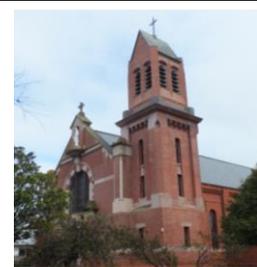


St Michael's Parish, Traralgon
in partnership with
St Mary's Parish, Yarram
and including
St Columbkille's, Glengarry
St Gerard's Woodside



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, Cathy Blackford, 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

**'Gardening for the Soul'
by Sr Mary Coloe PBVM**

The gospel continues on from the parable of the Sower that we heard last week. Divine Wisdom, now present in Jesus, continues to teach those who would listen. If God, the householder, sows only good seed why is it that there are such mixed results? The parable makes two points. Firstly that an enemy is responsible for the weeds, not the householder; secondly that the householder will deal with these weeds at the harvest time.

It is important to read this parable in its context. Jesus is dealing with why so many do not respond to his teaching, for his ministry receives a very mixed response. In the symbolism of the parable, the reign of God that Jesus announces is met by vigorous opposition from the powers of evil. This is the reality in Jesus' time, the reality faced by Matthew's community and it continues to be our reality. The voice of the Gospel continues to struggle to be heard in our present society. Other values are presented as offering a better way of life – if we allow asylum seekers in, our 'white Australian' quality of life may change – if we stop embryonic research we may lose our scientists and possible cures for many illnesses.

With many of the complex issues we face it is not easy to discern the weeds from the wheat. On the two issues named above good people of faith hold different views. The parable seems to suggest that the servants need to live

with both the wheat and the weeds and leave the task of judgment to God. Jesus offers this teaching to console and encourage his followers. Their task, as servants, is to sow goodness. The task of destroying evil is God's. Perhaps an even greater challenge is to realise that the parable speaks about me. The paradox within my own life – I too have to learn to live with the wheat and the weeds within my own heart. Many years ago I read a story of Tony D'Mello's; it goes something like this. The preacher came and asked the class, 'If all the good people wore white and all the bad people wore black, what would you wear?' Mary Jane answered, 'I'd wear polka dots!' For all our good intentions, and efforts we will probably continue to struggle with some issues all our lives. The garden of our soul will always need a little weeding. These inner struggles will continue to call us to conversion and we will continue to need to call on God and allow God to be the gardener of our souls.

Knowing the weeds and wheat within our own individual lives, can help us be a little more patient, or tolerant of the weeds and wheat around us – in our families, communities, our Church. This is not an invitation to complacency but a reminder to 'get real' as young people say

(continued, page 3)

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

24th to 29th July 2017

Mon 24	9:30am	Community Liturgy of the Word St Michael's
Tues 25	11:00am	Requiem Mass for Tom Clarke, St Michael's
	11:00am	Mass, St Mary's
Wed 26	10:00am	Mass, St Mary's
	11:00am	{Exposition
	12:00pm	{Mass, St Michael's
Thurs 27	9:30am	Mass, Gabriel's PS
Fri 28	9:30am	Mass, St Michael's
Sat 29	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 Kay Power, Tom Clarke, Joseph Saleh, Herman Waanders, Sr Aileen Vear, Elma Caffrey, Brian McKeown, John Knorr, Kevin Davis and Percy Martin and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Grazia Pugliese, Stephen Smith, Francesco Sbaglia, Libera Dompietro, Angelina Agostino and Irene Woolfe.

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

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

including, Maria Alessandrini, Rita Sweeney, Ken Giles, Vincent O'Neill, John Besselink, Damian Black, Joyce Martin, Jenny Hansch, Ken Vivian, Marie Howard, Pat O'Mara, Robert Hazelman, Alan Douch, Veronica Barter, Fr Frank Freeman, Carolyn Gleeson, Gary Donchi, Anna Lapuh, Peter Heron, Father Frank Young, Sarah Parker **and all who seek our prayers.**



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Thursday July 27th
5:00pm Youth Mass Practice
Session #1 Mary MacKillop Hall
Friday July 28th
6:30pm Youth Group, Mary
MacKillop Hall

BAPTISMS: The next meeting for those preparing for Baptism is on **Wednesday 19th July 16th August at 7:00pm in the Parish Centre.** Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 for further information.



BAPTISM FOR SCHOOL AGED

CHILDREN: Our Parish is again running a programme for children aged 4 to 15 years who wish to be baptized. The program will run from August 2nd to August 26. Preparation meetings will be held in the Mary MacKillop Room, at 4:30 – 5:30pm on Wednesdays August 02, August 09 and August 16, with these special baptisms being celebrated at 6:00pm Mass on Saturday August 26th. There is a cost of \$35 involved, which pays for the baptism candle and stole. Please contact Susan Grout on 0412 671 308 for further details.

ROSEMARIE PROSSER: The Parish is fortunate to be able to offer two evenings with Rose Marie Prosser – a Theology Lecturer associated with Yarra Theological Union (University of Divinity). The topics she will cover are *Jesus in First Century Judaism* and *The writing of the Gospels, particularly the Gospel according to Matthew.* All are welcome to attend.

Thursdays August 10 and 17. 7:00 - 8:30pm in the Mary MacKillop Hall.

Entry by gold coin donation. Light supper will be provided. Please let Parish Office know you are coming (5174 2060).

AN INVITATION FROM SR DOREEN: In preparation for the Feast of St Mary MacKillop (August 8th), three days of prayer and sharing will be held in the Mary MacKillop Room, starting at 11:00am with 'Sharing the Mary MacKillop Story', followed by prayer and conversation. To be followed by sharing soup, eats and celebration.

