

# St. John's Parish

"Hand In Hand "

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

**YEAR A**

**15<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026**

**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:** Mrs. Julianne Keily.  
Parish e-mail: trafalgar@cdsale.org.au

**OUR SCHOOLS:**  
**St Joseph's Primary School**  
58 Waterloo Rd. 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 - 10:00am

**THIS WEEK'S LITURGY:**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>16.2:</b>		
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>17.3:</b>	10.00am	St John's
		4:00pm	Community Reconciliation
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>18.3:</b>	10:00am	St John's
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>19.3:</b>	10:00am	St John's
<b>Friday</b>	<b>20.3:</b>	10:00am	St John's
		4:00pm	St Jarlath's - Stations of the Cross

**RECONCILIATION:** The sacrament of Reconciliation can be celebrated at St John's on Saturday 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 Gonnai 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.

**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 LEO'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH:** For disarmament and peace: *Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.*

**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.

**THE 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, called out of darkness into the light of Christ, let us pray for the whole world to be bathed in God's life-giving light.

**READER:** We pray for the multitude of innocent people trapped in wars not of their making, especially in the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan. May they be raised from the darkness of their suffering. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for faithful Moslems celebrating the end of Ramadan this week. May the spiritual renewal they have experienced remain a constant blessing in their lives. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the refugees of Gaza sheltered by Caritas Jerusalem. May our generous support for Project Compassion help them endure and recover. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the indigenous peoples of Australia. May this week's observance of Close the Gap Day become a further step towards health equity for everyone. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for our parish community. May this week's feasts of Saint Patrick and Saint Joseph be occasions of joy for everyone on their Lenten way. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for those who have died recently . . . , and those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. **A** Let the light of Christ shine on them for ever. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

**CELEBRANT:** Creator God, you never cease to call us out of darkness into your wonderful light. Deepen our desire for Lent to shed the light of Christ on the world. We ask through Christ our Lord.

**REFLECTION:** *One day I asked a friend of mine who had returned from a long walk in the woods what she had seen. She replied: "Nothing in particular." I asked myself how that was possible when I myself, who cannot see, find hundreds of things to interest me through mere touch. I feel the delicate shape and design of a leaf. I pass my hands lovingly over the rough bark of a pine tree. Occasionally, if I'm lucky, I place my hand quietly on a small tree, and feel the happy quiver of a bird in full song. All this has convinced me of one thing – the greatest calamity to befall people is not that they should be born blind, but rather that they should have eyes and yet fail to see.* (Adapted) Helen Keller

**ST PATRICK'S DAY:** A celebration of St Patrick's Day will be held at the Criterion Hotel Trafalgar, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm. Everyone is welcome! Please place your name on the list available in both churches.

**NEWS FROM ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL:** This year we are delighted to have a record number of senior students volunteering as Mini Vinnies, joining in the mission of the St Vincent de Paul parish group. Their enthusiasm for promoting social justice initiatives in our school is truly inspiring.

Last week, our Grade 4/5 class planned and led a meaningful Lenten Liturgy in the church. The students embraced the privilege of guiding the school community in prayer.

Next Thursday, we look forward to celebrating the feast day of St Joseph (19/3) with a special school celebration. It promises to be a joyful occasion for our whole community, to which all parishioners are invited.

**WE REMEMBER:** We pray for those who have died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time including: Dorothea (Thea) Durkin, Atilio Bagnara, Maria Bertacco, 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 Randy Jansz, 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 Peter Slater.

*God of all consolation, you sent your Son to heal the world. Graciously listen to our prayers of faith for the sick: send the power of your Holy Spirit, the Consoler, upon all who call on the Lord's healing touch.* (Rite of Anointing of the Sick)

**WELCOME FOR BAPTISM:** This weekend at St John's we welcome to their Baptism: Wilfred, Edmund and August Jenkins, sons of Ben and Nicole. We welcome the boys further into the life of our community and of course into our lives in Christ. Congratulations to you and your parents! A great effort!

