

St. John's Parish

**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
YEAR A**

6th September 2026

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.

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

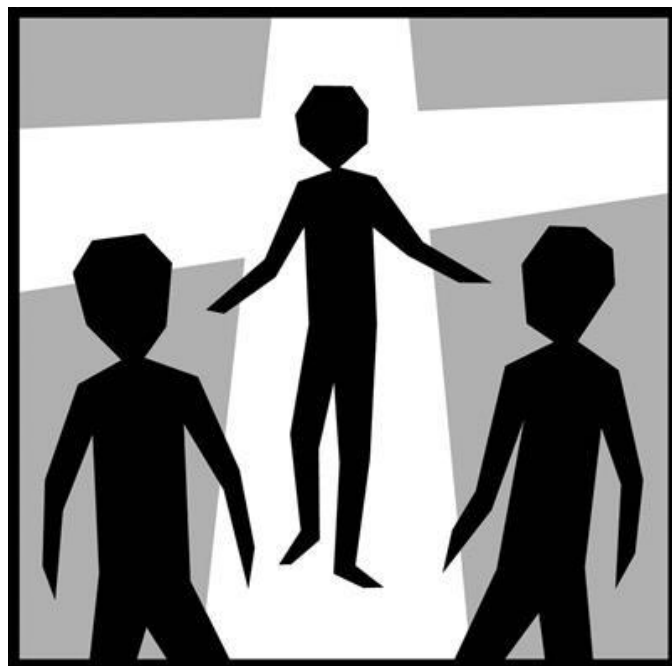
THIS WEEK'S LITURGY TIMES:

Monday	7.9:	
Tuesday	8.9:	- 10:00am St John's
Wednesday	9.9:	- 10:00am St John's
Thursday	10.9:	-
Friday	11.9:	- 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.

OUR PARISH CODE OF CONDUCT: Central to the mission of St. John's Parish, Trafalgar, including the St. Jarlath's community, Yarragon, and all our towns and districts, is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults; 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, an heir to the Kingdom of God; and has a right to be respected and treated accordingly.



POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER:

For The Care Of Water: Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

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.

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.'

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

CELEBRANT: Dear friends, gathered in Jesus' name and standing with confidence before God, let us pray for the world.

READER: We pray thankfully for all who are shining examples of neighbourly love. May they inspire us to be as generous of heart. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for fathers, grandfathers, step-fathers and all father-figures. May this Fathers' Day be marked with great joy and affection, and where needed, with forgiveness. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the members of international courts of justice. May they fulfil their purpose of bringing war criminals to account and making the world a safer place. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for volunteers who teach prisoners to read. May this week's International Literacy Day (8/9) reaffirm everyone's right to acquire this vital life skill. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray in thanks for all Australia's natural blessings. May our National Threatened Species Day (7/9) strengthen our resolve to protect our living treasures. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for school and college principals. May they fulfil their weighty responsibilities with integrity and find their role of leadership deeply satisfying. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who have died recently; and those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May they be welcomed into the fellowship of the saints. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

CELEBRANT: Holy God and Father of all, you call us to be a family of love. Free us from fear and hate and draw us together as one. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A REFLECTION: Two brothers work a family farm, sharing produce and profit. One is married, the other isn't. One day the single brother says: "It's not fair that we share equally. I'm alone, but my brother has a family to support." So at night he takes a sack of grain from his bin, creeps across the field between their houses, and dumps it in his brother's bin. Meanwhile, his brother thinks similarly, and says: "It's not right we share things equally. I have a family whereas my brother is all alone." So at night he takes some of his grain and quietly drops it into his brother's bin. This goes on for several years ... each puzzled how his supply never dwindles. One night they bump into each other in the dark. When they realise what has been happening, they drop the sacks and embrace each other. Suddenly, a voice from heaven says: "Here I will build my temple. For where people meet in love, there my presence shall dwell".

SEASON OF CREATION: CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME: Join the Diocese online to better understand what Pope Francis called "Integral Ecology," and to explore how, as people of faith, we are called to care for the Earth—our common home—in practical ways, as both a spiritual and ethical responsibility.

Presenter: Fr Jeff Kleynjans (PP at St Patrick's, Pakenham)

Date: Wednesday, 16th September 2026; 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Venue: Online. Registration: tinyurl.com/4tx834yp

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.

WE REMEMBER: We pray for those who have died recently; and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time including: Mary Turra, Peter O'Connell, Nicola Pisa.

