

St. John's Parish

**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
YEAR A**

25th 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	26.10:		
Tuesday	27.10:	- 10:00am	St John's
Wednesday	28.10:	- 10:00am	St John's
Thursday	29.10:	-	
Friday	30.10:	- 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 gives us the Law and the Prophets in the twofold commandment of love. With love we pray to God for our neighbour and ourselves.

READER: We pray for Pope Leo. May he be blessed with the health and strength he needs to lead the church. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for Christian communities in places of hate, division and hurt. May they be a clear example of faith and love, like the Thessalonians of old. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the diverse peoples of the Horn of Africa displaced by war, drought and famine. May their hopes for peace, and their desperate need for aid, be met in full. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for teachers in every place of education. May this week's observance of World Teachers Day honour their service and bless them in their calling. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for older people feeling lonely and isolated. May family members, friends and neighbours surround them with love. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May they praise God, their rock and saviour, for ever. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

CELEBRANT: Just and merciful God, you call us day by day to a life of boundless love. Deepen our heart's desire to love as Jesus loved. We ask this through him, your Son, our Lord, for ever and ever.

A REFLECTION: Even the scantiest reading of the Gospels will show us that Jesus was a man of faith. His life, in fact, had no meaning without reference to God. Often we see how at the end of a busy day he escapes to a lonely place to pray. The whole purpose of Jesus' life was to worship God and serve people. There is no contradiction in this, for Jesus speaks of two great commandments. Firstly we should love God, and secondly we should love our neighbour. Jesus did not say these were the same thing. Rather, they are like two sides of the one coin. If we want the whole Gospel we must have both. Jesus himself has shown us how to do this.

CATHOLIC MISSION SUNDAY - THANKYOU: *One In Christ – United In Mission* was the theme of this year's 100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday. Thanks to everyone who so generously supported this appeal. If anyone missed last week's special collection and would like to assist the Missions Appeal, please do so soon, then we can forward the proceeds to the Diocesan office for forwarding to the Catholic Missions organization. For more information: Freecall: 1800 257 296; or visit: catholicmission.org.au

COLUMBAN CALENDARS: The 2027 Columban calendars will be available from next weekend. The recommended price is \$10.

PRESENCE – AN ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS REFLECTION BOOKLET: These beautifully presented booklets are designed to assist people on their journey from Advent, through Christmas to the Baptism of the Lord (11/1/27). Features include: daily scripture passages, sacred artworks, prayers and reflections. These will be available next weekend and \$5.00 is asked per copy.

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.

WE REMEMBER: We pray for those who have died recently including Beverley Featonby, Maria Wans; and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time including: Don Fennell, *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, 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 Scott and Karina Kelly who are preparing for the sacrament of Baptism of Anna Jacqueline. Congratulations to the family from us all.

Scott and Karina, you have asked to have your child baptised. It will be your duty to bring her 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: On Tuesday, we held the first of three Parent Network Gatherings at St Joseph's School for Term Four. These gatherings offer an important opportunity for parents to connect, support one another and build relationships in a relaxed, welcoming environment. We always begin with a cuppa and a homemade treat, creating a space where parents can feel comfortable and at ease.

This week, we welcomed a guest speaker from The Orange Door, who shared with us the wide range of services they provide. Many of us had thought their work was only for families in crisis, but we learned that it is much broader, promoting child wellbeing, safety, stability and connection.

Family life is precious, and we value every family who walks through the doors of St Joseph's. As a faith community, we believe in walking alongside one another with compassion and hope. Through these gatherings, we are intentionally supporting families to build positive skills and raise confident, capable children in warm and loving ways. Mrs Katie Balfour, Acting Principal.

LIVING THE GOSPEL – COMPASSION: Jesus' words call us to love our neighbour as ourselves. We are called to treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves. To be able to do this, we need to picture ourselves in their place – experiencing all that they are experiencing; not imposing our own values and circumstances. To see ourselves in the place of another is the key to responding with compassion. The origin of the word 'compassion' means experiencing with. If we are able to truly 'experience with' another person perhaps then we can genuinely recognise and respond to their needs.

