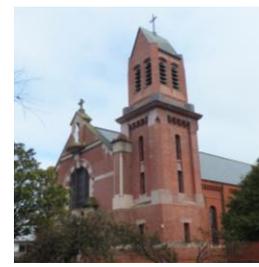




St Michael's Parish, Traralgon
in partnership with
St Mary's Parish, Yarram
and including
St Columbkille's, Glengarry
St Gerard's Woodside



St Michael's Vision Statement : Inspired by Jesus Christ, we are a welcoming Catholic Community seeking to enrich lives. Come and join us!

St Michael's Mission Statement:

To provide opportunities for parishioners –

- to grow in holiness
- to discover and live out their personal and community call to mission to live as Catholics who effectively transform society.

St Mary's Vision Statement: The Council aims to foster and encourage all baptized Catholics to grow in their love of Jesus, their fidelity to the Catholic Church and to reach out to all members of our worldwide community.

St Mary's Mission Statement: To foster and co-ordinate activities that encourage all baptized Catholics to take responsibility for the life and mission of their Church.

Statement of Commitment to the Safety of Children and Vulnerable Adults: Central to the mission of St Michael's and St Mary's Parishes is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children, young people and vulnerable adults and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

St Michael's Parish Information

web: www.smpt.org.au

Fr Bernard Buckley Parish Priest

Fr Prasanna Costa Assistant Priest

Parish Centre 5174 2060

Priests' Residence: 5174 6765

56 Loch Park Road, Traralgon

Sr Doreen Dagge RSJ 5174 9997

Monsignor John Allman

O'Mara House 5174 9674

St Michael's Parish Office 5174 2060

33 Kay Street, Traralgon Fax 5174 2981

Parish Secretary: Mrs Bev O'Brien

Email: sec@smpt.org.au

Office hours –

*The Parish Office will be closed from
December 24th to January 3rd.*

Tuesday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm

Sacraments Admin: Mrs Jenifer Hanratty

Baptisms: Four weeks notice required

Weddings: Six months notice required

Parish Pastoral Council

Susan Grout Chairperson, Fr Bernard, Fr Prasanna, Sr Doreen, Greg Imhagwe, Rose Pearson, Kevin Taylor, Ray Moretti, Rob Tarraran, Jan Fitzpatrick, Ros Joyner, Doug Doherty and Chris DiCorleto.

Our Schools:

St Gabriel's School 5174 5515

Principal: Mrs Roslyn Joyner

St Michael's School 5174 3295

Acting Principal: Miss Jan Fitzpatrick

Lavalla Catholic College 5174 5272

Principal: Mr John Freeman

Kildare Campus 5174 8111

Director: Mr Doug Doherty

St Paul's Campus 5174 7355

Director: Ms Lee McKenzie

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY: "On International Migrants Day, let us commit to coherent, comprehensive and human-rights based responses guided by international law and standards and a shared resolve to leave no one behind." Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General: Message for International Migrants Day.

This year International Migrants Day (18 December) has called for children to be released from detention. It is appropriate that an event held in the shadow of Christmas should advocate for children. For they lie at the heart of Christmas.

Throughout human history, migration has been a courageous expression of the individual's will to overcome adversity and to live a better life. Today, globalization, together with advances in communications and transportation, has greatly increased the number of people who have the desire and the capacity to move to other places.

This new era has created challenges and opportunities for societies throughout the world. It also has served to underscore the clear linkage between migration and development, as well as the opportunities it provides for co-development, that is, the concerted improvement of economic and social conditions at both origin and destination.

Migration draws increasing attention in the world nowadays. Mixed with elements of unforeseeability, emergency, and complexity, the challenges and difficulties of

international migration require enhanced cooperation and collective action among countries and regions. The United Nations is actively playing a catalyst role in this area, with the aim of creating more dialogues and interactions within countries and regions, as well as propelling experience exchange and collaboration opportunities.

To mark this year's International Migrants Day, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is calling on the international community to come together and remember the refugees and migrants who have lost their lives or have disappeared while trying to reach safe harbour after arduous journeys across seas and deserts.

IOM invites people all over the world to hold the first global Candlelight Vigil on December 18 to commemorate the migrants whose lives have been lost this year. Each of them has a name, a story and left their homelands seeking better opportunities and safety for themselves and in many cases for their families - aspirations that all of us strive for.

Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ has written an excellent article (I think) titled *Christmas Blighted By Child Detention Obscenity* in Thursday's issue of the very worthwhile Eureka Street, a daily on-line publication.

Fr BB

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Saturday	6:00pm	St Michael's Traralgon
Sunday	9:30am	St Michael's Traralgon
	10:00am	St Mary's Yarram
	10:00am	St Columbkille's Glengarry
	6:00 pm	St Michael's Traralgon

WEEKDAY LITURGY TIMES

19th December to 24th December

Mon 19	9:30am	Community Liturgy of the Word, St Michael's Mass, Margery Cole Hostel
Tues 20	10:45am	Mass, St Mary's
	11:30am	Mass, St Mary's
Wed 21	10:00am	Mass, St Mary's
	11:30am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Mass,
	12:00pm	St Michael's
	6:00pm	Reconciliation in the first Rite St Michael's
Thu 22	9:30am	Mass, St Michael's
	10:00am	Reconciliation St Michael's
	6:00pm	Reconciliation, St Michael's
Fri 23	9:30am	Mass, St Michael's
	10:00am	Reconciliation St Michael's
	6:00pm	Reconciliation, St Michael's
Sat 24	Christmas Eve	
Sun 25	Christmas Day NB No 6:00pm Mass	

Rosary: Tuesday to Sunday 30 minutes
before Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We remember those who have died recently including Fergus Darmody, Helen Garrigan, John Leslie, Tess O'Connor, Jack Gray and Olga O'Brien and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Virginia Roberts, Vittoria Rigoni, Roberta Lago and Leo Bernard Vaz.

Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

including Adrian Stasinowsky, Pat O'Mara, Robert Hazelman, Alan Douche, Pearce Morgan, Veronica Barter, Tony Tactor, Fr Frank Freeman, Jan Gilmour, Mary O'Brien, Carolyn Gleeson, Barry Felmingham, Gary Donchi, Anna Lapuh, , Louis Janssen, Rita Sweeney, Peter Heron, Mia Coulthard, Father Frank Young, Sarah Parker **and all who seek our prayers**



Christmas Mass Times 2016



Christmas Eve

6:00pm Mass, St Gerard's, Woodside

7:00pm Family Mass, St Michael's

All children of the parish and their families are warmly invited to attend our Christmas Eve Family Mass dressed in shepherd, wise men and angels costumes.

7:30pm Carols singing, Glengarry

8:00pm Mass, St Columbkille's

8:00pm Family Mass, St Mary's

10:30pm Carols singing, St Michael's

11:00pm Mass, St Michael's

Christmas Day

9:30am Mass, St Michael's

10:00am Mass, St Mary's



CHRISTMAS MASSES AROUND THE

DIOCESE: Christmas Mass times in the Diocese of Sale are now available on the Diocesan Website. The link to find out about Christmas Mass times is - <http://www.sale.catholic.org.au/parishes/christmas-masses.html>.

DO IT ANYWAY – A PRAYER:

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies.

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you.

Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight.

Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous.

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten.

Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.

Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.

It was never between you and them anyway.

A version of a prayer said to have been found on a wall in Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta.

BAPTISMS: This week, we welcome for baptism Clay Patrick Cawcutt, son of Ryan and Monique; and Madalyn Samantha Saville, daughter of Mathew and Patricia.

Our congratulations to the families, from us all.

The next meeting for those preparing for Baptism is on **Tuesday 14th February at 7:00pm in the Parish Centre.** Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 for further information.



FROM POPE FRANCIS:



"I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security."

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS: The Bishop of Sale, Bishop Patrick O'Regan has announced the following appointment of priests in the Diocese of Sale.

- Fr Bernard Mahony, parish priest of Pakenham, will retire from parish ministry on January 25th.
- Fr Bernard Buckley will be parish priest of Pakenham from then.
- Fr Prasanna Costa will return to Sri Lanka on January 15th, having completed his two year contract in the Diocese of Sale.
- Fr Francis Otopo will move from Morwell to be PP of Traralgon and Yarram parishes.
- Fr Siju Xavier will move from Bairnsdale to be PP of Morwell and Churchill parishes.
- Fr Dariusz Jablonski will move from Pakenham to be associate pastor at Bairnsdale.
- Fr Antony Rebelo, currently associate pastor at Morwell will move to Cranbourne in that role.
- Fr Saji Valiyaveetil will be associate pastor at the cathedral parish from December 15th and move to that role at Traralgon and Yarram parishes on January 15th.
- Fr Edwin Ogbuka will arrive in Australia soon from Nigeria and will be associate pastor in the Morwell and Churchill parishes.
- Fr Solomon Okeh will also arrive in Australia shortly and will be associate pastor in the Cathedral parish, Sale.

