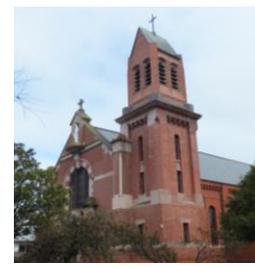


St Michael's Parish, Traralgon
in partnership with
St Mary's Parish, Yarram
and including
St Columbkille's, Glengarry
St Gerard's Woodside



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 Otobo 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

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY:

The metaphor that the prophet uses to characterise God's love is extraordinary. It refers to the 'womb-love' God has for this people (see 7th Sunday, Ps 102). The imagery is striking for two reasons: it exemplifies the intimacy of the bond that unites God and the people of God; it is a feminine characterisation of God. According to the prophet, it is improbable, though possible, that a woman would forget the child of her flesh. Still, God will never forget his people. Therefore, though Zion may feel abandoned and forgotten, it is only a feeling, not a fact. God's attachment to the people will never be severed.

The responsorial psalm is a classic expression of trust in God. In it God is described as the only true refuge that the psalmist found. God is a rock and stronghold, a place of salvation. All these images suggest the extreme peril the psalmist faced and the extraordinary deliverance that God provided. The peace that the psalmist now experiences is undisturbed because it is rooted in the stability that God, who is rock and stronghold, provides. This testimony of confidence is followed by an exhortation directed toward others. If they turn to God, God will save them as well.

Paul insists that Christians are really servants. The word for 'servant' originally referred to the 'under-rowers', those who worked the oars in the bowels of the ship. It eventually came to denote the secondary servants of those in official positions. Here it identifies as 'servants of Christ' those who assist in the work of Christ, which is the proclamation of the

gospel. The 'steward' was the one responsible for the equitable distribution of the goods of the household. Once again the designation denotes someone who works under the jurisdiction of another. Thus ministers are 'stewards of the mysteries of God'. Ministerial commitment is not an opportunity for self-aggrandizement. Rather, it requires extraordinary self-emptying.

Jesus insists that no one can serve two masters. He opposes, not possessions in themselves, but inordinate attachment to their materialistic character. He is not naive about the human need for food, clothing, shelter and material support. Nor does he advocate passivity or laziness. He is talking about setting one's priorities straight; appreciating humankind's place in the natural world; trusting in the goodness and providence of God. The point of this wisdom teaching is confidence in God. The images he employs indicate that his teaching applies to both men and women, for reaping and harvesting are occupations normally associated with men, while spinning is generally considered a woman's work. Both women and men are prone to become anxious about having their needs met; both women and men need to be reminded that they are precious in God's eyes and they, even as they toil, must learn to trust in God's providence.

By Dianne Bergant CSS

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

27th February to 4th March

Mon 27	9:30am	Community Liturgy of the Word, St Michael's
Tues 28	11:00am	Requiem Mass for Giovanni Condello, St Michael's
	11:00am	Mass. St Mary's

Ash Wednesday

Wed 01	9:30am	Mass, St Michael's
	10:00am	Mass, St Mary's
	12:00pm	Mass, St Michael's
	6:00pm	Mass, St Michael's

Thu 02	11:00am	Requiem Mass for Antonio Panozzo-Tilé, St Michael's
Fri 03	9:30am	Mass, St Michael's

World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Services

	10:00am	St Michael's
	7:00pm	St Michael's

Sat 04	9:30am	Mass, St Michael's
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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 Antonio Panozzo-Tilé, Giovanni Condello, Anne Brown, Peter Morgan, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Ted Aucote, Margaret Moretti, Graeme Membrey, Tommy and Kathleen Sweeney. **Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.**

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

including Damian Black, Faye Turner, Joyce Martin, Jenny Hansch, Ken Vivian, 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.**



A WELCOME CUPPA FOR Fr FRANCIS

and Fr SAJI: Parishioners are reminded that this Sunday afternoon we are having a 'welcome to the Parish' afternoon tea for both Fr Francis and Fr Saji. A great time to come and meet our two new priests. Parishioners are asked to bring a plate of afternoon tea to share.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES:

Mass will be celebrated in St Michael's Church on Wednesday March 1st at **9:30am, 12 midday and 6:00pm.**



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.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION:

A reminder that the first Parent & Child Workshop for the preparation of First Communion will be held this Wednesday, with two sessions, the first starting at 4:00pm, and the second at 5:30pm. The children preparing for First Communion will be bringing their 'Prayer Letters' to our Masses this weekend. Please keep them all in your prayers.

LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUPS: will be in held in our Prayer Group Meetings being held on Wednesday mornings (9:30am) and in our Cells Group meetings (1:00pm) in the Parish Centre. All welcome!