*"Wilfred, Edmund and August, the Christian community welcomes you with great joy. In its name I claim you for Christ our Saviour by the sign of his cross."* (Rite of Baptism)

**LENTEN LIGHT:** The story of the man born blind is a perfect choice for the Lenten season. During this season we are invited once again to open our eyes to Jesus; to step out of darkness and into the light; to look towards the future with hope and not despair. When we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at the Easter vigil, we celebrate the coming of the Light of the World into our lives. This annual call to turn away from darkness and walk in the light is a powerful and poetic call to focus our lives on the way of Jesus.

### **GOSPEL FOCUS – THERE ARE NONE SO BLIND!:**

There's a very old saying that has its roots in the Bible but is not a direct quote from the Bible: 'There are none so blind as those who will not see.' It would be a fitting summary of today's passage for there are two movements between darkness and light that are evident in the story. Firstly, there is the blind man who can see. He can see physically but can also see the truth of who Jesus is. Secondly, there are the Jewish authorities who have physical sight but are completely blind to the truth of Jesus.

### **HISTORICAL CONTEXT – LIGHT OF THE WORLD:**

The events of today's gospel passage occur within an extended passage of the gospel of John in which Jesus attends Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles (Jn 7:1 following). A feature of the feast was the illumination of the Temple. Pilgrims would cover the Temple with lights and torches so that it shone out over the entire city. It was during this feast that Jesus declared himself to be the Light of the World and, a few verses later, healed the blind man and brought light into his world.

**CELEBRATING RECONCILIATION (OR PENANCE):** Reconciliation is officially called the Sacrament of Penance. In the past it was also called Confession. These titles are all aspects of the meaning of the sacrament.

The Sacrament of Penance is a celebration of God's love and mercy. It celebrates the call to repentance after a process of conversion of heart. This includes confessing our sins and receiving the forgiveness of God through the priest. Through this process, a person is reconciled with the Church and continues to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The call to conversion and reconciliation occurs when one considers, judges and changes one's life in the light of God's love revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

Prayer and participation in the Eucharist are the regular means of asking for forgiveness and being reconciled with God and the community. However, there are times when the faithful need the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation in their struggle to be forgiven and forgiving, to discover anew the gift of God's saving action in their lives and to be strengthened to continue living as disciples of Jesus.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** On Tuesday this week, 17/3, at 4:00pm at St John's church, some of our young parishioners are celebrating their First Reconciliation. With a visiting priest present, all parishioners are invited to join in this ceremony, especially if they would like to celebrate Reconciliation before Easter. Let's keep praying for the children and their families, and let's commend them to God who is always merciful.

**TOWARDS A PARISH PASTORAL PLAN:**

Last weekend, the Parish Pastoral Council sought the input of all parishioners as we develop our Parish Pastoral Plan. The Plan will guide our parish's efforts over the next few years in parish life.

This weekend, thanks to all who have filled in the easy-to-use form to submit their thoughts.

For those who haven't had the chance to make their thinking known, the points for comment are:

- In our parish, what do you think we are doing well?
- In our parish, what do you think we could do better?
- In our parish, I would like to see .....
- Another thought I had is that we .....

All are invited to return your completed sheet this week to the box on the table at the back of the church.

The PPC invites everyone to respond generously by taking the short amount of time needed to complete this parish survey. Your input will be collated and will be of great value in forming our parish plan. Thankyou in advance!

**CHURCH OPEN TO EVERYONE AND IS FOR EVERYONE:**

**POPE:** The Catholic Church is made up of diverse people who are united by their faith in Christ and are called to welcome all of humanity, Pope Leo said during his weekly general audience yesterday.

"Its unifying principle is not a language, a culture, an ethnicity, but faith in Christ," he said in St. Peter's Square. Continuing his series of reflections on the Second Vatican Council, the Pope focused on the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium*, which describes the Church as the "People of God".

The Church is the assembly of "all those who in faith look upon Jesus," he said, united not by nationality or culture but by their shared faith in Christ.

