



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: St Mary's is a faith community that aims to make Jesus known and loved by living the Gospel message of acceptance, welcome and service to all members of the community.

St Mary's Mission Statement: At St. Mary's we strive to:

- *Continue to be an active, prayerful and sacramental faith community.
- *Grow in faithfulness to our Catholic tradition by full participation in Eucharistic celebrations sacraments and prayer.
- *Respect and value all creation.
- *Use our time, talents and treasures to provide quality human,

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
After office hours - in case of emergency, please call 5174 2060 and leave your details on the message service.

Baptisms: Four weeks notice required

Weddings: Six months notice required

Parish Pastoral Council

Greg Imhagwe Chairperson, Fr Francis, Fr Saji, Sr Doreen, Kevin Taylor, Ray Moretti, Amanda Reid, Jenifer Hanratty, Steve Kimani, Marita Kennedy, Rob Tarraran, Jan Fitzpatrick, Ros Joyner and Doug Doherty, Bev O'Brien.

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

Advent Wreath



Our Advent wreath is a circle, with no beginning and no end, to symbolize the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul and the everlasting life found in Christ.

The four coloured candles represent the weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple, and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, which is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation time is half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectations and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

A white candle is placed in the centre of the wreath, the Christ candle, which is lit on Christmas Eve.

(Taken from www.catholiceducation.org written by Fr William Saunders.)

REFLECTION: BY Greg Sunter

Stay awake! With these words, Jesus cautions his disciples to be constantly vigilant and to be alert to the return of the Lord. It is a very fitting way to begin the season of Advent. Advent has traditionally been observed as a time of preparation and waiting. It culminates in the Christmas season and so the waiting and preparation is related to the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world.

Perhaps the time of preparation this Advent is also a call to stay awake and stay alert in faith. One of the greatest challenges to faith today is the complacency that has taken hold of many in our society. When life is comfortable, the perceived need for faith appears to diminish. Many young people in our society cannot see the value of religious belief or religious practice. In a world of instant communication and instant 'satisfaction', the reflective slow work of faith can seem too much effort for some people. The gospel call to stay awake in preparation for the coming of the Lord is a call to continue the work of bringing about the Kingdom of God.

Over the last three weeks, the gospel passages from Matthew 25 were reminders about continuing to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom. This week, with the beginning of Advent, it is the gospel of Mark that also reminds us that we cannot take the Kingdom for granted and must remain vigilant in working to realise the Kingdom.

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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

4th to 9th December 2017

Mon 04	9:30am	Community Liturgy of the Word St Michael's
Tues 05	9:30am	Community Liturgy of the Word St Michael's
	11:00am	Mass, St Mary's
	5:00pm	Mass, St Michael's Marist Cricket Carnival
Wed 06	10:00am	Mass, St Mary's
	10:30am	Rosary
	11:00am	Requiem Mass for Antonio Spurio
Thurs 07	9:30am	Mass, Michael's
	10:30am	Mass, Dalkeith
Fri 08	9:30am	Mass, St Michael's
	10:30am	Mass, Bupa Care
Sat 09	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 Antonio Spurio, Glecerio Vargas, Ron Peavey, Sharlet Madonna Vaz, Kevin King, Peter McCarthy and Maureen Schkrodani and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Fr David Cagney, Wilhelmina Jongerius, Ben Cunico, Leo Bernard Vaz, Vincent Bernard Vaz, Agostino Damiano, Julian George, Margaret Morrissey, Henny Van Berkel, Bishop Jeremiah Coffey, and Monsignor Bill Caffrey.

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

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

including Ivy May, Celie Smith, Mary Dwyer, Peter Marslen, Val Gleeson, Dot Mulquiney, Jan Gilmour, Simon Panther, Maria Alessandrini, Vincent O'Neill, John Besselink, Damian Black, Joyce Martin, 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.**



FOR THE YOUNG IN EVERY WAY: It has been so exciting to see so many young people participating in our Masses, their enthusiasm, vigor and reverence is so very heartwarming to see.

This increased number of children means that now we are looking for parishioners not only to guide the youngsters within the Mass, but also to lead them in their Youth Group activities. It would be absolutely marvellous if we could have two or three parishioners who could give their time and care to our young ones. Please contact the parish office if you feel you'd like the chance to stay young by helping out in this way, or come along to the Team Meeting on Thursday December 7 at 5:00pm in the Parish Centre.

MAINTENANCE TEAM: The next meeting of the Maintenance Team will be held on Thursday 18th January at 7:00pm. We are grateful to all those who give of their time and talents to look after our building and surrounds. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend the meeting.

BAPTISMS: The next meeting for those preparing for Baptism is on **Wednesday 13th December 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.

2018 ROSTERS: Could all those fabulous people who keep our many rosters up to date, please update 'your' roster and forward to the Parish Office as soon as possible? Thanks so much!

RENAISSANCE OF MARRIAGE: *Radical Demands - Extravagant Mercy National Catholic Leadership Conference* Featuring Dr Gregory Bottaro (USA), Christina King (USA), Bishop Eugene Hurley, Jonathan Doyle, Robert Falzon, Archbishop Anthony Fisher, Byron & Francine Pirola and many more Feb 16-17, 2018 | Sydney (UNDA) www.rom.org.au for further information.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION for Australia and New Zealand are August 15th (the Assumption), and December 25 (Christmas).

