

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



Staying in the Game with God

By Ian J Elmer

Gospel Reflection: John 6:60-69

It must have been tough being a disciple of Jesus, an eloquent public speaker, who could sway large crowds with his rhetoric. He healed the sick, cast out demons, stilled a storm at sea, walked on water and raised the dead. Jesus appeared to bear all the hallmarks of the expected Messiah. And yet, there were times when Jesus said and did things that made him look like he was demented or demon-possessed.

At one point in Mark's gospel, as we heard back on the Tenth Sunday of the Year, Jesus' family sought to "restrain him" because people were saying "He has gone out of his mind" (Mk 3:21). The gospel presents us with another of these episodes where Jesus' claims proved a threat to the cohesion of his team of disciples. Last week, we heard how Jesus said he was "the bread of eternal life" whose "flesh is real food and [whose] blood is real drink" (Jn 6:55), and "anyone who eats [his] flesh and drink [his] blood has eternal life" (Jn 6:54).

This week, we learn that numerous members of Jesus' team found this teaching "intolerable" (Jn 6:60). But, instead of offering an explanation, Jesus chose to *up the ante* by making an even more outrageous claim about his pre-existence as a being come down from heaven. The reaction of his teammates was perfectly understandable. Such claims were "intolerable" on purely rationalistic grounds. Jesus refused to compromise, saying, in effect, "take it or leave it". John tells us that "many" decided to "leave it". They turned aside from their commitment to Jesus; or, as we would say, "they took their ball and went home" (Jn 6:66).

By contrast, when challenged, the Twelve through their spokesperson, Peter, admitted that despite their confusion they were prepared to stick with Jesus, because Jesus alone "had the words of eternal life" (Jn 6:68).

In Peter and the Twelve, we find our models of discipleship – women and men who, despite doubts and dark moments of uncertainty, choose to stay in the game. Faith is not built entirely on reason – although it is far from completely irrational. It is built on a relationship with a personal God whom we have experienced as one who stays in the game with us. And so, like Peter we stay and say back to God, "To whom [else] can we go?" (Jn 6:68)

Every time I read this gospel story, I am reminded of these words from the prayer of Thomas Merton:

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end...But I know you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

Sunday Mass Times		
Saturday	5:00pm	Mass
Sunday	9:30am	Mass
	5:00pm	Mass
Weekday Mass Times		
Tuesday Aug 27	9:30am	Mass
Wednesday Aug 28	11:00am	Reconciliation
	11:00am	Exposition
	12:00pm	Mass
Thursday Aug 29	9:30am	Mass*
Friday Aug 30	9:30am	Mass-

*Mass this Thursday will be held at St Michael's Church.
 -On Friday we will host the students from St Gabriel's for their whole school mass to celebrate Father's Day. All are welcome

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Bruna Fava, Karen Coulthard, Kerrie O'Keefe, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Marjorie Gilbert, Alba Cabbai, Kay Ruane, David Noon, Roger King, and Patricia Clement. *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 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'S DAY MORNING TEA

Sunday September 01, 10:30am

Mary MacKillop Hall

All are welcome, please bring along a plate to share



FATHER'S DAY MORNING TEA AND RAFFLE: Our Catholic Women's League will be hosting morning tea to celebrate our Father's on **Sunday September 01** after the 9:30am Mass, in the Mary MacKillop Hall. All are welcome as we join together to celebrate this special day.

There will also be a raffle held on the day, with raffle tickets being sold after the 9:30am and 5pm mass this Sunday August 25, as well as on the day.

PRIEST'S WELFARE FOUNDATION: Next weekend we will have a leaving collection after each of our masses to raise funds for the Priest's Welfare Foundation. All money raised will go directly towards supporting the retired priests and deacons of our Diocese. Envelopes will also be available in both foyers if you prefer to make a donation via cheque or credit card.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Tuesday August 27	
10:00am	Catholic Women's League Meeting, St Vincent de Paul Centre
Wednesday August 28	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday August 29	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, St Michael's Church
Sunday September 01	
10:30am	Father's Day Morning Tea Mary MacKillop Hall

BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for baptism, **Lucas Joseph Calabrese**, son of Teena and Chris and **Deion Elias Go Laride**, son of Carl and Faith. 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.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Congratulations to everyone who celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this week. We are grateful to their families, their teachers and our sacramental team for their support during the preparation process and on the day. This weekend we welcome them all back to our Youth Mass Sunday night where they will be presented with their certificates, followed by pizzas in the Mary MacKillop Hall. All are invited and welcome to come along as we celebrate this important milestone.

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.



YOUTH MARKET STALLS AND FAMILY GROUPS

MORNING TEA: Wow! A great time was had by all at our parish morning tea last Sunday to celebrate our Family Groups and raise money for our Youth Ministry. Thank you to all our parishioners who came along and supported both ministries. It was wonderful to see so many people gathering together and enjoying each other's company. The hall was full with people from all ages and backgrounds, joining together and getting to know each other better. Special thanks to Jen and Sue who organized the event, and to our family group leaders and J-Walkers who helped run it. If you are interested in joining one of our parish family groups or would like some more information, please contact the parish office on 5174 2060 or Sue on 0416 167 081.