Pope Leo said this understanding is rooted in the Bible, pointing to God's covenant with Abraham and the people of Israel, which prepared the way for the new covenant established through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The Pope said love is the law that governs relationships within the Church, as believers receive and experience it through Jesus. Through Christ, believers from every nation are united in faith, he said. The Church is the people of God who "draw their existence from the body of Christ and who are themselves the body of Christ." Rather than turning inward, the Pope said, the Church must remain open to everyone. "Unified in Christ, Lord and Saviour of every man and woman, the Church can never turn inwards on herself, but is open to everyone and is for everyone," he said.

In a world marked by conflict and division, Pope Leo added, the diversity of the Church is a sign of hope. "It is a great sign of hope – especially in our times, marked by so many conflicts and wars – to know that the Church is a people in which women and men of different nationalities, languages and cultures live together in faith," he said.

Before the audience, Pope Leo met privately with Cardinal Dominique J. Mathieu, Archbishop of Tehran and Isfahan, Iran. The Belgian cardinal, who is a member of the Franciscans, arrived in Rome on Sunday after being evacuated along with every member of the Italian Embassy, where he is based.

**ST JOHN'S PARISH**

**DRAFT 2026 HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TIMETABLE**

**Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>:** 5:00pm and 7:00pm  
Community Reconciliation at St Joseph's, Warragul  
**Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>:** 6pm Community Reconciliation,  
at St Kieran's, Moe.

**HOLY WEEK**

**PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY: Sun 29<sup>th</sup> March**

**Saturday 28.3** - 6:00pm Vigil – St John's, Trafalgar

**Sunday 29.3** - 10:00am – St Jarlath's, Yarragon

**Monday 30.3** -

**Tuesday 31.3** -Mass of the Oils- 11:00am –  
St Mary's Cathedral, Sale

**Wednesday 1.4** - 10:00am Mass at St John's, Trafalgar  
-3:00pm St Joseph's School, Holy Week liturgy

**EASTER TRIDUUM**

**Holy Thursday 2.4**

– 7:00pm - Mass of Lord's Supper and The "Watch" –  
at St Jarlath's, Yarragon  
- Reconciliation to follow

**Good Friday 3.4**

- 10:00am – Stations of the Cross, St Jarlath's, Yarragon  
- 3:00pm - Celebration of the Lord's Passion,  
St John's, Trafalgar  
- Reconciliation to follow

**Holy Saturday 4.4**

- Reconciliation – 10:00am - St John's, Trafalgar  
- 7:00pm – Easter Vigil - St John's, Trafalgar,

**Easter Sunday 5.4** - 10:00am – St Jarlath's,  
Yarracon

**PPC NEWS:** The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council is planned for Thursday March 19th at 10.30am, when the group will be finalising, we hope, arrangements for the celebrations over Holy week and Easter.

**FINANCE REPORT:** Last weekend: Planned Giving: \$360.00; House Collection: \$521.10. 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 or direct debit, please take an enrolment card from the back of the churches, or contact Julianne at the parish office.

**ST JOHN'S CHURCH:** March Roster:

Cleaning: Glenda and Ann Altar Linen: Edna

Special thanks from of us all to those who care so generously for our beautiful churches and properties.

**LITURGY ROSTER:**

**GREETER - COMMENTATOR:**

15.3	T	Noreen	Y	Elisabeth
22.3	T	Glenys	Y	Lyn
29.3	T	Yvonne	Y	Gina

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD:**

15.3	T	St Joseph's	Y	Mick
22.3	T	Elio	Y	Karen
29.3	T	Gail	Y	Genevieve

**THANK YOU:** With grateful thanks from us all to those who are on the rosters and generously do important ministries among us. And to all who keep our properties looking so good, in summer and winter, thank you! It takes a lot of people, effort and time to look after our buildings and grounds, on both parish campuses.

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD:** Anyone else happy to be on the roster, share the load? Let us know. There's room! We would be so happy to hear from you, and hear you proclaim God's word for us all at our parish Masses!!

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** *Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breasts.*

**FIRST READING:** (1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13)

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.'

Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The Word of the Lord

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** from Ps 23

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**SECOND READING:** (Ephesians 5:8-14)

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake

from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The Word of the Lord

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;

whoever follows me will have the light of life. .

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL:** (John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38)

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God; he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord

**MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION:** When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** *The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.*

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