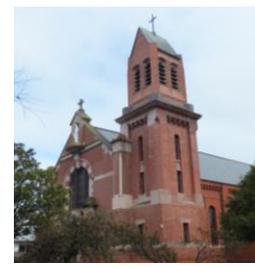


St Michael's Parish, Traralgon
in partnership with
St Mary's Parish, Yarram
and including
St Columbkille's, Glengarry
St Gerard's Woodside



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

Fr Francis Otopo Parish Priest

Fr Saji John 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

web: www.smpt.org.au

Office hours –

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 Francis, Fr Saji, 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

St Paul's Campus 5174 7355

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY

By Mary Coloe PBVM:

1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37

Here Paul is at his paradoxical best. Remember he is arguing against those who want to present the Christian message as an intellectual revelation, an ideology. Greece was the birthplace of Western Philosophy (*Philos*: love; *Sophos*: wisdom) and in Corinth Paul has to deal with this tendency to intellectualise the Gospel. Paul takes up the Corinthians' love of wisdom to show them what true wisdom looks like.

The wisdom Paul offers about Christ is only accessible by those who have reached a level of maturity, and it is not the wisdom of this age – Paul even implies that this is mere childish wisdom. What Paul offers is God's wisdom kept secret till now. What a great way to start an argument! All his listeners would want to consider themselves mature, and would want to be let into a secret that others do not know.

This secret wisdom is known by God's own spirit which plunges the depths of God and can be known only by those who possess God's spirit, not the world's spirit. Paul will say more about this spirit as his letter continues.

Unfortunately, in the liturgy it is really difficult to appreciate the flow and logic of Paul's argument since we only get little snippets of it each week. I recommend you read these first chapters of 1 Corinthians aloud, so you can enter into Paul's argument.

The opening verse of today's Gospel presents a difficulty. Jesus states, 'I have not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets ... till heaven and earth pass away, not one dot, not one little stroke shall disappear from the Law until its goal is achieved.' But then, Jesus goes on to

reinterpret and even change the law. 'You have learned that it was said .. but I say...'. How can we make sense of this apparent contradiction.

Firstly we need to remember that Matthew's community have come to faith through Judaism and so have valued the Law and the Prophets. It would be difficult to present Jesus if this meant completely denying the value of their Jewish traditions. So throughout the Gospel Matthew shows Jesus upholding righteousness and even demanding a greater perfection than the written Torah.

Secondly, we need to understand the phrase, 'till heaven and earth pass away'. Matthew, like other Christians of his time, saw in Jesus the coming of God's reign and the ending of the reign of Satan. In Jesus a new Age was being inaugurated, what is called the Kingdom of God. The ultimate defeat of Satan occurs in Jesus' complete surrender to God in death and God then vindicates Jesus in his resurrection. So Jesus' death marks the end of the old age, the time of Satan's power, and the birth of a new era of the Spirit of God. If you look ahead to Matthew's depiction of the crucifixion (Chapter 27) he describes cosmic upheaval at the moment of Jesus' death. 'The earth shook, rocks split, tombs were opened and the dead raised.' Matthew here describes the moment when 'heaven and earth pass away' and a new creation dawns.

Matthew's community, now living in the post-resurrection new Age of the Spirit are challenged to live the same righteousness of Jesus. The Law and the Prophets have been fulfilled and now the community is to 'obey all that I have commanded you' (Matthew 28:20).

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

13th to 18th February

Mon 13	9:30am	Community Liturgy of the Word, St Michael's
Tues 14	9:30am	Mass, St Michael's
	11:30am	Mass, St Mary's
Wed 15	10:00am	Mass, St Mary's PS
	12:00pm	Mass, St Michael's
Thu 16	9:30am	Mass, St Gabriel's PS
Fri 17	9:30am	Mass, St Michael's
Sat 18	9:30am	Mass, St Michael's

Rosary: Tuesday to Sunday 30 minutes before Mass.

Reconciliation: Saturdays 10:15am & 5:30pm or any time by arrangement with Father.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We remember those who have died recently including Janette Doderico, Margaret Morrison, Les Sands, Des Morissey, Bernice Fehlberg, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Mary McNulty, Josef Lapuh and Ofelia Gomez.

