

St. John's Parish

**29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
YEAR A**

18th October 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	19.10:	
Tuesday	20.10:	- 10:00am St John's
Wednesday	21.10:	- 10:00am St John's
Thursday	22.10:	-
Friday	23.10:	- 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 OCTOBER:

For mental health ministry: Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

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, Jesus directs us to the rightful claims of both human and divine authority. Let us pray for the wisdom to respond to them freely.

READER: We pray for everyone entrusted with secular or spiritual authority. May they exercise that authority with integrity, justice and love. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the many and varied communities of Christian believers. May today's World Mission Sunday encourage them to be 'one in Christ and united in mission'. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the poorest peoples on earth who have the most to lose from a warmer planet. May their cry for climate justice be heard and heeded. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the leaders of states where the death penalty still stands. May they move to abolish it without delay. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for Pope Leo, that he has all the medical care and support he needs for a return to good health. And we pray also for all seeking medical help at present. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May their faith, hope and love flourish for ever in the house of God. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

CELEBRANT: God of glory and power, you rule the world with unfailing justice. Free us from fear and keep us close to the Just One, Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, for ever and ever.

A REFLECTION: Adolf Eichmann was responsible for the deaths of millions of Jews in Hitler's concentration camps. Yet when he was brought to trial, he absolved himself from all personal responsibility by claiming he was merely carrying out orders. But he was deceiving himself. We are all responsible for what we do, even though we may try to hide behind others. Eichmann has legions of followers today. Millions sell their souls, if not to an individual, then to a party, or company, or institution. Yet, if in the course of so-called duty, people lose themselves and their souls, whatever they do or achieve is worthless. If only every Christian could say what Thomas Merton said: "I die the King's good servant, but God's first."

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 5.45%. Visit cdf.org.au or call 1800 134 135.

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF ST TERESA OF AVILA: October 15th marked the feast of St Teresa of Avila (1515 -1582). A famous quote by Saint Teresa is her prayer about trusting God through trials:

*"Let nothing disturb you, nothing frighten you,
all things are passing, God is unchanging.
Patience gains all;
nothing is lacking to those who have God:
God alone is sufficient."*

Also well known is the story of Teresa on one of her many journeys across Spain. It illustrates the intimate relationship that the saints have with God. One day, her horse threw her into the river she was crossing. Soaked to the skin she looked up to heaven and said, "If this is how you treat your friends, no wonder you have so few of them!"

WE REMEMBER: We pray for those who have died recently especially; and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time including: Jack Lawless, Nell Powell, Mary Kilday, Violet Gridley, Frank Staberhofer, Johanna Bramberger, John Turra, Barbara Mehan, Domenico "Primo" Faoro, Maria Faoro, Marie Turner.

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 Pope Leo, 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)

BAPTISM WELCOME: This weekend at St Jarlath's, we welcome the Bain family to celebrate the baptisms of Isaac, Thomas and Luke. Congratulations to the family from us all.

Jared and Jennifer, you have asked to have your children baptised. It will be your duty to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking? (Rite of Baptism)

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL NEWS: This week at St Joseph's School, we thanked our Group 3 Mini Vinnies leaders for their wonderful service and welcomed Group 4, our final group for the year. They are already eager to explore ways to support St Vincent de Paul and those in need in our parish and local community as we approach Christmas.

We are also continuing our focus on Mission, encouraging students to live out the Gospel through kindness, service, and compassion. Our Mini Vinnies groups are a wonderful example of this mission in action as we move towards the Christmas season.

Mrs Katie Balfour, Acting Principal.

IT'S A SIMPLE QUESTION!: This weekend's gospel passage is sometimes interpreted as Jesus' endorsement of the Christian responsibility to state authorities. It has been interpreted as affirming the obligation to pay taxes and participate in the processes of government. In fact, Jesus neatly avoided the direct question put to him and never gave a response to the question of paying taxes. Rather, he made the question a much broader one and reminded people that their first obligation was to God, not the state. It is an excellent example of the need for critical interpretation of scripture. A simple, literal reading of this text leads us to drawing simple, literal conclusions about whether or not we should be paying taxes.

