

St. John's Parish

"Hand In Hand "

2nd Sunday of Lent

Year C

March 16th 2025

www.stjohnstrafalgar.com.au



St John's Church –
52 Waterloo Rd, Trafalgar

St Jarlath's Church –
cnr Campbell and Rollo Sts. Yarragon

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr. Bernard Buckley VG Phone: 5633 1166

**PARISH SECRETARY AND
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:**
Mrs. Julianne Keily.
Parish e-mail: trafalgar@cdsale.org.au

OUR SCHOOLS:
St Joseph's Primary School
58 Waterloo Rd. Trafalgar. Phone 5633 1151
Mrs Trish Mulqueen - Principal

Marist Sion College
165 Burke St. Warragul. Phone: 5623 5944
Ms Lisa Harkin - Principal

WEEKEND MASS TIMES:
St John's: Saturday: Vigil Mass – 6pm
St Jarlath's: Sunday – 10am.

THIS WEEK'S LITURGY TIMES:

Monday 17.3: -
Tuesday 18.3: - 10:00am St John's
Wednesday 19.3: - 10:00am St John's
Thursday 20.3: - 10:00am St John's
- 2.00pm St Jarlath's
Stations of the Cross
Friday 21.3: - 10.00am St John's

RECONCILIATION: The sacrament of Reconciliation can be celebrated at St John's on Saturdays from 10:00am, or any time by arrangement with Father.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

'We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather, the Gunai Kurnai people. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country; and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.'

THE CONFITEOR: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; *(All strike their breast 3 times)* therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

GLORIA: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

APOSTLES' CREED: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

CELEBRANT: Dear friends, on the mount of transfiguration the apostles saw the glory of Jesus. Drawn into their vision, let us pray for all people to see the grace of God at work in the world.

READER: We pray for all who put their faith in Jesus, that they will set out on their Lenten journey with a desire to pray deeply as he did. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for Christian communities around the world, that all the baptised will listen keenly to God's Chosen One and take his words to heart. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who feel overwhelmed by the pain and suffering of the world, that the faithful love of family and friends will dispel the despondency that weighs on their hearts. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the human family, to understand more fully the vital importance of water in our lives and of our duty to protect and share our water resources. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the First Nations peoples of Australia, that this week's Close the Gap Day will show progress in achieving good health outcomes for all. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the recently deceased . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that their mortal bodies will be transfigured with the glory of Christ. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

CELEBRANT: God of might and mystery, you revealed your glory to us in your Son, the Chosen One. Help us hear his word and put it into practice. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

REFLECTION: On Mount Tabor the sky was clear. Jesus was praying. As he prayed his face shone and his clothes dazzled. On one side of him was Moses – the great law-giver. On the other side was Elijah – the greatest of all prophets. And as if that wasn't enough there was the voice of the Father. No wonder Peter exclaimed: "It is wonderful for us to be here!" But there came another day and another hill. This time the sky was dark. The face of Jesus was covered with sweat and blood. His clothes did not dazzle – they had been taken from him. For companions he had two thieves. There was no voice from heaven, only the scoffers were heard. The disciples were shattered and wanted no part of it. The only thing in common was that once again Jesus was praying. What sustained him in bright and dark moments alike was his special relationship with the Father. Let us pray: *Lord Jesus, we know that your special relationship with the Father is now open to us. Help us, Lord, to understand and believe that, by and through your grace, it will sustain us in all our dark moments until the glory of Easter shines fully on us.*

CONGRATULATIONS: Great to see six of our young parishioners make their First Reconciliation last Wednesday evening. To Maya, Payton, Charlie, Harriet, Sam and Nathan, and their families, congratulations from us all. *I tell you that there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who have no need to repent.* Luke 15:7.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH: For families in crisis: *Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.*

WE REMEMBER: We pray for those who have died recently including Pietro Varsaci; and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time including Sylvia Hope, Dorothea (Thea) Durkin, Atilio Bagnara, Gabrielle Durkin. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK: We pray the Lord's healing touch upon Pope Francis, Elly Van Den Broek, Connor O'Sullivan, Stephen Casonati, Shirley Deane, Peg O'Rourke, Shirley Devlin, Ann Ford, Lesli Perera, Kellie Monson, Brian O'Connell, Fr Andrew Wise. *"Through this holy anointing, may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin, save you and raise you up."*

ST JARLATH'S NEWS: Prayer Group: The next Prayer Group meeting is on Monday, 24/3, at St Jarlath's Hall from 2:00pm. Everyone is welcome. Refurbishment Project: We have received a good quote for the painting and some repairs to St Jarlath's Hall. It is hoped that work might start later in March. Anyone who has seen the hall recently knows this is a long overdue project. Congratulations to the parishioners there for their assiduous fundraising. Stations of the Cross: The Stations of the Cross will be prayed in Lent at St Jarlath's church at 2:00pm each Thursday. Everyone is welcome.