175 YEARS OF FAITH & HERITAGE IN YARRAM – YOU'RE

INVITED! Join the Catholic Parish of Yarram in celebrating 175 years of Catholic life across Gippsland. Bishop Greg Bennet will join Fr Darren Howie and diocesan clergy to celebrate a special Anniversary Mass at 11:00 am on Sunday, 15th November 2026 at St Mary's Catholic Church, Commercial Road, Yarram.

Following Mass, all are welcome in the St Mary MacKillop Hall for light refreshments, a brief local history talk, an exhibition of historical memorabilia, and school tours. RSVP: to Sue Benc at: suebenc57@gmail.com with any dietary requirements.

More Details: <https://tinyurl.com/5n77pu6y>

GOSPEL FOCUS – LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF:

There is an implicit, or understood, commandment within the command to love your neighbour as yourself. That is, we must first love ourselves. Whilst to say someone 'loves themselves' is used as a criticism of a person who is a bit too vain, that is not what is intended here. If we are to love others as we love ourselves we must first be content and happy with who we are. It is only when we are comfortable with who we are that we are able to reach out to those around us with compassion.

VATICAN CONFIRMS POPE NEEDS NO FURTHER TREATMENT:

Pope Leo will not need further treatment following his lung cancer surgery last week, the Vatican confirmed earlier this week. The Vatican Press Office issued a statement on Wednesday on Pope Leo's recovery following his October 13th surgery, confirming that no further treatment is necessary.

The brief statement provided the significant update on the Pope's postoperative condition. "Dr. Luigi Carbone and Professor Stefano Margaritora report the following regarding the Pope's post-operative recovery: Today, the final histological examinations and molecular biology tests on the tissue removed during the Holy Father's surgery were completed," the statement said.

"The results confirmed that it was pulmonary adenocarcinoma and that the disease was localised. A subsequent oncological assessment confirmed that no further treatment is necessary". The news that Pope Leo will not require additional treatment following his surgery is an announcement that the world had been waiting for.

Pope Leo was discharged from Rome's Gemelli Hospital on October 17th and returned to the Vatican. The following day, he prayed the Angelus from his apartment window and gave an address to people gathered in St Peter's Square. It was during his Angelus address on October 11 that he announced he needed surgery.

Yesterday, he held his first general audience since the operation. Appearing to be in excellent spirits, the Pope was undeterred by the rain in Rome and paraded around St Peter's Square in the pope-mobile.

SEVENHILL CELLARS CELEBRATES 175 YEARS: The first winery in South Australia's Clare Valley celebrated 175 years with its annual long lunch and the release of a shiraz named for the Jesuit winemaker who inspired it. When the St Aloysius Church bell rings it reminds the nearby Sevenhill Cellars winemaking team of the winery's Jesuit history.

Every new vintage is blessed annually, a tradition that grew in popularity during the time of late Jesuit winemaker Br John May SJ AM. Br John was the seventh Jesuit Winemaker at Sevenhill, a position he held from 1972 until his retirement from full-time work in 2003.

Sevenhill was founded by Fr Alois Kranewitter SJ, who arrived in South Australia in 1848 as chaplain to the Weikert group of Silesian migrants fleeing religious persecution in Europe. "From the very beginning, this place has been shaped by courage, patience and hope," said Superior of the Sevenhill Jesuit Mission, Fr Brendan Kelly SJ.

"Those were the words Fr Alois Kranewitter carried with him as he walked the valley in the early days of the mission, and they continue to guide us as we look to the future and the generations still to come."

Sevenhill was named after the Seven Hills of Rome, intended as a centre of Catholic faith in the newly established colony. Over time, the Sevenhill mission expanded to include St Aloysius Church and crypt and Aloysius College, which operated at various times as a boarding school, seminary, Jesuit novitiate and scholasticate, and Jesuit residence. Initially, the wine production was sacramental wine for Catholic communities across South Australia. This, too, is still made today and distributed globally. Sevenhill gradually expanded into table wine as demand and the vineyards grew.

