

# St. John's Parish

"Hand In Hand"

**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Year C**

**August 17<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**[www.stjohnstrafalgar.com.au](http://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](mailto:trafalgar@cdsale.org.au)

**OUR SCHOOLS:**  
**St Joseph's Primary School**  
58 Waterloo Rd. Trafalgar. Phone: 5633 1151  
Mrs Patricia 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:**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>18.8:</b>	-
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>19.8:</b>	- 10:00am St John's
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>20.8:</b>	- 10:00am St John's
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>21.8</b>	-
<b>Friday</b>	<b>22.8:</b>	- 10.00am St John's
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>23.8:</b>	-

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

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY:** We acknowledge that we are in the country of the Gunai-Kurnai and Bunurong people of the Kulin nation. We pay our respects to their elders. We acknowledge the memories of their ancestors and celebrate their continuing culture. We acknowledge the deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and we 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.

**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.

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:**

**CELEBRANT:** Dear friends, Jesus calls us to make his costly passion for God's reign our own. As his faithful followers, let us pray with undivided hearts for a new heaven and a new earth.

**READER:** We pray for the church local and global, that like Jeremiah and Jesus it will dare to announce unwelcome truths boldly for salvation's sake. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the baptised faithful, that no believer will lose sight of Jesus who leads us in our faith and brings it to fulfilment. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for today's children, women and men trapped in economic or sexual servitude, that campaigners against modern slavery will succeed in setting them free. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all participants in this week's national economic roundtable, that they will set aside vested interests and debate what is best for the common good. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for Australia's children, that this year's Children's Book Week will thrill them with the adventure of reading. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for families bitterly divided, that they will find the way to healing, forgiveness and reconciliation. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who have died recently . . . , and those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will be led by Christ their Good Shepherd to the banquet of eternal life. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

**CELEBRANT:** God of unfailing mercy, by the power of the Holy Spirit you free us to follow your Son. Give us the courage to be true to him. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**A REFLECTION:** There are two kinds of silence. There is the silence of the graveyard. This silence speaks of death ... it frightens and repels. Then there is the silence of a spring evening. Not a leaf stirs, not a sound is heard except the music of the birds. This silence is mysterious and enchanting. Amid this silence all things are awake, all things are growing. So, too, there are two kinds of peace. There is the peace of the swamp. The swamp's surface looks normal and is serene, but its depths are full of rotten things. This is the peace of injustice. It is a false peace that Jesus disrupts. Then there is 'true peace' – a peace where the basic rights of all persons are respected. In this peace everyone is able to live in freedom and dignity.

Let us pray: *Lord, it is true peace which you bring. Yet peace like this doesn't happen – it has to be made. Sometimes, Lord, the makers of peace are branded as troublemakers. But you teach us another name ... you call us : 'children of God.'*

**FROM CATHOLIC CARE VICTORIA:** Thankyou from Catholic Care Victoria for your support of last weekend's appeal, helping the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community. Your generosity and kindness brings the CCV mission to life. You can still donate via the envelopes still in the churches and returned to the plate on a Sunday soon; or online at [www.catholuccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholuccarevic.org.au); or call 03 9967 2515. Gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.

**WE REMEMBER:** We pray for those who have died recently including Roberta Zizza; and for those whose anniversaries

occur about this time including: Margaret Grogan, Colin Hill, Vincent Clarke, Maria Zimora. *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 Patrick Featonby, Jean Huffer, Elly Van Den Broek, Connor O'Sullivan, Shirley Deane, Peg O'Rourke, Shirley Devlin, Ann Ford, Lesli Perera, Kellie Monson, Brian O'Connell, Fr Michael Willemsen, 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."*

**AT ST JARLATH'S:** Prayer Group: The next meeting of the Prayer group is on Monday, 24/8, at 2:00pm at St Jarlath's hall. Everyone is welcome.

Recycling Project: Suitable items can be placed in the bin at St Jarlath's hall on Sundays after mass or at other times by arrangement with Bryan. Thank you for your support.

**POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST: For mutual co-existence:** Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

**NEWS FROM ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL:** Last Friday our Mini Vinnies team ran two successful fundraising events — a casual clothes day and a sausage sizzle. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, we raised \$500, donating \$250 to the Mary MacKillop Foundation and \$250 to the Opening the Doors Foundation, which supports First Nations students in Catholic education. We also gathered in our church to celebrate the feast day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, honouring Australia's first saint. Our senior students were encouraged to participate in the Lions Club Public Speaking Competition. We were very proud of these student's efforts.

