

St. John's Parish

Hand in Hand

16th Sunday in Ordinary time
YEAR A

19th July 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 AND SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:

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 TIMES:

Monday	20.7:		
Tuesday	21.7:	- 10:00am	St John's
Wednesday	22.7:	- 10:00am	St John's
Thursday	23.7:		
Friday	24.7:	- 10:00am	St John's

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT 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 we 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. We do all this, not just so we are compliant with the law of the land and the church, as important as that is, but more, we seek the safeguarding of all because we believe each person has the dignity of being created in the image and likeness of God; indeed, is a child of God; and has a right to be respected and treated accordingly.



POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JULY: For respect for human life. Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

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.

THE 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, the Holy Spirit takes our prayers to God for us. Let us pray as best we can for the needs and hopes of the world.

READER: We pray for Pope Leo, that he will sow good seeds of peace and wisdom wherever he goes. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for those preparing for their First Eucharist. May they, and their families, know the blessing of communion in the Body of Christ in their lives. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the democratic peoples of the world, that they will resist the appeal of divisive populists and politics; and hold fast to freedom and shared values. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for overseers of their nation's water resources, that they will keep them healthy, manage them wisely, and ration them justly. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for seafarers employed on merchant ships, that they will be paid fairly and assured of safe working conditions. (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, that the mystery of divine love will be eternally revealed to them. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

CELEBRANT: God of all goodness, you show your power by the mercy you grant us. Help us be a leaven of kindness in the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A REFLECTION: From my years in prison camps, I learnt how one becomes evil and how one becomes good. When I was young I thought I was infallible, and was cruel to those under me. I loved power and exercising it. I was a murderer and an oppressor. Yet in my most evil moments I thought I was doing good, and had plenty of arguments to justify my deeds. It was only when things were reversed – when as a prisoner I lay on rotten straw – that I felt within myself the first stirrings of good. I came to realise that the line separating good from evil does not pass between states, classes or political parties, but right through every human heart. Even hearts overwhelmed by evil retain a small bridgehead of good. Likewise, in the best of hearts, there remains a small corner of evil, not yet uprooted. (Adapted) Alexander Solzhenitsyn

ON LEAVE: Our Parish Secretary and Safeguarding Officer, Julianne, will be on annual leave this week. I'm sure we all wish her a relaxing break.

ST JARLATH'S NEWS: Prayer Group: The Prayer Group will meet again on Monday, July 27th at 2:00pm at St Jarlath's Church. Everyone is welcome.

Our Recycling Project: our project to recycle suitable bottles is going well. Funds raised will be used to help with various projects at St Jarlath's. Suitable bottles and cans can be put in the bin at the hall on Sunday after Mass, or contact Bryan for delivery at other times.

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION 2026: Thanks to all who supported the annual Peter's Pence Collection last weekend. Our generous offerings amounted to \$467.00 which will support the Holy Father's apostolic and charitable ministry around the world.

VENEZUELA EMERGENCY APPEAL: On 24 June 2026, Venezuela was struck by two major earthquakes measuring 7.2 and 7.5 in magnitude, impacting the nation's central and northern regions. Our partner, Caritas Venezuela, has begun mobilising relief efforts, including the delivery of vital support such as water, food, sanitation and shelter. Funds raised through the appeal will support Caritas Venezuela's emergency response, delivered in partnership with local communities and the Church. Please visit our website:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/venezuela>

WE REMEMBER: We pray for those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time including: Bortolo Malacarne, Pat Atkin, Heyden Sommerville, Corinna Turra, Vito Castello.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. 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, Judith Potori, 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)

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL NEWS: Welcome back to Term 3 with our school's prayer to get us started:

*Dear God,
Thank You for the holidays and the fun we had.
Now we are back at school, ready to learn and grow.
Help us to listen with kind hearts,
to try our best in all we do,
and to care for our friends and teachers.
Guide us through Term 3 with joy and curiosity.
May we discover new things,
share happy moments,
and shine with Your love every day.
Amen.*

Our Mini Vinnies Group 2 students are busily preparing for our annual Bake Sale, which will be held next Wednesday in the Mary MacKillop Room. All students will have the chance to purchase some delicious home baked treats from this much loved stall.