WHAT'S IN A FACE?: The question of coinage was a problematic one for first century Jews. The tradition – grounded in the commandments given to Moses on Mt Sinai – forbade the use of 'graven' or carved images. The people of Israel took this prohibition very seriously and did not portray the human face in artwork of any kind. Roman coins were minted with the face of the emperor on them and it was compulsory that taxes be paid with Roman coin. This helps to explain the role of the Temple money-changers who converted the Roman coin into Temple coin that could be used for religious purposes.

JESUS AND THE PHARISEES: The gospel of Matthew tends to treat the Pharisees rather harshly. In fact they had more in common with Jesus' style of teaching than other religious groups of the time and some have suggested that Jesus may even have been quite closely associated with the Pharisees. The role of the Pharisees was to interpret the Torah – the Law – for everyday people. They were teachers and preachers who often had a group of disciples who were their followers. The community in which the gospel of Matthew was written regarded the Pharisees harshly because they saw Jesus – not the Pharisees – as the rightful interpreter of the Law.

CATHOLIC MISSION SUNDAY: *One In Christ – United In Mission* is the theme of this year's 100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday. This year we will meet Yamikani, for whom getting to school means walking long distances in pain, often without enough food or strength to make the journey. For many families in vulnerable and remote areas like rural Malawi, education has become an impossible choice.

But there is hope. Led by Fr Matthew Semba, a new primary school is being built, offering children a safe place to learn, grow, and look ahead with renewed possibility. This World Mission Month, you are invited to share in this mission, standing with families as they rebuild their lives and create a brighter future for their children. For more information: Freecall: 1800 257 296; or visit: catholicmission.org.au

We will have a leaving collection this weekend to support this important work. Envelopes are available.

POPE RECOVERING WELL IN HOSPITAL, RESUMES WORK:

Pope Leo met with a top aide yesterday and resumed working from hospital, as doctors reported his lung had recovered well from surgery to remove a cancerous nodule.

Pope Leo's post-operative tests remained within normal levels and his physiotherapy session yesterday involved full mobility exercises, with the Pope going about his daily activities independently, said the update his personal doctor, Luigi Carbone, and the head of thoracic surgery at Gemelli hospital, Stefano Margaritora. "The chest X-ray revealed good recovery of the operated lung," they reported. "Overall, his postoperative recovery is proceeding as expected."

Separately, the Vatican said Pope Leo had received the Vatican chief of staff, or "substitute", Archbishop Paolo Rudelli, and had resumed working from the hospital. Archbishop Rudelli handles much of the day-to-day administrative work of the Holy See.

For a second day, Pope Leo celebrated Mass with other priests in a special chapel set up near his room on the 10th floor of the hospital, spokesman Matteo Bruni said.

The 71-year-old Pope had the lower right lobe of his right lung removed on Tuesday after doctors identified a suspected cancerous nodule. The surgery confirmed he had adenocarcinoma, the most common type of lung cancer. Doctors are still awaiting the results of tests to understand the precise molecular makeup of the cancer, whether it has spread beyond the lobe and whether any further treatment is necessary.

Asked if any changes to Pope Leo's planned trip to South America from November 6-17 were expected, Mr Bruni pointed to Pope Leo's words on Sunday when he announced the discovery of the nodule and impending surgery. "Thank you for your prayers for the pastoral visit I will make to Peru," Pope Leo said Sunday in Spanish, in a greeting delivered to a Peruvian group. The trip is also scheduled to include stops in Uruguay and Argentina. Pope Leo is expected to remain hospitalised until at least October 20th.

Meanwhile, well wishes continue to pour in for the Pontiff, including from Australian Catholic Bishops Conference President Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB on behalf of Australia's bishops. "The bishops of Australia, together with our people, are united in our concern for you and in our desire to accompany you with our prayerful support as you confront the challenges ahead, following your recent surgery," Archbishop Costelloe wrote in a letter to Pope Leo.