You can see there is plenty of 'movement at the station'. Please pray for all those on the move. And a prayer or two for vocations might be helpful.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: SMY@L

Youth Group would like to thank Parishioners again for your support with our shoebox initiative in 2016. Thanks to all who donated items, money or time to help us out, we greatly appreciate it. Your generosity enabled us to pack and send 60 shoeboxes to children overseas for Christmas, what an achievement! Well done to all the youth and leaders involved – it is a huge undertaking. We are already preparing for next year's effort. In 2017 we will continue to pack and send the shoeboxes and we will be collecting items/money all year round to do this. What is most required for the shoeboxes are small teddy bears (we would love some handmade ones), anyone who can sew or make things; items such as clothing (skirts/shorts), knitted dolls/teddies, material or knitted bags, puppets/soft toys. We also add a small pencil case filled with coloured pencils, grey leads, sharpener & eraser to each box. We put a toothbrush, soap and face washer in each too. Items of clothing such as t-shirts, shorts, pj's, underwear (sizes 10-12). All items need to be fairly small to fit into the shoeboxes. We will welcome any donations throughout the year, please drop them into the Parish office.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers,

SMY@L Youth Leaders

NEW IN OUR PARISHES? CHANGED ADDRESSES? NEED PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES OR

TO UPDATE THE PARISH RECORDS?

Please let us know. You could fill in this form and return it at your convenience – on the plate at Mass, at church or to the parish office. We'll look forward to catching up with you.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

FINANCE MATTERS:

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." MATTHEW 1:24

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may led us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

Weekend December 10 & 11

First Collection \$1239.00
Planned Giving Envelopes \$2849.00

Thank you for your generosity. If you wish to have further information about our Planned Giving programme please contact the Parish Office.

Counters:

Dec 18 Mitchell Team
Dec 25 Burns Team



Rosters for December 25 – The Feast of the Nativity of the Lord

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Music	Sacristan
Saturday 7.00pm	J Dal Pra	C DiCorleto	Volunteers, please ring Julie on 0418 867 153 to let her know you are available	S Frankland	Diamente family	A & M Giddens
Saturday 11.00pm	D Smith	M Noone	Volunteers, please ring Julie on 0418 867 153 to let her know you are available	A Sykes	J Mitchell & S Hemming	L Theissling
Sunday 9.30am	R Diaz	L Van der Velden	Volunteers, please ring Julie on 0418 867 153 to let her know you are available	Ria Tactor	Charismatic Choir	P & L Van der Velden

- **Altar Cleaning:** December 19 Sheila Edgar
- **Church Cleaning:** December Van Berkel Team
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word:** In recess, School holidays
- **Mick's Kitchen:** January 05 May Team
- **Touring Statue of Our Lady:** December 25 J & L Zalesiak
- Please contact the family before you leave the statue to make sure they are home. Thank you.

December 26 A Xuereb
January Limbom Family

For further information regarding roster please contact: Marie Moulton 5174 0938 Email: memou_38@bigpond.com

**Lighting the Advent Candle
for the Fourth Sunday of Advent
"Christ our Light brings about change in us"**

The first candle is the candle of Love. The second candle is the candle of Hope. The third candle is the candle of Joy. The fourth is the candle of Peace. We light a fourth candle because Jesus makes peace between God and us so that we may live in the sight of God's presence.
The candles are now lit.

Penitential Rite:

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you bless us with your love.

Response: Come be with me.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you are the light to the world.

Response: Come be with me.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you are our hope and our joy.

Response: Come be with me.

Celebrant: Let us pray, that we recognize the true peace of Christ.

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, may Christ shine in our lives, showing us the path of peace between God and all people. Amen.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Is 45:8

*Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
And let the clouds rain down the Just One;
Let the earth be opened and bring forth a
Saviour.*

First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23:1-6 R see v7-10

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rom 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 1:23

*Alleluia, alleluia!
A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!*

Gospel

Mt 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Next weeks Readings

First Reading:
Second Reading:
Gospel:

The Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 52:7-10
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18

