



St Michael's Parish, Traralgon

St Michael's Church, Traralgon

St Columbkille's Church, Glengarry

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.

www.smpt.org.au
email: traralgon@cdsale.org.au

Statement of Commitment to the safety of children and vulnerable adults: Central to the mission of St Michael's Parish 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
 Parish Centre 5174 2060
 Priests' Residence: 5174 6765
Deacon Tony Aspinall
 Phone 5174 8167
 Em: deacontony8@gmail.com

Sr Doreen Dagge RSJ 5174 9997

Monsignor John Allman
O'Mara House 5174 9674

St Michael's Parish Office 5174 2060
35 Kay Street, Traralgon
PO Box 103, Traralgon 3844

Office hours –
 Tuesday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm
 Parish Secretary: Bev O'Brien
 Email: sec@smpt.org.au
 Sacraments Admin Jenifer Hanratty
 Email: sacraments@smpt.org.au
 Youth Coordinator Jenifer Hanratty
 Email: youth@smpt.org.au

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

Baptisms: Six weeks notice required
Weddings: Six months notice required

Parish Pastoral Council: Greg Imhagwe
Chairperson, Fr Francis, Sr Doreen, Kevin Taylor, Ray Moretti, Amanda Reid, Jenifer Hanratty, Steve Kimani, Marita Kennedy, Rob Tarraran, Jodie Ware, Ros Joyner, Doug Doherty and Bev O'Brien.

Our Schools:

St Gabriel's School 5174 5515
Principal: Mrs Roslyn Joyner

St Michael's School 5174 3295
Principal: Mrs Jodie Ware

Lavalla Catholic College 5174 5272
Principal: Mr John Freeman
Kildare Campus 5174 8111
St Paul's Campus 5174 7355

NO ONE WANTS TO BE THE INNKEEPER IN THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT.

No one wants to be the innkeeper in a Christmas pageant. You know the one, the door-slamming landlord who turned away Joseph and Mary before they became the Holy Family. Any other role is better than that one. Even wearing the scratchy sheep costume is better or being the rope pull on the flying angel— anything but the mean innkeeper of Bethlehem.

This failure to give a bed to a tired pregnant teenager has had far-reaching consequences. Imagine how different Christmas would be if the couple had not been left out in the cold. In one small action of thoughtfulness, we would have been spared all those plastic light-up outdoor Nativity scenes. If only we could do it all over again.

The Latin American tradition *las posadas* gives participants a chance to be better than the original host. For several nights before Christmas, groups accompanying children dressed as Joseph and a pregnant Mary travel from door to door looking for lodging. The procession can feature lanterns, singing, a donkey and a whole lot of adorable kids dressed in biblical costumes. On these nine nights, the holy couple is welcomed inside, and festive foods like tamales and atole are served. The community gathers and ritually rewrites the Scriptures, this time welcoming the strangers in from the cold.

If Jesus and Mary had been regular guests at the inn, their room would have been reserved, their names would have been known and the story would be different. But it was their first time at this inn, and they didn't know you had to

show up early. They didn't know a lot of things. How could they? That is what being a stranger means: Not being known is part of it, but not knowing is the rest.

But even if posadas are not part of your tradition, this Christmas we can all do better than the innkeeper who shut the door. Many of us will be gathering with family and friends for Christmas Mass. And, as usual, we will be a mixed group made up of those who get to Mass regularly and those who do not. Our experience of Christmas Mass is going to be different depending on our place in the mix. For the regular Mass-goers, it will seem homey and routine, and a nod of recognition is going to be enough.

But the Catholics who go to church only on Christmas and Easter will carry with them the reasons they usually do not make it to Mass. So they are going to need more than a nod. Their experience will hinge on feeling welcomed or not. Studies bear this out. People return to churches because they are welcomed, not because the church got everything else right. Both regular Mass-goers and Christmas Catholics can make this work better. We, as a group, can rewrite the moment at the inn.

From an article by Fr Jack Bentz, SJ.



SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Saturday	6.00pm	St Michael's Traralgon
Sunday	9:30am	St Michael's Traralgon
	10:00am	St Columbkille's Glengarry
	6:00pm	St Michael's Traralgon

WEEKDAY LITURGY TIMES

December 10 to 15

Mon 10	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word
Tues 11	9:30am	Mass
Weds 12	11:00am	Exposition
	12:00pm	Mass
	5:30pm	St Gabriel's School Graduation Mass
Thurs 13	9:30am	Mass,
Fri 14	10:30am	Mass, Bupa Care
	6:00pm	St Michael's School Graduation Mass
Sat 15	NO MASS	

Rosary: Tuesday to Sunday 30 minutes before Mass.

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

PRAYERS AT THE

CRIB: All Parishioners are warmly invited to come to our Prayers at the Crib service in the Church on **Thursday 20th December at 7:00pm**, followed by supper in the Parish Centre.
Reconciliation will also be offered at 7:00pm. This celebration is a great way to help us celebrate the Nativity story.



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Tues 11

1:00pm Knights of the Southern Cross, Mary MacKillop Room

7:30pm Finance Team, Parish Centre

Weds 12

9:00am Weds AM Cells Group Advent Prayers, Mary MacKillop Room

7:00pm Parish Pastoral Council Parish Centre

SACRAMENTS 2019: In 2019 we will be celebrating Reconciliation in Term 1, Confirmation early in Term 2 and First Communion in Term 4.