If you are able to donate baked goods, we would be very grateful. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled with their ingredients.

Thank you for supporting our Mini Vinnies and their wonderful work in our community.
Mrs Trish Mulqueen, Principal.

ON 'LEAVEN': The parable of the woman placing leaven in three measures of flour (in the longer form of today's gospel) is an intriguing one. In some translations, the text reads, 'The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.' Whilst you might initially hide yeast in some dough, it doesn't take very long for the yeast to become apparent as it makes the dough rise. Such a large quantity of flour suggests the bread is being prepared for a festival – perhaps Passover when only unleavened bread was used? That would put a different spin on the woman's action!

ON BEING 'AGENTS OF CHANGE': We often hear that to fully live out the kingdom message of Jesus is to be counter-cultural. These parables are a perfect example of that call. Jesus himself acted in contrast to his cultural context and often used examples in his teaching that flew in the face of cultural expectation. What does it mean to be counter-cultural today? Our world is driven by an emphasis on the individual; an emphasis on acquisition; an emphasis on consuming. The kingdom parables of today's gospel call us to be the agents of change that 'irritate' in our own small way to make a difference in the world.

CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY: "It is the concrete way in which Catholic faith and teaching impact personally on how each of us lives our lives here and now. It provides the foundation that allows us to reach out in love and service of others."
Shane Dwyer – Catholic Australia.

ORGAN RECITAL: The Warragul Theatre Organ group is offering a free concert on the original Wurlitzer organ at 'Wesley on Warragul', the former Wesley church, at 54 Victoria Street, Warragul, on Saturday, August 1st at 1:00pm. Several organists will be playing and a light afternoon tea will be offered. No ticket needed, no charge made, but if attendees are happy to make a gold coin donation, it would be gratefully received. Enquiries to Glenys: 0400 928 044.

THE MASS IS A GIFT THAT PROVIDES SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT:

I sit in the same spot each week at Mass, third from the back, on the left-hand side of the nave. I am not sure why I chose this spot, decades ago. It wasn't right out the door nor was it too close to the altar. And now having been worshipping there for so long it feels like my own little bit of church furniture. Occasionally, I have to move up or back if someone else is in my spot, but I don't hold a grudge here – of all places.

I am not the only parishioner who sits in the same place each week. Most of the congregation have a special pew. Readers and collectors are invariably up the front as they have jobs to do. The offertory pair may be seated anywhere as long as they are ready after the Prayer of the Faithful to bring up the bread and wine to the priest. The man who puts the words of the liturgy and the hymns up is hidden from view. Every few weeks we have a cantor whose fine voice leads us in singing and I am reminded of Saint Augustine's dictum, 'He who sings, prays twice'. I sing up, a weak soprano, a far cry from my movin' and groovin' with the folk group in the 1970s where we sang all those Ray Repp numbers and everything by the Medical Missionary Sisters. 'Spirit of God' was a favourite.

BY HEART: I know the words of the Mass off by heart but occasionally look at the screen just to be sure. I respond with 'Glory to you, O Lord' when we greet the Gospel and make a small Sign of the Cross with my thumb on my forehead, lips and heart. This gesture is a form of prayer for the presence of the Word of God in my mind, on my lips and in my heart. I notice that not everyone does this and wonder if it has not been taught or has been forgotten. It is a beautiful way of impressing on us the importance of what we are about to hear and reminding us of the Gospel imperative of loving God and loving neighbour.

I listen closely to the homily. Sometimes, a completely new revelation of meaning is exposed or linked to life today or amplified in some essential way and takes up residence in my mind; new thoughts to live by, truth to take to heart.

I love the words, 'Lift up your hearts', and its response, 'It is right and just'. These are the words that remind me that I need to be of good cheer because I am loved by God. It is also the impetus to do something good in my small sphere of influence, the secondary classroom. I tell the students that I am a thought-leader and influencer, although you won't find me on TikTok or Instagram. My day job is to lift up their hearts to God. This is definitely not something that can be reported by temporal KPIs. No one, except God, can measure the growth and beauty of each and every soul.