I
will
never
forget you.

BAPTISMS: This week we welcome for Baptism Avery Rosalind Dunne, daughter of Alister and Tara. 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.

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 March 09, March 23 from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Any inquiries to Jen Hanratty 5176 1178 or Louise Varsaci 0414 540 296

SMY@L – St.Michael's Parish 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 each 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.

FRIDAY 3rd MARCH WET'N'WILD GAMES NIGHT!

Even more mayhem! Wear old clothes or bring a spare set & a towel! Warning! You WILL get messy and have lots of fun! Meet at St.Michael's Mackillop Hall, Kay St, Traralgon.6.30pm – 8.30pm Cost \$3 - **All Welcome!**

Contact Lou 5175 0877 for information.

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 51742060 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.

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUPS 30TH ANNIVERSARY: St Michael's Passionist Family Groups will be celebrating their 30th Anniversary on Sunday March 5th with a lunch at 12.00pm in the Mary MacKillop Hall. It will be a great occasion to gather together and to meet up with present and past members.

Please contact Neil Limbom on 5174 2204 for further information.

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:

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (material wealth)." Matthew 6:24

For many people, God and money run "neck and neck" as their first priority. Making money and spending money becomes the center of their life and they actually become a slave to money. The solution – become more generous. Giving money to Church and charity frees us from slavery to money and from making money a "god" before God.

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

Counters:

February 26 Mitchell Team
March 05 Burns Team

Rosters for March 05 ~ First Sunday of Lent

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Music	Sacristan
Saturday 6:00pm	B O'Brien	C Livesey	B Power, C DiCorleto, D Buckland, Volunteer	A O'Hara R Tactor		A Symonds
Sunday 9:30 am	R Diaz C McLure	M Tainsh	J & W Waanders, J Cahill, K Jones, E Ryan, volunteer	T & L Biancon	Filipino Choir	P & L Van der Velden
Sunday 6:00pm	C Roga	L Vasarci	Rob Tarraran, J Reid, D Locke, Volunteer	A Ward	Diamante Family	B Kennedy

- **Altar Cleaning:** February 27 M Giddens & C Tognella March 06 M Tainsh
- **Church Cleaning:** March Hanratty Team April Collis Team
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word:** March 05 Marianne and Therese
- **Touring Statue of Our Lady:** Feb 26 G & S Dorling March 5 Maureen Van Berkel
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
- **Mick's Kitchen:** Mar 02 Mitchell Team March 09 Volunteer Team

Entrance Antiphon Cf Ps 17:19-20

*The Lord became my protector.
He brought me out to a place of freedom;
he saved me because he delighted in me.*

First Reading Is 49:14-15

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Even these may forget, says the Lord God, yet I will not forget you.

Zion was saying, 'The Lord has abandoned me, the Lord has forgotten me.'

Does a woman forget her baby at the breast, or fail to cherish the son of her womb?

Yet even if these forget,
I will never forget you.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 61:2-3 6-9 Rv6

(R.) Rest in God alone, my soul.

- In God alone is my soul at rest;
my help comes from him.
He alone is my rock, my stronghold,
my fortress: I stand firm. **(R.)**
- In God alone be at rest, my soul;
for my hope comes from him.
He alone is my rock, my stronghold,
my fortress: I stand firm. **(R.)**
- In God is my safety and glory,
the rock of my strength.
Take refuge in God all you people.
Trust him at all times.
Pour out your hearts before him. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Cor 4:1-5

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

The Lord will bring light to all that is hidden in darkness.

People must think of us as Christ's servants, stewards entrusted with the mysteries of God. What is expected of stewards is that each one should be found worthy of his trust. Not that it makes the slightest difference to me whether you, or indeed any human tribunal, find me worthy or not. I will not even pass judgement on myself. True, my conscience does not reproach me at all, but that does not prove that I am acquitted: the Lord alone is my judge. There must be no passing of premature judgement. Leave that until the Lord comes: he will light up all that is hidden in the dark and reveal the secret intentions of men's hearts. Then will be the time for each one to have whatever praise he deserves, from God.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Jn 2:5

*Alleluia, alleluia!
The Word of God is living and active;
it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Mt 6:24-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Do not worry about tomorrow.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.

'That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and how you are to clothe it. Surely life means more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, for all his worrying, add one single cubit to his span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field which is there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you men of little faith? So do not worry, do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed?" It is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'



Next weeks Readings 1st Sunday of Lent

First Reading:	Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7
Second Reading:	Romans 5:12-19
Gospel:	Matthew 4:1-11