IGNITE UPDATE: Thanks to your support, we have 25 people heading to Sydney to the Ignite Conference next month, our bus is full! We have 19 parishioners from St Michael's Traralgon along with 6 from St Mary's Sale. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they prepare to grow and celebrate their faith.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: Planned Giving Envelopes will be available in the church next weekend for those who have committed to our current planned giving program. 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, goes 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

**-OUR STORIES - OUR CHURCH - OUR MISSION-
 DIOCESAN CONSULTATION PHASE ONE: OUR
 PARISH FEEDBACK**

The Question: As people of faith and mission, what has God’s Spirit been doing in and through us during these past five years?



Some responses:

- Drawing those of us who are tired back into the community and giving us strength and vitality.
- Youth sharing and opening up to each other, vulnerable and safe.
- Holy Spirit guiding us as one inspires another, one affirms another, keeping us in balance.
- Valuing the Church as a community.
- Helping us be open and welcoming, not judgmental.

**DIOCESAN CONSULTATION PHASE TWO BEGINS IN
 SEPTEMBER**

In this phase we will be looking forward to the future of our Diocese.

Did you know that:

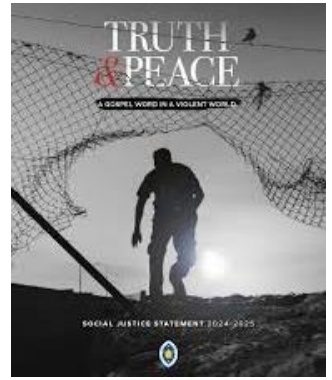
- The Catholic population of the Diocese is 123,748
- Catholics make up 18.2 per cent of the total population
- The median age of Catholics is 43 years
- The total number of Catholic families is 50,401
- Catholics living alone total 10,673
- Catholics were born overseas 35,392

POPE’S PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST:

For Political leaders- Let us pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking caring of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poor.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY- TRUTH
 AND PEACE: A GOSPEL WORD IN
 A VIOLENT WORLD:**

In 1963, the world was on the brink of nuclear war. It was at that time that Pope St. John XXIII issued his groundbreaking encyclical letter, *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth). It was a heart-felt plea to the Church and all people of goodwill for an end to war and for the banning of nuclear weapons. He promoted a peace which is grounded in the inalienable and inviolable dignity of every person. His successors up to the present have echoed the same impassioned plea.



In the 2024 – 2025 Social Justice Statement, “Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World”, Australia’s Bishops scrutinise the signs of our own troubled times, observe the violence around us, and ask why it is so. They also ask what is needed if there is to be peace.

In a world full of pessimism, they put their faith and hope in the possibility of peace.

Using scripture and the guidance of Pope St. John XXIII’s *Pacem in Terris* and Pope Francis’ *Fratelli Tutti*, we learn that peace is possible if we put our trust in Christ who is the way, the truth and the life and the Prince of Peace. It is from him that we learn about the architecture of peace. From him, we learn a commitment to the culture of encounter, the value of dialogue at all levels and the importance of seeing everyone as our sister, our brother.

The statement also provides some suggested actions to help us to build on our commitment to be peacemakers locally and internationally. To view the Australian Catholic Bishop Conference’s Social Justice Statement for 2024-2025 go to <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2024/07/25/social-justice-statement-2024-25/>

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

“If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve...As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” JOSHUA 24:15

When we commit to serve the Lord, we must be willing every day, joyfully participates in charitable works and generously supports their local parish and Church mission. If we say we serve God, we must actually to become a disciple in the work of the Lord. A disciple is a person who spends time in prayer do something and not merely talk about it!

Rosters for August 31 & September 01, 2024			22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B		
	Lector	Commentator	Welcomer	Eucharistic Minister	Musicians
Saturday Aug 31 5:00pm	S & S Reid	B Purcell	M Giddens & Volunteer	A Reid & Volunteer	
Sunday Sep 01 9:30am	T Denny	Volunteer	P & J Dal Pra	E Ryan, T Caldwell & R Varghese	Filipino Choir
Sunday Sep 01 5:00pm	Volunteer	S Grout	J & M McLaughlin	C Hill & Volunteer	
Church Cleaning	September	Volunteers			
Mick’s Kitchen	August 29	Burns Team		September 05	Van Berkel Team

First Reading

Joshua 24:1-2 15-18

A reading from the book of Joshua

We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 33:2-3. 16-23. R. v.9**(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal. **(R.)**

They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **(R.)**

Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken. **(R.)**

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.
(R.)

Second Reading

Eph 5:21-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel Acclamation

see John 6:63-68

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!*

Gospel

John 6:60-69

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.'

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

Next week's Readings**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

First Reading:	Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8
Second Reading:	St James 1:17-18 21-22 27
Gospel:	Mark 7:1-8 14-15 21-23