FROM MARIST-SION COLLEGE – A SNAPSHOT: Our senior students attended a Marist Connect Night in Melbourne to explore life as a 'journey of hope' with 105 student leaders from Marist Schools including Bendigo, Bulleen, Kilmore, Sale, Shepparton, and Traralgon. A group of new teachers also attended *In The Marist Way*, a staff formation program in Gippsland that introduces teachers to the story, spirituality, and pedagogy of Marist education in the contemporary Catholic school. Finally, our Year 9 students attended a live Caritas Project Compassion Q&A Workshop in the Chapel to learn more about Toefuata'iga's Story from Samoa to assist our fundraising efforts.

OUR PARISH CODE OF CONDUCT: Central to the mission of St. John's Parish, Trafalgar and St. Jarlath's community, Yarragon is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of all 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.

POPE FRANCIS ON 'HOPE': Hope, which is more than mere optimism, gives one a deep-rooted confidence in the love and care of God, no matter what has happened, Pope Francis wrote recently.

Hope "does not expire, because it is based on the fidelity of God. The hope of the Spirit is not even optimism. Born deeper, it rekindles at the bottom of the heart the certainty of being precious because of being loved," the Pope said.

"It is a hope that leaves peace and joy inside, regardless of what happens outside. It is a hope that has strong roots, which no storm of life can uproot," he added. "It is a hope that, says St. Paul, 'does not disappoint' – hope does not disappoint! – which gives the strength to overcome all tribulations."

AND ON VOLUNTEER-ISM: *"I thank you heartily, dear friends, because, following the example of Jesus, you serve your neighbours unstintingly. On the streets and in homes, in the company of the sick, the suffering and the imprisoned, with the young and the elderly, your generosity and commitment offer hope to our entire society."*

LITURGY IS A WINDOW: It is easy to think of liturgy as something that we do: praying, singing, reading, making gestures, engaging with symbols. Preparing these things is the work of the parish liturgy committee and pastor. But the liturgical activities in which the Church is engaged are in fact the actions of Christ: Christ is the true celebrant of the liturgy.

God acts in the liturgy. In the waters of baptism, God plunges us into the saving mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. As we eat and drink at the Lord's table, God joins us to Christ and we share in the great Passover from death to eternal life and in the banquet of heaven. As the celebrant anoints with holy oil, God seals the confirmandi with the gift of the Holy Spirit or raises up the person who is sick.

What a pity, then, that so often we concentrate on the window itself instead of looking through it. The liturgy is boring, teenagers say. The liturgy committee decides to respond by having a 'youth Mass' with praise music and special lighting effects. This solution is a case of looking at the glass and the window frame instead of the view. When parishioners complain about minor 'rubrical' infringements, they are concerned with smudges on the window.

Of course, the window itself is neither irrelevant nor unimportant. A dirty or foggy window will distort or obscure the view. The reform of the liturgy promoted by the Second Vatican Council was intended to clean the windows after centuries of grime. It was for this very reason that the Council highlighted the importance of the sacramental signs – baptising by immersion, taking and breaking real bread, receiving communion from the cup, proclaiming the word of God – not as an end in themselves, but as a means of realising what the liturgy actually does.

When liturgy committees evaluate the effectiveness of their preparation for a feast or season, their questions should not centre on the drama, decoration or liturgical forms but rather on their transparency. The hangings and symbols prepared by the liturgical artists are not designed to draw attention to themselves but rather are works of art which lead to the discovery of new spiritual depths. Ministers reviewing their liturgical roles should not just ask whether they performed their tasks correctly but seek to understand how their words and actions served to open up the reality of God's saving work.

Liturgical innovation does not necessarily lead to a renewed spiritual experience. The unfamiliar often catches our attention and distracts from what is really taking place. Liturgical rites belong to the Church. Liturgy is the corporate worship of the whole body of Christ, united around the globe and down through the centuries.

Preparing creative and vibrant liturgy is about ensuring that the preaching, praying, music, gestures, environment, symbols and ministers of the liturgy all enable the people of God assembled for worship to see beyond the liturgical forms and to participate fully, consciously and actively in the saving mystery that lies beyond them. (Thanks to Liturgy Lines, Brisbane)

THE WAY OF THE CROSS: Praying the Stations of the Cross is a popular practice in parishes during Lent. This form of devotion arose after pilgrims began to visit the Holy Land from the end of the 4th century to follow the path that Jesus trod in his last week of life. Christians who were unable to travel to Palestine themselves reproduced a parallel devotion at home. The Stations will be prayed each THURSDAY in Lent at St Jarlath's, at 2:00pm. Everyone is welcome to gather.