**SIGNS OF HOPE ON THE EDGE – SERVING HOMELESS PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH:** That's the title of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference 2025 Social Justice Sunday statement. It reflects on the experience of people living with the challenges of homelessness and mental ill-health. To read the statement in full, please visit [cdsale.org/news](http://cdsale.org/news).

*"Many Australians find it embarrassing, uncomfortable or even confronting to see homeless people on the streets; but we encourage all who are baptised to, instead, offer loving friendship to people on the edge of society. Instead of walking by and not noticing the plight of our neighbours, pay attention to them and their plight, listen to their stories, and serve them with the love we learn from Jesus."* Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB. ACBC President

**GOOD PARISH LITURGY – PREPARATION AND ENGAGEMENT:** The Diocesan Pastoral Life and Mission Team has organised a special liturgical workshop with Fr Brian Nichols, renowned for his expertise in the field, Fr Brian teaches Liturgical and Sacramental Theology at the Catholic Theological College. This workshop, on Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at St Michael's, Berwick, from 9:30am -3:00pm, offers all of us and our liturgical ministers, a valuable opportunity to explore the principles and practices of meaningful liturgy preparation and engagement. In addition to this, other workshops will cover a range of important topics related to liturgical ministries in our parishes.

Please see the flyer for further details. Please book through Fr Bernard, via Julianne at the office or by email to the parish. All are encouraged to attend: music ministers, sacristans, welcomers, readers, commentators, and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.

## **CARITAS AUSTRALIA INVITES US TO LIGHT A CANDLE AND PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF GAZA:**

God of light,  
You meet us in the darkest places.  
Every year, when we light our Easter candle,  
we pray 'may the light of Christ, rising in glory,  
dispel the darkness of our minds and hearts.'  
We pray today that all people may work with you  
to dispel the darkness of violence and war.  
May this fragile light be a sign of our hope  
for the people of Gaza.  
May they find healing and lasting peace.  
Amen.

Caritas Australia invites us to pray for the people of Gaza.  
If you are able to support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, please  
donate online at [www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza) or at: 1800 024 413

## **C.R.A. URGES GOVERNMENT TO REFORM YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM:**

Catholic Religious Australia has written to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy, calling on the government to lead a nationally coordinated reform of the youth justice system. In its letter, CRA expressed grave concerns about the state of the youth justice system in the Northern Territory, following the Inquest findings of Territory Coroner Elisabeth Armitage into the death of Kumanjayi Walker, a First Nations youth in custody.

The coroner found that the Northern Territory Police Force bears "significant hallmarks of institutional racism" and that "racist attitudes may have influenced" the "failure to take adequate steps to minimise the risk of a fatal interaction" with Mr Walker.

"Kumanjayi Walker was failed by the justice system in the Northern Territory. Juvenile detention isolated him from family and community for considerable periods of time throughout his childhood, and did not provide adequate early intervention or rehabilitation," CRA President Br Gerard Brady CFC said.

CRA also expressed alarm over recent legislative changes in the Northern Territory, including the lowering of the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 10, the reintroduction of spit hoods in youth detention centres, and the expansion of the list of offences ineligible for youth diversionary justice programs.

"Australia's religious women and men add their support to the calls from First Nations organisations and individuals for federal government leadership on a national overhaul of the youth justice system, moving away from punitive approaches and instead prioritising early intervention and holistic and culturally appropriate rehabilitation," CRA national executive director Anne Walker said.

"The recently released Closing the Gap Report shows that this is a national problem. Most states and territories have a minimum age of criminal responsibility below that recommended by child development and health experts, and Australia is not on track to reach the Closing the Gap target to reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention by at least 30 per cent by 2031.

***"We need urgent federal government action."***

**PRAYING AS ONE:** A friendly reminder to everyone of the good habit we were in after the church was painted. We asked everyone who sits in the last rows of pews to consider moving a few seats forward at Mass in the vast St John's church. When there are only small numbers there, it's important we sit with each other rather than all across the seating area. This is a renewed, friendly request to everyone, if they could leave the back 5 or 6 pews empty, so we can all have a heightened sense of being God's people 'gathered as one', a bit like when the family gathers at the dining table for a celebratory meal. Perhaps those parishioners greeting and offering the bulletin could continue to offer a friendly reminder to move a few pews forward.