Come along **on Thursday 3rd August, Friday 4th August and Monday 7th August.**

All are welcome.



From Pope Francis:

- "Long faces cannot proclaim Jesus".
- Eternity 'will not be boring'.

R.C.I.A.:

These letters stand for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the ancient Rite of welcoming people into the Church.

St Michael's Parish warmly invites anyone interested in discovering more about the Catholic faith to attend our meetings on Thursdays, in St Michael's Parish Centre, 35 Kay Street, Traralgon. We start at 7.30pm sharp, and finish by 9.00pm sharp. This year's starting date is August 3rd. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please bring them along to our meeting, contact Susan Grout for further information. All are very welcome. Contacts: Susan Grout (0412 671 308) or Parish Office (5174 2060) – but you can just turn up!

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.

"CURRENT OF GRACE"

CCR Conference:

Friday 18th to Sunday 20th August

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference will be held in the Mary MacKillop Hall, Church St, Traralgon.

Fr Ken Barker, Moderator of Missionaries of God's Love Order, will lead the Conference. All are welcome.

Please see brochures in the church foyers or contact Cathy McLure on 5174 3001 for more information.

LADIES WORSHIP IN SONG: An Inter-denominational afternoon of singing, with a focus on songs of praise and worship.

On Saturday 5th August, 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.



YOUTH MASS: Planning is underway for a Youth Mass to be celebrated on **Sunday 27th August at 9:30am.**



All young people are warmly invited to participate in this special Mass which will feature youth in many ministry roles. Training sessions for readers, musicians, offertory procession, prayer of the faithful, reading, collectors will be held at **5:00pm on Thursdays July 27, August 10 & 24.** Please contact Jen Hanratty on 0437 492 349 or the Parish Office on 5147 2060 if you or any of your young people are interested to learn more.

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 28th JULY

SLICE’N’DICE GAMES NIGHT

Let the games begin! Something different for everyone! @ St. Michael’s Mackillop Hall, Church Street, 6.30pm – 8.30pm Cost \$3 + an item for the Christmas Shoeboxes. Lucky Door prize! **All Welcome!**

Contact Leah on 0438 811 709 for info.



Gardening for the Soul, (continued)

The reading from Romans is from chapter 8, and earlier in this letter Paul had lamented, ‘When I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inner self, but I see in my outer self another law at war with my soul’ (7:21). I think Paul speaks of this same inner struggle of knowing the weeds and the wheat which leads him to rely on the Spirit of God as he says in the reading today. ‘The Spirit helps us in our weakness... The Spirit intercedes for us ... the Spirit searches the inner hearts of all people.’ Paul then continues, ‘If God is for us, who can be against us’ (8:31). In the struggle to live a good meaningful life, we can sometimes be our own worst enemy in being far too harsh and unforgiving towards ourselves. The Parable may invite us to greater kindness towards ourselves and to leave the task of major garden work to God.

ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE: Two of our seminarians, Avinash George and Hiep van Nguyen, will be ordained Deacons for the Diocese of Sale on **Saturday 2nd September at 11.00 am** at St Mary’s Cathedral, Sale. A Diocesan Choir is being formed to lead the singing at the Ordination Mass. We are also looking for instrumentalists.

If you are interested in joining the choir/musicians for this wonderful occasion, please contact Mrs Sophy Morley, Diocesan Director of Music, as soon as possible.

Email - smorley@sale.catholic.org.au Phone: 03 5622 6677 M 0413 590 007

Singers/Musicians will receive a music pack and details of rehearsal times and venues around the diocese.

FINANCE MATTERS:

“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field...He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom.” - MATTHEW 13:24, 37-38
As children of God, we are all “good seeds,” blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in the world. We fulfill God’s plan when we share our talents and our financial gifts to help build God’s kingdom on earth. Through our stewardship we sow “good seeds” on earth to ultimately help each other get to Heaven!

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN:

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

Counters: July 23 Burns Team
July 30 Arend Team

PLEASE REMEMBER ... The SMY@L Operation Christmas Shoebox
Donations are being sought to help children & families in places such as Fiji or Indonesia. We aim to send shoe boxes filled with articles *to wear, to love, to play with, for school, and for personal hygiene.* Please refer to last week’s Bulletin or to the posters in the Church entrances for further information. Enquiries to Lousie Varsaci on 5175 0877.

Rosters for July 30th ~ Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Music	Sacristan
Saturday 6:00pm	C DiCorleto	D Smith	J & M McLaughin, T De Koke, Volunteers x 2	Volunteers	Jane	A Symonds
Sunday 9:30am	B Edgar	H Daly	B McKenna, D Bau, L Panozzo-Tilé	Volunteers	Jane	P & L Van der Velden
Sunday 6:00pm	K Matters	Robyn Tarraran	J Reid, Rob Tarraran, Volunteers x 2	Volunteers	Jane	L Theissling

- **Altar Cleaning:** July 23 M Tainsh July 30 J Scholtes
- **Church Cleaning:** July Cells Groups August St Gabriel’s Team
- **Children’s Liturgy of the Word:** Carolyn and Grace
- **Touring Statue of Our Lady:** July 23 M Moulton July 30 F & B Melenhorst
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:** July 27 Burns Team August 03 Moretti Team

Entrance Antiphon Ps 53:6, 8

*See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you
with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord,
for it is good.*

First Reading Wisdom 12:13 16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom

In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.

You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there.

By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

- O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. **(R.)**
- All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. **(R.)**
- But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rom 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never
be put into words.*

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel Matthew 13:24-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'"

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Next week's Readings: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5 7-12

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52