HOW ONE WATER TANK MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE: Australia's Project Compassion campaign this week demonstrates the significance that access to clean water has had on a school in Samoa. Toefuata'iga is 13 years old and lives in Samoa, where access to clean water is a daily struggle. Despite Samoa being surrounded by water, her school experienced water shortages that threatened both the health and education of its students.

Water shortages meant teachers had to leave the school to fetch water from nearby homes, or end classes early as children had no water to drink and no way to wash their hands. Many students also missed periods of schooling as they would repeatedly contract waterborne diseases.

These shortages were due to a vulnerable pipeline system that is frequently shut down due to natural disasters and disrepair, leaving many communities relying on rainwater capture. Dry periods and unpredictable weather caused by climate change meant that Toefuata'iga's community, and her education, had reached a crisis point.

Through the support of Caritas Australia and the generosity of its supporters, Caritas Australia was able to partner with Caritas Samoa to support Toefuata'iga's school. A 10,000-litre water tank installed at the school stores enough clean water for the school's 300-plus students and teachers. This ensures the school can remain open, with students staying hydrated and well.

"When we opened our water tank, the parents were really happy, they were over the moon. And now they don't have any problems. Now we don't need to send the children home early, and we can keep up with our lessons. It's made such a difference," the school's principal, Ada, said, Toefuata'iga's story is a reminder that access to water is more than just a convenience, as it enables her education, which is key to breaking the cycle of poverty. To support Project Compassion this Lent, visit the [Project Compassion website](#).

CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT FUND: from Bishop Greg: *The CDF has helped our Diocese to respond to the expansion of capital investments in new churches and renovations, new schools and ongoing renewal in learning environments; fulfilling our primary mission to proclaim the Good news.*

Our partnership has helped us achieve what we could never do on our own and provides assurance that all we do is built on the solid ground of good governance and the gospel.

You can invest in the CDF Community Fund, where a Term Deposit of 6 months will earn 5.1%. Visit [CDF.org.au](#)

FINANCE REPORT: Last weekend: Planned Giving: \$390.00; House Collection: \$433.40. Thanks to all our regular and generous benefactors. If there's anyone who'd like to join the planned giving program, either through envelopes or automatic credit card giving, please take an enrolment card from the back of the churches, or contact Julianne at the parish office. As we continue to improve our facilities, it's handy to have all generous 'hands on deck'.

LITURGY ROSTER: GREETER/COMMENTATOR:

16.3	T	Glenys	Y	Elisabeth
23.3	T	Yvonne	Y	Angela
30.3	T	Judith	Y	Genevieve

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

16.3	T	Elio	Y	Sue
23.3	T	Gail	Y	Yvonne
30.3	T	Jean	Y	Cynthia

Anyone else happy to be on the roster, share the load? Let us know. We would be so happy to hear from you!!

ST JOHN'S CHURCH: March Roster

Cleaning: Lucy and Julianne Altar Linen: Edna
Special thanks from of us all to those who care so carefully and generously for our beautiful churches and properties.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *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 15:5-12, 17-18)

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: from Ps 26

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken:
'Seek his face.'

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face.

Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

SECOND READING: (Philippians 3:20-4:1)

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL: (Luke 9:28-36)

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, 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 he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid.

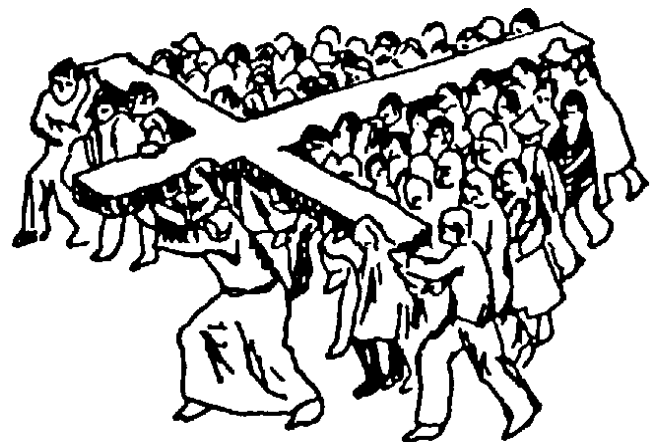
And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION:

We proclaim your death, O Lord,
and profess your resurrection
until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.*



Scripture Readings taken from the Roman Missal Lectionary 1981. Used with permission