The importance of a day in the liturgical calendar is determined by its rank (solemnity, feast, memorial): a Holy Day is simply a solemnity celebrated like a Sunday, that is, with obligation.

From the 2017 Ordo

REFLECTION: (Continued from page 1)

This vigilance needs to be applied to nurturing our own faith life as well as making a difference in the lives of those around us and the needy in society. Rather than 'Stay awake!' maybe some of us need to be told, 'Wake up!'. It is never too late to pay closer attention to faith and perhaps this Advent is an ideal time to do that.



CHRISTMAS GIFTING

TREE: St Michael's St Vincent de Paul Conference has again organised the Christmas Gifting Tree to be in the Church from November 01 to December 10.



Parishioners are asked to take a gift tag, and return your gift/voucher by December 10. There will be envelopes in the foyer if you wish to make a monetary donation. Last year more than 300 children received gifts, and a similar number is expected this year. The conference would like to thank all parishioners for their support during 2017, and wish all a happy, holy and safe Christmas spent with those we love most.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Weds 06 7:00pm Parish Pastoral

Council, Parish Centre

Thurs 07 5:00-6:00pm Youth Mass

Team meeting, Parish Centre

7:30pm Finance Team Meeting,
Parish Centre

PROCLAIM 2018: The biennial Proclaim conference is being held in July (12-14), 2018. The theme for this conference is "Make Your Home in Me". The conference will be held in Brisbane and will focus on enhancing parish renewal and is organised and hosted on behalf of the National Centre for Evangelisation, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, by the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Please go to

www.proclaimconference.com.au
to register your interest in attending.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2018

Sunday Masses 4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday Dec 23

6:00pm St Michael's

Sunday Dec 24 Christmas Eve

9:30am St Michael's

10:00am St Mary's

10:00am St Columbkille's

Christmas Masses

6:00pm St Gerard's Woodside

7:00 pm 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, angels costumes

8:00pm St Columbkille's, Glengarry

8:00pm Family Mass, St Mary's, Yarram

11:00pm St Michael's, with Carols from 10:30pm

Christmas Day

9:30am Mass St Michael's

10:00am Mass St Mary's



PLANNED GIVING STATEMENTS:

Receipts for Planned Giving from June 18 to November 30 are now in the Church for those parishioners who contribute to Planned Giving by Envelope. Please take yours home with you, this will greatly help reduce our postage costs. Thank you.

Receipts for Parishioners who contribute by Direct Debit or Credit Card will be in the church next weekend and the weekend of December 10.

With grateful thanks for your continued support.

FINANCE MATTERS:

"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come." - MARK 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. Our lives are so busy, many of us are planning our time - our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to what God is saying to you.

DID YOU KNOW?

* Advent is a four-week season of preparation for Christmas. During this time we reflect on the coming of Christ into human history as a small baby, the coming of Christ at the end of time, and the coming of Christ into our own lives each day. Thus Advent has a past, present and future dimension.

* The season of Advent is the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. The Church's liturgical year follows a three-year cycle and we move today into the second of those, Year B. The gospel readings for this year come predominantly from the Gospel of Mark.

WIKIPEDIA SAYS: Advent is a season observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. The term is a version of the Latin word meaning 'coming'.

For Christians, the season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from three different perspectives.

'Since the time of Bernard of Clairvaux (d 1153) Christians have spoken of the three comings of Christ: in the flesh at Bethlehem, in our hearts daily, and in glory at the end of time. The season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to be alert for his Second Coming.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN:

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

Counters: Dec 03 Mitchell Team
Dec 10 Burns Team



Rosters for December 10 ~ Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Music	Sacristan
Saturday 6:00pm	A Taylor	D Smith	J Scholtes, R Tactor, Volunteers x 2	G & D Bassett	Jane	D Buckland
Sunday 9:30am	T Denny	H Daly	W Detering, D Prestipino, B & S Edgar, G Imhagwe, Volunteer	C Payne M Wilkinson	Jane	M Hanratty
Sunday 6:00pm	K Matters	Volunteer	J Fleming, S Luscombe, Volunteers x 2	M Noone	Jane	L Theissling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Altar Cleaning:</u> December 10 M Giddens & C Tognella December 17 M Tainsh <u>Church Cleaning:</u> December Van Berkel Team <u>Children's Liturgy of the Word:</u> December 10 Alison, Tamille and Josephine <u>Touring Statue of Our Lady:</u> December 03 A & K Watts December 10 M Moulton <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"> <u>Mick's Kitchen:</u> December 07 Van Berkel Team December 14 Mitchell Team 						

First Advent Candle

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath, our symbol of waiting and preparation, "The Prophet's Candle" or "The Candle of Hope". We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God.

"And again, Isaiah says, 'The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you

**Entrance Antiphon** Cf. PS 24:1-3

*To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.*

First Reading Is 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Oh that you would tear the heavens apart
and come down.*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins.

And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

**(R.) Lord, make us turn to you,
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

- O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**
- God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**

- May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again: give us
life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Cor 15:20-26 28

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

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation!
Alleluia!*

Gospel Mk 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

**Next Week's Readings**

Second Sunday in Advent Year B

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