Sevenhill continues as a working not-for-profit winery and a living Jesuit site, with Jesuit priests living and working on the property. They are the custodians of the Clare Valley's oldest vineyard, a pre-1860 Shiraz vineyard that still produces quality fruit.

Sevenhill's Annual Long Lunch was held on October 10 and the winery has released the 2021 Brother John May Reserve Shiraz, in honour of the Jesuit brother who died on August 18, aged 92.

www.sevenhill.com.au

CONNECT WITH THE DIOCESE: Follow the Diocese of Sale on Facebook and Instagram to stay updated on news, events, and spiritual reflections. Like and subscribe at facebook.com/dioceseofsale or find us on Instagram @dioceseofsale to stay connected with our faith community!

A PRAYER FOR HELEN-FOR HEALING AND PEACE

Circle us Lord

Keep peace within, keep violence without
Keep light within, keep darkness without
Keep hope within, keep fear without
Keep love within, keep hatred without
Keep understanding within, keep prejudice without
Keep good within, keep evil out

May we walk in the light of your presence
Be with Helen throughout this day
Be with us all as we wait in hope.

Circle us Lord.

Amen.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL CALLS FOR DECENCY AND CIVILITY AFTER HAINES ATTACK:

Governor-General Sam Mostyn has urged Australians to unite behind a new era of decency and civility following the attack on federal independent MP Helen Haines on Monday.

In a landmark address yesterday, Ms Mostyn said Australians needed to learn how to "disagree well" and to learn or to "re-learn to exercise our muscle of decency", calling on people to work together in the wake of Dr Haines's tragedy.

Speaking before Ms Mostyn, Dr Haines's husband, Phil Haines, drawing on his wife's fighting spirit, detailed how she had lost both legs after she was attacked outside her electorate office on Monday, in one of the worst incidents in Australian political history.

Ms Mostyn urged the nation to embrace an ethical framework that shunned violence and enabled reasonable, productive debate. In what amounted to a call for a more peaceful and civil national conversation, she said the country needed to be able to debate and disagree over important issues, calling on the good nature of people to steer a new path.

"Australians have good hearts, great hearts, and checking each of ourselves to ensure that we are, in fact, disagreeing well, not fighting with one another, not descending into violence and chaos and division," Ms Mostyn said at The Alfred hospital in Melbourne where Dr Haines is recovering. "Most importantly, that we learn or relearn to exercise our muscle of decency."

"Australians are yearning for kindness and care. And they're asking us why we've lost the great skill of disagreeing well and with decency to each other. Our democracy, the great Australian democracy, has always relied on passionate and robust debate." Speaking alongside Dr Haines's husband of 40 years, Ms Mostyn recalled the approach of her predecessors Zelman Cowen and William Deane, and said Australians tended to embrace a spirit of generosity during times of national tragedy.

Her comments followed a chorus of concern among national leaders after Monday's tragedy about Australia's direction in an often angry, post-pandemic, social media-fuelled political landscape. Mr Haines revealed the extent of his wife's injuries, but, he said Dr Haines's two most important parts were her "heart" and her "mind" and the good news was that she was alive and stable.

FINANCE REPORT: Last weekend's collection: Planned Giving: \$545.00; House Collection: \$613.70. Catholic Missions Appeal: \$550.50. 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 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/ November Roster

GREETER - COMMENTATOR:

25.10	T	Glenys	Y	Bryan
1.11	T	Yvonne	Y	Gina
8.11	T	Chris	Y	Karen

MINISTERS OF THE WORD:

25.10	T	Elio	Y	Karen
1.11	T	Gail	Y	Lyn
8.11	T	Judith	Y	Ken

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.*

FIRST READING: (Exodus 22:20-26)

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt, You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: from Ps 17

LEADER: I love you, Lord, my strength. (All)

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.

The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

SECOND READING: (1 Thessalonians 1:5-10)

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
And my Father will love them
and we will come to them.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL: (Matthew 22:34-40)

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

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: *We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.*