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 Beverley Featonby, 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)

THE NEPAL FLOODS: Caritas Australia teams, among with many others, are on the ground assessing the scale of the disastrous Nepalese floods and how to respond. It is expected that the needs will most likely include: emergency shelter and essential items, access to clean water and sanitation, access to food; and immediate and long-term recovery. If you are able to support Caritas Australia's Nepal Floods Appeal, please visit www.caritas.org.au/nepal.

Let us pray:

Loving God,

*Be close to all those caught in the devastation
of the floods in Nepal and Tibet.*

*Comfort those who have lost loved ones,
strengthen those waiting anxiously for news,
and guide rescuers and emergency workers
as they search for survivors.*

*Give courage to displaced families and compassion to communities
offering shelter, food and care.*

*May those who are missing be found,
and may those who mourn know they are not alone.*

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

Amen.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL NEWS: Following our First Holy Communion celebration last weekend, the candidates enjoyed a special celebration back at school. Students had lots of fun making and decorating cupcakes, complete with chocolate crosses and gold chalices, to mark this important milestone in their faith journey.

On Thursday, clergy and principals from across the Diocese gathered for a Formation Day. It was a productive opportunity to share our cluster action plans and continue working together to strengthen Catholic education and faith formation.

Also on Thursday, our wonderful Parents & Friends Association hosted a Father's Day Stall, giving students the opportunity to purchase a special gift for their dads and father figures.

We wish all fathers, grandfathers and special men in our community a very happy Father's Day this Sunday. God bless!

Mrs Trish Mulqueen, Principal.

TELL THE CHURCH!: The idea of bringing a 'sinner' or offender before the church community to be confronted is one that the early Christians borrowed from the Jewish culture out of which they were formed. In Jewish society, the local synagogue was effectively a community centre. It was a gathering place, not only for worship and education, but also for meeting, debating and seeking solutions to problems. The synagogue community took on the role of mediator, witness, jury, judge and, if needed, punisher. The role of the scribes in Jewish society was to interpret the Law – the Torah – in resolving everyday situations.

FACING THE ISSUE!: It can be very difficult when we feel that someone has hurt us to actually go and speak to them about how we are feeling. It is so much easier to revel in our hurt or seek payback for the hurt. Sometimes we feel that we might ruin a friendship by speaking to our friend about a way in which they have hurt us. But a hurt that goes unaddressed will continue to hurt and will probably be repeated. This week's gospel reminds us of the need to challenge our friends when they hurt us but it also reminds us that when we have hurt others we need to be challenged about it and called to account for our actions.

SAINT SHOWED THAT PRAYER AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

INSEPARABLE: POPE: Pope Leo has encouraged members of the Society of St Vincent de Paul to follow its namesake's example by witnessing to their faith through service to the poor. "St Vincent de Paul demonstrated that prayer and social justice are not merely complementary but, in fact, are inseparable," the Pope said during a meeting on Friday with a delegation representing the society's United States branch at the Vatican.

"It is therefore my hope that you will continually turn to your heavenly patron in order to follow his example and seek his intercession," he said. Founded in 1883 by Antoine Frédéric Ozanam, the lay organisation is dedicated to serving the poor and the marginalised and was inspired by the example of St. Vincent de Paul, the 17th-century French priest who was declared the patron saint of charitable associations by Pope Leo XIII in 1885.

Welcoming the delegation, Leo expressed his gratitude for their service and his hope that their visit to Rome would "strengthen your faith and deepen your desire to serve the Lord and his Church." "I thank you in particular for your devoted service to the Society of St Vincent de Paul, and through it, to your brothers and sisters across the United States of America," the Pope said.

"Indeed, by freely offering your God-given gifts and talents, you give eloquent witness to your faith in service to the building up of the Kingdom of God."

Recalling his apostolic exhortation on love for the poor, *Dilexi Te* ("I have loved you"), the Pope reflected on St Augustine's teachings on the "Christocentric nature of care for the poor" and on God's generosity toward "those who serve them".

When motivated by love, he noted, caring for others "not only helps those in need, but also opens the heart of the giver to God's grace".

"Dear friends, I urge you, then, always to give of yourselves," Leo said.

"In this way, the Lord's grace will steadily purify your hearts and minds, and you will more readily recognise Christ in your neighbour, both in those you serve and in those with whom you work."

STUDENTS RETURN AS HOLY FAMILY PARISH IN GAZA REOPENS SCHOOL:

Students in Gaza are returning to a vastly different reality as the school at Holy Family Parish reopens for the first time since the start of Israel's military campaign.

