - Our Enrolments for First Reconciliation are now closed. It's marvellous to report that we have around 130 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.



Commemoration of the School Bus Accident

In 2020 Gippsland Memorial Park were to have a blessing of the refurbished communal grave of the 5 children from our schools at Traralgon Cemetery. Because of Covid this needed to be cancelled.

On Sunday 21 March 2021, this grave will be blessed at 2pm, followed by a gathering in the Oak Function Room to share stories and look over the history of this event.

In 1960, the whole town was shocked by this event that saw six children and the bus driver killed when the school bus, transferring them to the High School to join their country town buses, collided with the Maffra train at the Liddiard Road crossing. Many more children were injured. The children had been collected from the three Catholic Schools and Grey Street primary School.

The combined funeral service, presided by Bishop Lyons, brought the town to a standstill.

The five students are buried in a communal grave near one of the Catholic Sections at Traralgon Cemetery. One more child was buried at Cowwarr.

The bus driver was William Todd, aged 35 of Traralgon, and his grave is nearby. His Requiem Mass and funeral was held later the same day.

Traralgon Cemetery Trust are hoping families and community members will be able to join them on

Sunday 21 March 2021

at 2pm at Gippsland Memorial Park

at the refurbished grave which will be blessed by Fr Francis followed by a gathering in the Oak Room for afternoon tea.

ALL WELCOME.

Please contact the Cemetery office on 5174 9071 for catering purposes



HOLY WEEK 2021

Palm Sunday March 28, 2021
 March 27 5:00pm Mass
 March 28 9:00am Mass
 10:30am Mass
 5:00pm Mass

Tues March 30 9:30am Mass
 7:30pm Tenebrae Service

Weds March 31 9:30am Mass
 5:30 - 6:30pm Reconciliation

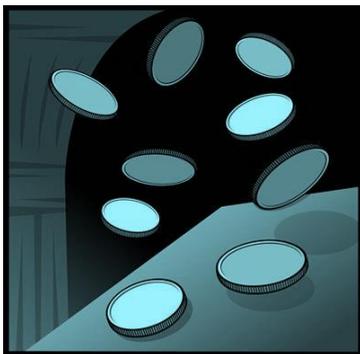
Thurs April 01 9:30am – 10:30am Reconciliation
 7:30pm Holy Thursday Mass

Fri April 02 Good Friday
 10:00am Stations of the Cross
 3:00pm Service of the Lord's Passion

Sat April 03 Holy Saturday
 7:30pm Easter Vigil

Sun April 04 9:00am Mass
 10:30am Mass

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS "You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything..." - Exodus 20:4
 How many "gods" do you put before God? "Idols" do not always take the shape of physical things, things we can touch and feel. Those are easy to recognize. Many times they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot like pride, power, ego, time, comfort or health. Pray for God's help to prune our vices and to grow in virtue



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

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.



Oliva, 22, didn't have the opportunity to go to school, and was embarrassed that she was unable to read, write or count. Her business was losing money because she couldn't add up.
 Then Oliva enrolled in Caritas Australia's literacy and numeracy classes. She also set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours for free, because they were too shy to attend larger classes.
 Oliva has now graduated, attendance at her classes is growing, her kiosk is thriving and she is helping her children with their homework. She aims to become a pastor and run for leadership in the next local election - to help her community to 'Be More.'
Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and support people like Oliva's gain access to education to build a brighter future and live in communities that upholds everyone's dignity.

Rosters for Saturday March 06 & Sunday March 07, 2021

| Mass | Lector | Commentator | Ushers |
|-------------|-----------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Sat 5:00pm | R Webber | D Smith | A Ryan |
| Sun 9:00am | M Hansen | C McCabe | M & B Kennedy |
| Sun 10:30am | J Dal Pra | Volunteer required | Volunteer required |
| Sun 5:00pm | | C Hill E Hill S Hill | J & M McLaughlin |

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 24:15-16

*My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.*

First Reading Exodus 20:1-17

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Law was given through Moses.

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, not your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill. 'You shall not commit adultery.
'You shall not steal. 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68

(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**
2. The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. **(R.)**

3. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. **(R.)**
4. They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Cor 1:22-25

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

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!
God loved the world so much,
he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!*

Gospel Jn 2:13-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.
Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

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| Next week's Readings: 4 th Sunday of Lent Year B | |
| First Reading: | Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 |
| Second Reading: | Ephesians 2:4-10 |
| Gospel: | John 3:14-21 |