



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

St Michael's Parish Office

Telephone: 5174 2060
Address: 35 Kay Street, Traralgon
PO Box 103, Traralgon 3844

Office hours –

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: Lia Di Corleto, Chairperson, Fr Aju, Steve Kimani, Greg Imhagwe, Watson Gomez, Jenifer Hanratty, Judi McLaughlin, Thomas Mathew, Amanda Reid, Jodie Ware, Michelle Charlton, and Doug Doherty.

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



Reflection by Dianne Austin; Ezek 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

In this week's text from the Gospel according to Matthew, the author explains a process of forgiveness and reconciliation to their community. I remember when growing up, the ups and downs relationships entailed. As children, we were quick to point the finger at any of our siblings if they did anything wrong or laid blame on them for some misgiving. There seemed to be a daily ritual of name calling, arguing or 'dobbing' on each other. Each time I had an argument, either with my siblings or friends, my parents would tell me to sort it out for myself. This wasn't always easy and the stubborn side of me would often lay fault at the feet of the other person rather than taking ownership for my part in the disagreement or focusing on reestablishing the relationship with my peers. I remember my parents never engaged in the process unless the issues were major or I couldn't resolve them by myself. I have come to learn the importance of never leaving matters unresolved and finding a way to reconcile after the anger and harsh words fade away.

So how is this lesson different for us today? Are we quick to reconcile our misdeeds or do we let them linger or ignore them, never acknowledging fault or listening to reason? How often do we allow those harsh words, often spoken in anger and hurt, to destroy our relationships because we are too proud to admit to or look past who's at fault and reconcile what is broken?

When I compare these questions to the reconciliation process Matthew describes for the community of the Church, it highlights that none of us are perfect. We all have times when we have lapses of judgement or make poor decisions, breaking our connection with our family, friends or community. This was no different for Matthew's community. In the Matthean context, a three-step procedure, which had close parallels in Judaism, was put into place for correcting and disciplining those members who didn't follow the law.

First and foremost in this procedure, was to privately try to sort out the problem between the two people involved. Brendan Byrne explains that this step was designed to 'preserve the dignity of the errant person', an important message in the Catholic Tradition and one that is consistently communicated in the Church today. If this attempt didn't work, then the next steps were more serious. The errant person would bring in two or three witnesses to try to reconcile the mistake and if that didn't work then they would go to 'the church' or local Matthean community. Ultimately, for those who refused to listen or reconcile what they had done after following these steps, the person was excommunicated. Pretty harsh compared to today's society but how many of us harm relationships because we are too stubborn to listen and resolve the issue?

Sunday Mass Times		
Saturday	5:00pm	Mass
Sunday	9:30am	Mass
	5:00pm	Mass
Weekday Mass Times		
Tuesday Sep 12	9:30am	Mass
Wednesday Sep 13	11:00am	Reconciliation
	11:00am	Exposition
	12:00pm	Mass
Thursday Sep 14	9:30am	Mass
Friday Sep 15	9:30am	Mass

**Mass this Thursday and during the next two Thursdays will be held here at St Michael's Church.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Maureen Santamaria (sister of Fr John Allen), Mary Ohlson, Joseph Tolbize, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Richard Moulton, John Timmers, Jim Stephens, Kathleen Murphy, Rita McEntee, Kay Ruane, Brian Cross, Giuseppe Agostino, and Maria Di Sisto. *Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*



WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: including Ann-Maree Daly, Gary Donchi, Bill Edgar, Bernadette Formaran, Fr Frank Freeman, Carolyn Gleeson, Jacqui Granville, Barbara Greaves, Ellen Hammond, Jenny Hansch, Robert Hazelman, Imogen Hillier, Joyce Martin, Ivy May, Deborah McKerchar, Ben Melenhorst, Maree Morris, Henry Polo, Joan Riggall, Theresa Rosello, Jerry Templer, Damiano Tripodi, Sharon Veleff, George Walkan, Roy Ward, Victoria Rohli, Fr John Speekman, James Whitty, Kelly Maher, John Waanders, Peter Dal Pra, Jane Eric, Rose Xuereb and Manuel Xuereb 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 one of our parishioners, Fr Aju or Deacon Tony. We can also arrange for someone to take communion to those at home or hospital if required.*

CHURCH CLEANING: Join us this Wednesday at 1pm as we work together to clean our church. There are lots of jobs including vacuuming, dusting and glass cleaning. Many hands make light work so please come along and help out if you can.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: What will our Parish look like in 5 years time?