**PARTS OF THE MASS: THE SIGN OF PEACE:** The exchange of peace has been part of the Roman liturgy since earliest times.

Originally it occurred before the Presentation of Gifts in response to Jesus' exhortation in Matthew 5:23-24: "If you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

In the late fourth century the Sign of Peace moved to its present location immediately after the Our Father. This position links it with the last petition of the Lord's Prayer that we be forgiven "as we forgive those who trespass against us" and with the reception of Eucharist which follows.

In the Middle Ages the gesture came to be limited to the clergy alone and was eventually replaced by the priest's kissing of the altar. The 1969 Missal of Paul VI issued after the Second Vatican Council restored the Sign of Peace to the Mass. This was in line with the renewed emphasis on the communal aspect of liturgical worship, and also embodied the reminder from the Council that Christ is present in the assembly.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) describes the Rite of Peace as a sign of conversion and peace-making, leading us to the Holy Communion of the Body of Christ, the Church. It then explains how the sign is expressed: *"In the dioceses of Australia the most common form of the gesture of peace is the handshake, although different practices according to region and culture are not excluded. However, it is appropriate that each person offer the sign of peace only to those who are nearest and in a sober manner."* (GIRM 82)

The Sign of Peace needs to be kept in proportion and not occupy more time than other more important elements of the celebration. The Sign of Peace is about imparting to others the blessing of Christ's peace not shaking hands and saying Hello to as many people as possible in the available time: hospitality is practised as people arrive for Mass, not when it is almost over!

## **MISSION: TRANSFORM LIVES – THEIRS ... AND YOURS:**

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills and knowledge with those who have few other chances for training. Build enduring global relationships while assisting sustainable, self-reliant, community development. On the website you can explore 35 positions and can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: Phone: 02 9560 5333 or visit: [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au)

**FINANCE REPORT:** Last weekend: Planned Giving: \$440.00; House Collection: \$428.30. Thanks to all our generous benefactors. If there's anyone who'd like to join the planned giving program, either through taking a set of planned giving 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:**

17.8	T Judith	Y Gina
24.8	T Glenys	Y Maree
31.8	T Yvonne	Y Angela
7.9	T Jean	Y Genevieve

## **MINISTERS OF THE WORD:**

17.8	T Glenda	Y Genevieve
24.8	T Elio	Y Ken
31.8	T Gail	Y Yvonne
7.9	T Judith	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:**

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

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** *Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.*

**FIRST READING:** (Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10)

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

The Word of the Lord

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

from Ps 39

Lord, come to my aid!

I waited, I waited for the Lord  
and he stooped down to me;  
he heard my cry.

He drew me from the deadly pit,  
from the miry clay.  
He set my feet upon a rock  
and made my footsteps firm.

He put a new song into my mouth,  
praise of our God.  
Many shall see and fear  
and shall trust in the Lord.

As for me, wretched and poor,  
the Lord thinks of me.  
You are my rescuer, my help,  
O God, do not delay.

Lord, come to my aid!

**SECOND READING:** (Hebrews 12:1-4)

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shamefulness of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

The Word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;  
I know them, and they follow me.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:**

(Luke 12:49-53)

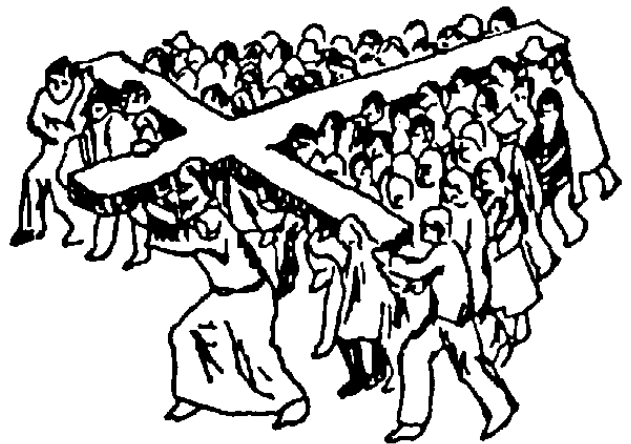
Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION:** We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** *With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.*



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