"There are very few families who do not know of the uncertainty and worry which accompanies a diagnosis of cancer for a loved one. "At such times people of faith turn to prayer, seeking the gifts of courage, hope and healing for the one who is sick. You are the father of our Catholic family, our Holy Father, and we in Australia are praying in hope that the Lord, who loves each of his children dearly, will grant you these same gifts: courage, hope and healing."

OUR COLUMBARIUM: Our parish Columbarium, beside St John's church, is a sacred space for keeping the ashes of loved ones whose bodies have been cremated. Information is held at the parish office about the use of, and cost of, reserving a niche in the Columbarium. There is a prayerful Catholic rite to accompany the placing of ashes.

RESEARCH ON MASS ATTENDANCE SHOWS ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS:

New research challenges assumptions about Catholics absent from Sunday Mass, revealing enduring faith, prayer and identity — presenting the Church with an opportunity to reconnect through hospitality, formation and missionary outreach, Daniel Ang writes.

The National Centre for Pastoral Research (NCPR) has recently completed one of the most significant studies in years on Catholics who do not attend weekly Mass. Its most hopeful finding is that irregular attendance does not necessarily mean the loss of faith or Catholic identity. Many participants remain connected to their faith through prayer, belief, family life and other Catholic relationships, even while they are absent from Sunday Eucharist.

The study sought to understand why many Catholics no longer come to Sunday Eucharist, how they continue to engage with the Church in other ways, what they believe (especially about the Eucharist), and what this means for the Church's mission today.

I had the privilege of being involved in the development of the project, led by the Director of the NCPR, Dr Trudy Dantis, alongside Dr Stephen Reid and research assistant Leith Dudfield. It offered a vantage point from which to witness the depth, honesty, and often unexpected hope contained in the voices of Catholics who, though absent from our pews, continue to pray, retain a Catholic identity and find faith carrying weight in their lives.

They continue to hold, question, and navigate this pull on their lives in diverse and revealing ways. As affirmed by our Catholic faith, the Mass is not simply one practice among many but the wellspring from which the Church draws her very life. In the Eucharist, the Church receives anew the gift of Christ's self-offering, the mystery in which time and eternity meet, and the faithful are drawn into communion with the Lord who makes Himself present in sacrificial love.

It is therefore a profound concern that participation in this weekly celebration of the Paschal Mystery has been steadily declining in Australia for decades. Yet there are also signs of hope: pockets of renewed engagement, creative forms of parish life and initiatives of evangelisation, and a noticeable growth in the number of new converts joining the Church at rates not seen for some years.

Even so, these encouraging developments exist alongside a broader reality — overall, a significant portion of Catholics in Australia are deprioritising, negotiating, or still weighing their faith outside the structures of weekly Mass and traditional parish engagement.

Many pastoral efforts have struggled to stem this broader trend. While the formation and support of those already present in our pews remain essential, greater attention must also be given to those who still identify as Catholic but no longer attend regularly.

Daniel Ang is the Director of the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation and is a member of the Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research that advises the National Centre for Pastoral Research.

FINANCE REPORT: Last weekend's collection: Planned Giving: \$330.00; House Collection: \$579.45. Many 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: October:

Cleaning: Hank and Gail; Altar Linen: Elly

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

LITURGY ROSTER: October Roster

GREETER - COMMENTATOR:

18.10	T	Noreen	Y	Elisabeth
25.10	T	Glenys	Y	Bryan
1.11	T	Yvonne	Y	Gina

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

18.10	T	St Joseph's	Y	Rosie
25.10	T	Elio	Y	Karen
1.11	T	Gail	Y	Lyn

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.*

FIRST READING: (Isaiah 45:1, 4-6)

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.
The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (from Ps 95)

Give the Lord glory and honour.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens.

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts.

Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness.

Give the Lord glory and honour.

SECOND READING: (1 Thessalonians 1:1-5)

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonica which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: (Matthew 22:15-21)

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'
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: *Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.*