For Auxiliary Bishop William Shomali, patriarchal vicar for Jerusalem and Palestine, the resumption of classes at the parish compound offers a small but significant step toward normalcy for dozens of children living amid ongoing conflict and destruction.

"Reopening the school is itself a form of care," Bishop Shomali said. "The situation in Gaza remains far from normal – the conflict is ongoing, and we would not suggest otherwise. But precisely within that reality, giving children a safe place with familiar routines and trusted teachers offers them something dependable to hold onto for a few hours each day."

This month, the school at the only Catholic parish in Gaza will welcome approximately 1000 students at the start of the school year, with 180 enrolled in the patriarchate's kindergarten and the remaining 820 in the primary school, Bishop Shomali noted.

His focus on the importance of reopening echoed a pastoral letter published on August 26 by Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, to mark the start of the academic year. In the letter, Cardinal Pizzaballa noted that "in some parts of the Holy Land, returning to school can no longer be taken for granted".

"There are children whose classrooms no longer stand and communities in which the joy of a new school year is overshadowed by death, displacement and destruction," the cardinal wrote. "Our Christian schools are far more than educational institutions. They are a cornerstone of the Christian presence in the Holy Land. They also welcome many students and families from different religious traditions and educate generations in coexistence, mutual respect and acceptance of the other."

According to an August 24 report by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, more than 73,000 people, including 21,283 children, have died in Gaza.

The report added that about 1.98 million people – about 94 per cent of the population – are displaced, while an estimated 637,475 school-age children lack sustained access to formal education.

A PRAYER FOR THE FATHERS IN OUR LIVES

We give our thanks, Creator God,

for the fathers in our lives.

Fatherhood does not come with a manual,
and reality teaches us that fathers excel,
though not all do.

We ask for Your blessings for them all
and forgiveness where it is needed.

This Father's Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make
for their children and families,

and the ways--both big and small--they lift children
to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

So too, we remember all those who have helped fill
the void when fathers leave us early or are absent;
grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins,
teachers, pastors and coaches
and the women of our families.

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom
and humility in the face of the task of parenting.

Give them the strength to do well
by their children and by You.

In Your Holy name, O God, we pray.
Amen.

FATHER'S DAY APPEAL FOR THE PRIESTS' WELFARE

FOUNDATION OF THE DIOCESE OF SALE: This weekend, Fathers' Day, parishes are asked to support a special collection for the Priests' Welfare Foundation of the Diocese. We have missed the boat for the collection this weekend, but we might have a leaving collection after Mass next weekend (12/13th of September). Proceeds go towards the support of the sick or retired priests and deacons in our diocese and the overseas priests in time of sickness. All donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible. If you require a receipt for taxation purposes, please put your name and address clearly on the special envelope and a receipt will be issued in due course. Online donations can now be made at <https://www.cdsale.org.au/priestswelfarefoundation>.

NAVIGATING THE UNSEEN – WOMEN LEADING WITH RESILIENCE:

A Diocesan Women's Gathering. The Catholic Diocese of Sale invites all women to an evening dinner and talk celebrating the strength, resilience, and expanding horizons of women in the life and mission of the Catholic Church. The keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Kim Daniels, Director of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University and advisor to the Vatican Dicastery for Communication. Date: October 14th at 7:00 PM, at St. Patrick's Parish Hall, Pakenham. Cost: \$30 per person (includes dinner and soft drinks) Bookings: Tickets are essential. Please register by October 4th via trybooking.com/DOZKU

FINANCE REPORT: Last weekend: Planned Giving: \$465.00; House Collection: \$680.45. 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: September Roster:
Cleaning: Glenys and Julianne; 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:

6.9	T	Lucy	Y	Elisabeth
13.9	T	Yvonne	Y	Bryan
20.9	T	Judith	Y	Gina
27.9	T	Heaven	Y	Maree

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

6.9	T	Taryn	Y	Rosie
13.9	T	Genevieve	Y	Karen
20.9	T	Chris	Y	Lyn
27.9	T	Flowerlet	Y	Ken

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

You are just, O Lord, and your judgment is right, treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

FIRST READING:

(Ezekiel 33:7-9)

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

from Ps 94

Oh that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we the people
who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

SECOND READING:

(Romans 13:8-10)

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation
he has entrusted to us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

(Matthew 18:15-20)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.'

I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION:

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.*



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

ST JARLATH'S NEWS: Prayer Group: The Prayer Group will meet again tomorrow, Monday, Sept 7th 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.