It's a hard question to answer but it's something the PPC group have been considering for some time now and we are deepening our understanding of leading our parish through a period of change through Divine Renovation. In using Divine Renovation, the PPC group are reviewing our mission statement and vision, which involves thinking about all current aspects of our Parish and where we see our Parish in years to come. Where are we headed? Who will lead us there? How? What can we do better? What are we doing well? What sort of ministries will we have? What do our weekend masses look like? What is our dream for our parish?

We have placed vision boards in the Church Street entrance for you to add your ideas. We would love to hear what you have to say and look forward to your responses.

This Week's Events	
Tuesday September 12	
12:30pm	Taize Prayer Service, St Michael's Church
5:45pm	Parish Finance Council, Parish Centre
6:00pm	Parish Pastoral Council, May MacKillop Room
Wednesday September 13	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
5:30pm	Liturgy Meeting, Parish Centre
Thursday September 14	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
7:30pm	Risk Management Meeting, Mary MacKillop Room
Saturday September 16	
10:00am	A Day With the Holy Spirit, Mary MacKillop Hall
Sunday September 17	
10:30am	CWL Hosted Devonshire Tea, Mary MacKillop Hall



BAPTISM PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN:

This weekend we welcome for Baptism, **Poppy Dawn Cooper** and **Spencer Maree Cooper**, children of Rachael and Mark, **Maya Jade Lourenz**, daughter of Silvia and Cain, **Harlan Owen Moore**, son of Cassandra and Michael, **Sonny Daniel Marino** and **Lenny Marshall Marino**, children of Laura and Mitchell and **Evie Grace Meredith**, daughter of Chloe and Rodney.

Congratulations and welcome to our parish! Thank you to their parents and families for supporting them on this journey, and to Alyssa and Susan for organizing and leading our RCIC team.

RCIA- RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:

St Michael's Parish warmly invites anyone interested in discovering more about the Catholic faith to join our Tuesday night RCIA group. If you, or anyone you know may be interested in attending or learning more, please register your details with the parish office.



FIRST COMMUNION:

Enrolments are now open for children wishing to prepare for the Sacrament of First Communion. Any child in Grade 4 or above who has been baptised and has celebrated their first reconciliation is able to enrol. First Communion will be celebrated at parish masses on the weekend of November 25/26. A parent information night will be held in the St Michael's Church on Wednesday October 25 at 6pm. Please contact Jen at sacraments@smpt.org.au for more information or to receive an enrolment form. Enrolments are due **Saturday September 16.**

YOUTH MINISTRY: Join our J-Walkers after 9:30am mass this Sunday as they continue walking with Jesus. Hot drinks and tasty treats will be available from the **Mary MacKillop Hall**, with all funds raised going towards the youth ministry.

PWF FATHER'S DAY APPEAL: Thank you for your generous contributions to the Priests' Welfare Foundation. Our Parish raised \$1255.00 which will go directly towards the support of sick or retired priests and deacons in our diocese. You can still drop your Special Collection Envelope in this week's collection or to the parish office if you missed out last weekend.

PERSONAL SAFETY: Please take care when visiting the chapel and the church outside of ordinary hours, or when you are by yourself. We have had some people loitering around the Parish Centre overnight and want to make sure everyone is staying safe and looking after each other. If you see or hear anything suspicious, please let Fr Aju and the office team know.

Taizé under the Southern Cross

St Michael's Church Traralgon
Tuesday September 12 @ 12:30pm

The Grade 6 students from Saint Michael's and Saint Gabriel's Primary Schools join together with the Lavalla Liturgical Choir to sing and pray for their needs and the needs of those they love. **Come and Join them!**



A DAY WITH THE SPIRIT Saturday 16th September 10 am – 4pm

Join us for a day of prayer and worship in the Mary MacKillop Hall with special guest Fr Francis Otabo. All are welcome, BYO lunch to share.

CWL Morning Tea

Our Catholic Women's League are hosting a special morning tea for parishioners on **Sunday September 17 at 10:30am** after mass. All are invited to join them for conversation and Devonshire Tea in the Mary MacKillop Hall. Entry is \$5 with all funds raised going to our St Michael's Parish Youth Ministry.



SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY: This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that builds and supports safe communities for all people. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: www.catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023

GOSPEL REFLECTION BY DIANNE AUSTIN- Cont. from Page1:

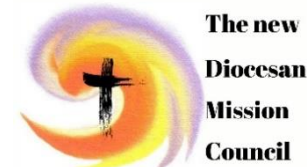
For Matthew's community, each of these steps were taken seriously and were not to be questioned (much like not questioning my parents as a child). This process focused on dialogue; acknowledging fault, talking about what happened followed by instruction on how to reconcile with the community and God. Matthew is highlighting the value Christian community life and interaction have in the sight of God.

There is always the opportunity to mend the relationships that are broken and for all to be welcomed back into the Church community. Pope Francis cast light on this in an address in January this year:

"This is God's work: to come among us. If we consider ourselves unworthy, that does not stop him: he comes. If we reject him, he does not tire of seeking us out. If we are not ready and willing to receive him, he prefers to come anyway. And if we close the door in his face, he waits." (National Catholic Reporter, January 3, 2023)



So, do we give up when we can't reconcile with the Church community? The simple answer is no. Matthew is outlining a clear procedure designed to help the sinner recognise and acknowledge the sin and return to the community of God at any time, it's not subject to conditions nor is it time sensitive. Brendan Byrne writes, 'God's mercy doesn't set limits on forgiveness and reconciliation', so why then should we?



**The new
Diocesan
Mission
Council**

The Diocesan Mission Council will comprise up to fifteen members. The Vicar-General is a member by right. The Bishop will appoint the members of the Diocesan Mission Council after inviting expressions of interest from within the Diocese, and discerning which mix of people will best serve the role and functions of the Council. The Bishop has the discretion to appoint up to two additional other members.

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:

"You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel..." (Ezekiel 33:7)

Many of us are generous with our gifts. However, many of us are not generous in proportion to the gifts we have been given. How often do we give at the minimum level required? Remember, the Lord calls us to nurture and develop our gifts. He calls us to be generous with all the gifts He has given us, especially the one that means the most to us.

Rosters for September 16 & 17, 2023		23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A		
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Sep 16 5:00pm	S & S Reid	M Noone	A Membrey	Alison, Jeanne & Amanda
Sunday Sep 17 9:30am	C McLure & R Diaz	T Denny	J & P Dal Pra	Jane & Simon
Sunday Sep 17 5:00pm	S Luscombe	J Fleming	Volunteer	Jane & Simon
Church Cleaning:	September 13	Volunteers		
Touring Statue of Our Lady:	September 10	J McCormick	September 17	H Theissling
<i>Mick's Kitchen:</i>	September 14	Van Berkel Team	September 21	McLaughlin Team

Entrance Antiphon Cf Ps 85:3-5

*You are just, O Lord, and your judgment is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful
love.*

First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

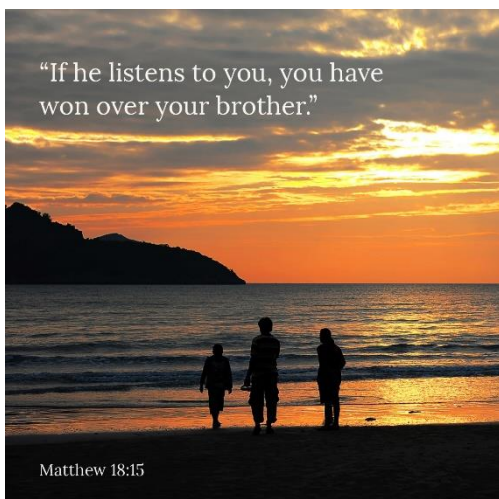
*If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold
you responsible for his death.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 94:1-2 6-9 Rv8

**(R.) O that today you would listen to his
voice! Harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'
(R.)

**Second Reading** Rom 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

Gospel Acclamation See Eph 1:17-18

*Alleluia, alleluia!
God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to
himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has
entrusted to us.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Matthew 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
*If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won
that person back.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. 'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. 'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

Next week's Readings:
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading:	Sirach 27:30 – 28:7
Second Reading:	Romans 14:7-9
Gospel:	Matthew 18:21-35