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

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

including Jenny Hansch, Ken Vivian, Antonio Panozzo-Tilé, Marie Howard, Adrian Stasinowsky, Pat O'Mara, Robert Hazelman, Alan Douche, Veronica Barter, Fr Frank Freeman, Mary O'Brien, Carolyn Gleeson, Gary Donchi, Anna Lapuh, Louis Janssen, Rita Sweeney, Peter Heron, Father Frank Young, Sarah Parker **and all who seek our prayers.**



TWEET FROM POPE FRANCIS:

Let us never forget to pray for each other. Prayer is our greatest strength.

WELCOME FR FRANCIS: This weekend we welcome Fr Francis O'tobo to our Parishes, as our Parish Priest. Fr Francis has recently been in Morwell, so will already know some of us. Welcome to your new flock, Fr Francis! Parishioners from St Michael's will have the opportunity to come and meet both Fr Francis & Fr Saji over a cuppa on Sunday February 26 at 4:30pm in the Mary MacKillop Hall. Parishioners are asked to bring a plate of food to share.

WEDDING BELLS:

Congratulations and every blessing to Amy Blanch and Bryce Langford who are being married at St Michael's this weekend. *"May your love be upon us O Lord, as we place our hope in you"* Psalm 32.



Mick's Kitchen: We are looking for a volunteer team to produce the meals on Thursday 9th March. Somehow, we missed that date when the new roster was put together. If anyone is able to help out, please contact Judi Scholtes on 0439 555 994. Thanks!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: The 2017 World Day of Prayer will be celebrated on Friday 3rd March, with two ecumenical services being held in St Michael's Church. All are warmly invited to come.

The first service will be a Youth Service at 10:00am, involving youth from local Christian Schools. The service will be followed by morning tea in the Mary MacKillop Hall.

The second service will be held in the evening at 7:00pm. It will be prepared by folk from the Philippines, and will be followed by a cuppa in the Mary MacKillop Room. Again, all are warmly invited to attend.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING:

Members of the Finance Committee are reminded of the meeting being held on Thursday February 16, at 7:00pm in the Parish Centre.

WELL DONE! A huge vote of thanks to Graham Frankland and all the members of the 'Clean Up Crew' who worked hard at the Presbytery to bring the gardens and the interior of the house into tiptop shape.



Funny Church Signs

- God expects spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
- Moses was once a basket-case too!

BAPTISMS:

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.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: The CPG meets every Thursday evening at 7:30pm in the Mary MacKillop Hall. All are welcome to come and join in! Enquiries to Cathy on 5174 3001

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA):

Please keep in your prayers Melissa Joske, Kelly May, Kylie Chaniotis and Rebecca O'Connor as they continue their journeys of discovering God in their lives. Please also keep the RCIA Team members in your prayers, as they all come to this busy time on the road to Easter.



ST MICHAEL'S MUMS & DADS GROUP: A great place to meet other parents and have some fun with the kids. Come and enjoy fellowship, friendship and food! Term 1 dates are Thursdays February 23, March 09, March 23 from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Any inquiries to Jen Hanratty 5176 1178 or Louise Varsaci 0414 540 296

ST MICHAEL'S YOUTH GROUP:

St. Michael's Youth group is for all young people from **Year 5, 6 & lower secondary levels (from any school)**. SMY@L meet in the Mary MacKillop Hall a few times during school term, and run a variety of activities in a safe, friendly environment with leaders from our Parish Community who all have current Working With Children Checks. We meet on a Friday night.

Participants are signed in and out at the end of each session. Our leaders all have experience in working with young people. Our first meeting this year is on...

FRIDAY 17th FEBRUARY,
(The annual) MESSY & GROSS GAMES NIGHT!

Don't let your friends miss this one!!
Wear old clothes or bring a spare set & a towel! Warning! You WILL get messy! Meet at St. Michael's Mackillop Hall, Kay St, Traralgon. 6.30pm - 8.30pm Cost \$3 - Lucky Door Prize. All Welcome!
Contact Leah 0438 811 709 for info.
Copies of the programme are in the Church foyers.

We are looking for people to assist/lead this vibrant group. For further information about assisting, or any other details, please contact Louise Varsaci on 0414 540 296.

