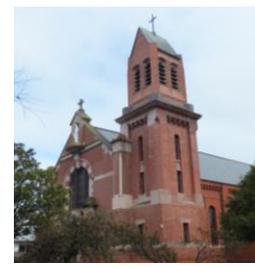


St Michael's Parish, Traralgon
in partnership with
St Mary's Parish, Yarram
and including
St Columbkille's, Glengarry
St Gerard's Woodside



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 Otabo 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 PVBM:

1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

Last week we left the Corinthians in chapter two. This week we have leapt across to chapter three. You can see how difficult it is in the liturgy to develop Paul's line of thought when so much is left out. It would be like watching a football match and moving from the second quarter immediately to the last!

Last week Paul ended by speaking of a true wisdom that can only be given by God, and not by the philosophies of the world. He ends chapter two by saying that those who are unspiritual cannot receive the gifts of God's spirit and remain in foolishness. Then at the start of chapter three he writes crossly to them, calling them unspiritual, mere infants not ready yet to be fed solid food. The reason he speaks this way is that the community is divided into competing factions – as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, you behave according to human inclination – not of the Spirit of God.

He then speaks of the various ministers, Apollos and himself as mere servants with each of them building upon the work of each other. They are not in competition – "I planted and Apollos watered, but only God gives the growth ... laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it." These images lead into the reading today, as Paul describes what it is that is being built.

In the light of Paul's message, today might provide an opportunity to reflect on the teaching of Vatican II that all Christians are called to holiness, that all are created in the image of God and have been gifted with the Spirit of God.

Matthew's Gospel continues Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, where, like Moses, Jesus teaches the community his code of behaviour. What he teaches sounds impossible, but it is what he lived and what some others have also been capable of living. Occasionally, in the midst of terrible wars and atrocities, we hear of people who have been able to rise above their own suffering and rage, to find in themselves the ability, the grace, of forgiveness. Such people speak of being determined not to let others control their lives and that in being able to forgive they find their own integrity and freedom. They become whole.

When Matthew says, 'Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect', I think this means something like being a whole person. The Greek word used here is *'telos'* and it has the sense of completion, of being whole, of having arrived at the end.

With this in mind, Jesus' code of behaviour calls us to be whole people, and this is how we can also be holy people.

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

20th to 25th February

Mon 20	9:30am	Community Liturgy of the Word, St Michael's
Tues 21	9:30am	Mass, St Michael's
	11:30am	Mass, St Mary's
Wed 22	10:00am	Mass, St Mary's
	12:00pm	Mass, St Michael's
Thu 23	9:30am	Mass, St Gabriel's PS
Fri 24	9:30am	Mass, St Michael's
Sat 25	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 Peter Morgan, Janette Doderico, Margaret Morrison and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Gemma Rössl, Graeme Membrey, Tommy and Kathleen Sweeney, Mary McNulty, and Josef Lapuh.

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

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

including Faye Turner, Joyce Martin, 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.**



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.

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!

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL ~

ST MICHAEL'S CONFERENCE: In March this year St Michael's Conference of St Vincent de Paul turns 80! Eighty continuous years of service to the community of Traralgon and surrounds. This makes the Conference the oldest continuous conference in Gippsland. The Conference is made of up 15 full Conference Members and 12 Auxiliary Members.

Our Office is open 5 days a week between 10.30 and 2.30 and we run by appointment. We average 8 to 10 clients seeking help each day. Some days are busier. We also visit families at night taking food parcels to them. We also receive bread 5 nights a week from Bakers Delight to go into food parcels., We are very lucky to receive a great amount of help from the Priests of the Parish.

At Christmas time, we reached out to 164 families with hampers and toys. Again we received tremendous help from Lavalla College and from both the Parish Primary Schools, with donations of food and toys. If anyone in the Parish would like to have further information on our Conference, please call in see us at our Welfare Centre, on the corner of Kay and Breed Streets.

BAPTISMS: This week we welcome for Baptism Kyah Nguyen, daughter of Van and Phan. Congratulations to the family, from us all.