SIT QUIETLY: I often get to Mass early just so I can sit quietly and gather my thoughts. I can feel the spiritual serenity. I breathe out the week past, review it, let it go with thanks and prepare to look forward to the week ahead. I rustle up a few coins for the plate. These days we also have EFT at the back of the church and direct debit. The latter-day widow is safe from scrutiny – as it should be. Our communion shuffle is completed in an orderly and reverent fashion. We participate in the Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith lives, the central miracle of Jesus' gift of himself to us. At the end of Mass, we are instructed to go and glorify God with our lives. I do the best I can from Sunday to Sunday, glad that each week I have the gift of the Mass to provide me with spiritual sustenance and a prayerful provision to keep me on the faithful path.

Anon.

A SPIRITUALITY OF 'SAFEGUARDING': This refers to viewing Safeguarding, of the young, the vulnerable, the elderly, everyone in the church family for that matter, as a faith response, not merely a compliance task. Such spirituality reflects our beliefs about God, humanity and the Church to shape how we exercise vigilance, care and responsibility for each other. It leads us to understand Safeguarding as an expression of our discipleship.

CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT FUND: Funds invested with CDF are used to support the mission of the Church by providing low cost funding for Catholic capital building projects in Parishes, Schools and Colleges, Religious Orders, Diocesan Agencies and Catholic organisations in the work of Health and Aged Care. You can invest in the CDF Community Fund, where a Term Investment of 12 months will earn 5.35%. Visit cdf.org.au or call 1800 134 135.

CONGRATULATIONS!: Congratulations, prayers and blessings from us all to the children, and their families, who are presenting themselves at Mass this weekend. They are beginning their preparation to receive their First Communion and seek the prayerful support of us all.

WHEN GOD'S LAITY ARE CALLED TO LEAD LITURGY:

A training workshop for parishioners was offered at St Joseph's, Warragul last weekend. About 25 parishioners from Moe, Trafalgar, Warragul and Drouin parishes were present. Bro Tony Clark FMS, of the Diocesan Pastoral Life and Mission Office, and Mrs Anne Taylor, of the Catholic Education Office, led the day. Those present were many who are willing to be 'Lay Leaders of Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion' when there is no Mass in a parish, or local church, on any given weekend, or longer periods of time.

It was noted that one of the important shifts that is happening in our era is for the clergy to evolve a little from being the primary providers of ministry in the parish to being the formers, enablers and encouragers of ministry in the parish.

Given the contemporary emphasis now on the co-responsibility of all the faithful, the laity's gifts and the baptismal call of each one, supporting lay leadership is not simply a practical response to fewer clergy – more importantly, it is a theological, church response to the vocation of all God's people.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA):

Sometimes we meet people who want to find out more about the Catholic church or faith, even interested to become a Catholic? Sometimes it's people who are engaged to, or married to, a Catholic, or have Catholic children, or un-Baptised children, who raise such topics. They might have involvement in the Catholic parish or the school. Some people are simply looking for a friendly place to learn more about faith in the Catholic church?

Often, the RCIA is the best process for people to find out more about faith or life in the church, to ask important questions about life or death; or meet others who are thinking similarly or searching for a Christian community to which they could truly belong.

The RCIA is about sharing the Good news of Jesus; coming to understand more the faith and beliefs of the Catholic church; sharing a journey with others who would like to know God better or even come to love the Lord; learning to make their life more Christian or discovering that to come to faith in Jesus is life changing. Sometimes people have been thinking about coming back to the practice of faith, but are not sure how? Some might just want some more information. If any of this interests you, or someone you know, then the next RCIA 'season' might be just what someone needs. An RCIA Information night for the local parishes is planned for Wednesday 29th July at 7.30pm in the Marian Room at St. Joseph's Church. If anyone in our parish is interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith, they are very welcome to come along to this evening. If it's someone you know, you might offer to bring them along.

FINANCE REPORT: Last weekend: Planned Giving: \$810.00; House Collection: \$370.50. Peter's pence appeal: \$467.00.

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: July Roster:

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

LITURGY ROSTER:

GREETER - COMMENTATOR:

19.7	T	Heaven	Y	Bryan
26.7	T	Elly	Y	Elisabeth
2.8	T	Judith	Y	Bryan

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

19.7	T	Flowerlet	Y	Cynthia
26.7	T	Lucy	Y	Mick
2.8	T	Glenda	Y	Karen

Scripture Readings taken from the Roman Missal Lectionary
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