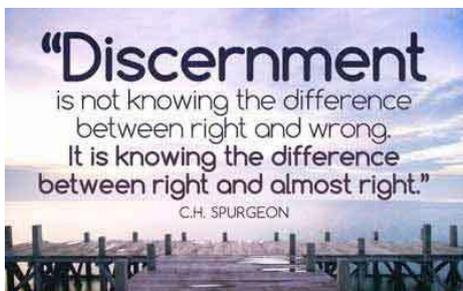
RITE OF ELECTION CHOIR: Parishioners are invited to join a choir for this special celebration which is being held on Sunday 5th March at St Mary's Cathedral, Sale at 3:00pm. Singers and musicians wanted, please call 5622 6687 or email pastoral@sale.catholic.org.au for further information.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND:
Invest in your most precious asset.....Your Marriage!

Forget life's tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together. Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage, allowing you both to share your feelings, hopes and dreams with each other in ways that normal, daily living tends to inhibit. *There is no group sharing. Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.*

2017 Melbourne weekend dates :
24-26 March, 28-30 July, 17-19 November, 2017

Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided.
 Information/Bookings: Ph: Marianne & Marcel (03) 9733 0997
 Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au
 Website: www.wwme.org.au



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES:

St Michael's Passionist Family Groups will be celebrating their 30th Anniversary on Sunday March 5th with a lunch at 12.00pm. It will be a great occasion to gather together and to meet up with present and past members.



PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT VICTORIA/TASMANIA:

Are holding a farewell function for Maree & Bernard Metcalfe to mark their retirement as Directors on Saturday 1st April with Mass at 11.00am at St Francis Xavier Parish Church 86 Mayona Road, Montmorency, followed by a light lunch in the SFX Hall – BYO drinks. Please rsvp by March 17 to Judy & Rob Lewis, pfgm.victas@gmail.com.

LADIES WORSHIP IN SONG: An Inter-denominational afternoon of singing, with a focus on songs of praise and worship. On Saturday 4th March, 2:00-4:00pm in the Traralgon District Baptist Church, 58-62 Kay Street, Traralgon. Entry by donation. For further information, please call 0431 936 653.

All warmly invited to join in.

Next weeks Readings
 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18
 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23
 Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

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:
"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:20

The scribes and Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear – it's the love that you have in your heart that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules out of obligation, not love, does not put you on the path to heaven. Attending Mass on Sunday and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner on the parking lot is an example of a modern day Pharisee.

If you wish to have information about our Planned Giving programme please contact the Parish Office.

Counters:
Feb 12 Armstrong Team
Feb 19 Morris Team

Rosters for February 19 ~ Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time						
Mass	Lector	Commentator	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Music	Sacristan
Saturday 6:00pm	Sr Doreen	D Smith	C DiCorleto, B Power, M Giddens, <i>Volunteer</i>	H Luque	Diamente family	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Sunday 9:30 am	S Grout / N Georgeson	C McCabe	P Carlin, T Denny, J & W Waanders, T & L Panozzo-Tilé	R Benbow, M Blanchard	Charismatic Choir	P & L Van der Velden
Sunday 6:00pm	C Blackford	J Hanrahan	J Reid, Rob Tarraran, D Locke, <i>Volunteer</i>	D Buckland		A O'Neill

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altar Cleaning: February 13 A Xuereb • Church Cleaning: February St Michael's Team • Children's Liturgy of the Word: February 19 Amanda and Josephine • Touring Statue of Our Lady: Feb 12 K & N Fitzsimon <p>Please contact the family before you leave the statue to make sure they are home. Thank you. For further information regarding roster please contact: Marie Moulton 5174 0938 Email: memou_38@bigpond.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lick's Kitchen: Feb 16 Townsend Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 20 L Kennedy March Hanratty Team February 19 Amanda and Josephine Feb 19 K & N Fitzsimon Feb 19 C & C Medhurst Feb 23 Van Berkel Team
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Entrance Antiphon Cf. PS 30:3-4

*Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.*

First Reading Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power.

He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him.

For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man.

He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 118:1-2 4-5 17-18 R v1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. **(R.)**
2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. **(R.)**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. **(R.)**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Cor 2:6-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel Acclamation

See Mt 11:25

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
You have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Mt 5:17-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. 'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'