The next meeting for those preparing for Baptism is on **Tuesday 14th March 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.



THANKS!

A BIG thank you to Jamie O'Neill who has patiently worked to fix the brass entry doors to the Church, and to Leigh Theissling for putting some paint on a couple of unpainted patches on the wall. We are fortunate to have many parishioners who give of their time and talents to keep our Church and surrounds in good shape, a veritable 'invisible army'.

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

MORE PARAPROSDOKIANS:

- We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.
- Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?
- Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars but check when you say the paint is wet?
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- You're never too old to learn something stupid.

**Love your enemies
and you won't have any**

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS FOR PARISH VOLUNTEERS:

The Diocese of Sale is committed to building Safe Parishes to protect children and vulnerable adults.

Since 2005, the Diocese of Sale has adhered to the Working with Children Act (2005) and desires earnestly to provide child-safe environments in our Diocese and parishes. With the introduction of the Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safety Standards) Act 2015, the Diocese of Sale continues to be committed to the protection of children and vulnerable adults and will be implementing the new Victorian Child Safe Standards.

As part of this Bishop O'Regan asks that ALL volunteers in parishes are to provide a current Working with Children Check (or current Victorian Institute of Teaching Registration) to continue with their work. Volunteers are defined as parishioners involved in parish ministries (e.g. Special Ministers, Readers/Commentators; Church Cleaners; Parish Visitors; Sacramental Teams, Music Groups, Maintenance workers, Money collectors/counters, etc).

This is a step in the implementation of the Child Safety Standards across the Diocese of Sale; more will follow in coming months. We are also pleased to announce the appointment of a Diocesan Professional Standards Officer, Mr Paul Munday. Mr Munday will work with our parishes in coming months.

Parishioners will need to go to the Working With Children Check website (www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au). If the internet is not available to you, please call Bev in the Parish Office on 5174 2060 and arrange a time for her to help assist you with this process. You need to list St Michael's Parish Traralgon (Mick's Kitchen, if applicable) PO Box 103, Traralgon as the name of your volunteer group.

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.

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 are warmly invited to join in.



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:

"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..." Matthew 5:44

Love your enemies, easier said than done, no doubt. But, remember, the foundation of stewardship is prayer. When we are in close communication with God, it opens our heart and it turns our attention away from "me" and moves it towards God and others. It allows us to have a little more empathy for "our enemy". When we pray for others, even "our enemies", maybe it softens their hearts as well.

January Planned Giving:

Received -
 Envelopes: \$ 6,784.00
 Electronic giving \$ 9,003.40
 \$15,787.40

Pledged (per month) \$18,328.00

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

Counters:

Feb 19 Morris Team

Feb 26 Mitchell Team

Rosters for February 26 ~ Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Music	Sacristan
Saturday 6:00pm	C DiCorleto	M Noone	J Scholtes, C Livesey, R Tactor, Volunteer	S Frankland L Kennedy	Jane	A & M Giddens
Sunday 9:30 am	J Dal Pra/ U Imhagwe	H Daly	W Detering, C Payne, J Cahill, C Mesaric, Volunteers x 2	C Collis	Jane	G Imhagwe
Sunday 6:00pm	Rob Tarraran	Robyn Tarraran	R & J Hayes, A Ward, Volunteer	G Edgar, J Sykes	Jane	C Fernando

- **Altar Cleaning:** February 20 L Kennedy February 27 M Giddens & C Tognella
- **Church Cleaning:** February St Michael's Team March Hanratty Team
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word:** February 26 Shane
- **Touring Statue of Our Lady:** Feb 19 C & C Medhurst Feb 26 G & S Dorling

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

Entrance Antiphon Ps 12:6

*O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful
with me.*

First Reading Lv 19:1-2 17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus

You must love your neighbour, as yourself.

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy. "You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4 8 10 12-13 Rv8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **(R.)**
4. As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Cor 3:16-23

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

All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Jn 2:5

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Mt 5:38-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Love your enemies.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'



Next weeks Readings 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading:	Isaiah 49:14-15
Second Reading:	1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Gospel:	Matthew 6:24-34