Enrolment Forms for all the Sacraments are available from the Parish Office.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 15th: 9:30am Mass on **Saturday morning, December 15, has been cancelled** to allow Monsignor Allman to attend the Ordination to the Priesthood of Paul Hiep Van Nguyen.

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD:

Deacon Paul Hiep Van Nguyen will be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Sale on **Saturday 15th December at 11.00 am** at St Mary's Cathedral Sale. All are warmly invited to attend.

ASSISTANCE SOUGHT: The parish is looking for two matching couches which could be used in the Youth Gathering Room in the Parish Centre. Also seeking an outdoor table and chairs. If you think you may be able to help, please contact Mark at the Parish Office 5174 2060.



YOUTH MINISTRY 2019 PLANNING

MEETING: All involved or interested in assisting our various Youth Ministries are warmly invited to attend a Planning Meeting to be held on **Tuesday December 18th at 7:00pm** in the Parish Centre. It takes a whole village to raise a child, please support our children and our youth. Please let the Parish Office know if you can attend.

FAREWELLS: The community of St Michael's Primary School wishes to invite parishioners to farewell Jan Fitzpatrick and Angela Waanders who are retiring at the end of the school year. They have both worked tirelessly for the school community over many years.

There will be a community afternoon tea held in the school hall on Wednesday December 12th from 3:45pm. *Please RSVP by Friday December 7th to office@stmtraralgon.catholic.edu.au.*

ROSTERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES: in the alcove at the back of the Church there is a roster for all our Christmas Masses. We are in need of Sacristans, Commentators and Eucharistic Ministers. All who volunteer must have a current Working With Children Check which needs to have been registered at the Parish Office.

NATIVITY ENACTMENT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS (7:00pm Monday December 24)

We are calling for an expression of interest for all children who wish to participate in the Christmas Eve Nativity scene . . . could children and their parents please meet after 9:30am Mass on Sunday December 16 in the Mary MacKillop Room. Rehearsal for participants will be held at 10:00am on Saturday December 22 in the Mary MacKillop Room. Parents need to sign permission forms for their children.

Just 4 Fun

- * Photons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic!
- * Plan ahead – it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- * What do you call a penguin in the Sahara desert? Lost. ☺

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We remember those who have died recently, including John Kemp, Sam Al-Samarrie, Des Hegarty, Glen Peters, Dorothy Johnson, Jodi Webster and Patrick Dowd, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Mary Potter, Fergus Darmody, Fr David Cagney, Antonio Spurio, Domenico & Vittoria Rigoni and Ben Cunico.

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

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

including, Maria Alessandrini, Lee Allman, Ding and Lulu Aragon, Fr Bernard Buckley, Gary Donchi, Fr Frank Freeman, Marj Gilbert, Carolyn Gleeson, Robert Hazelman, Imogen Hillier, Marie Howard, Joan Lamont, Ann Lapuh, Joyce Martin, Ivy May, Joan Quigley, Joan Riggall, Malcolm Selzer, Fred Sullivan, Jerry Templer, Brian Vivian, Celie Smith and Fr Frank Young.



Our Advent prayer

In cities and towns
In apartments and terraces,

**All: Christ is
waiting to be
born**



In palaces and
paddocks
In high streets and back streets

All: Christ is waiting to be born

In the vastness of the universe
In the intimacy of our hearts

All: Christ is waiting to be born.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus
Come into our homes
Come into our lives
Come and stay**

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS:

All parishioners are reminded that before you can act as a Eucharistic Minister, money collector, reader or volunteer in any way you must have first obtained your Working With Children Check and registered the Parish as a place where you volunteer. WWCC can be obtained by going online to www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au and completing registration. You can contact the Office on 5174 2060 if you require assistance.

Thanks to all those of our parishioners who have already met this legal requirement. As of January 1 2019, volunteers who have not registered their WWCC with the Department of Justice and the Parish Office is no longer able to volunteer within the Parish. It is vitally important that all parishioners do their bit to ensure that our Parish is a safe haven for all children and vulnerable adults.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2018

Christmas Eve Monday December 24

7:00 pm Family Mass, St Michael's
with Carols from 6:30pm
*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 Mass at St Columbkille's, Glengarry,
with Carols from 7:30pm

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

Christmas Day Tuesday December 25

9:30am Mass Mass at St Michael's



PARISH FINANCE MATTERS:

November 2018

Loose collections

November 04	\$1,524.50
November 11	\$1,230.00
November 18	\$1,769.00
November 25	<u>\$1,232.00</u>
	<u>\$5,755.50</u>

Planned Giving

Envelopes	\$6,159.00
Direct Debit	\$6,050.50
Credit Card	<u>\$2,400.00</u>
November total	<u>\$14,609.50</u>

Monthly pledge amount \$18,328.00

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



FINANCE MATTERS:

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10

Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that are in need.

PARISH FINANCE MATTERS:

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

Counters

Dec 09 Armstrong Team
Dec 16 Morris Team

Rosters for December 15 & 16 ~ Third Sunday of Advent Year C

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Music	Sacristan
6:00pm	C DiCorleto	D Smith	C DiCorleto, B Power, M Giddens, D Buckland, volunteer	G & D Bassett	Diamente family	Volunteer needed
9:30am	U Imhagwe J Dal Pra	M Moulton	T Denny, J & W Waanders, L Panozzo- Tilè, A Symonds	C Payne M Wilkinson	Charismatic Choir	P & L Van der Velden
6:00pm	J Panozzo-Tilè	M Noone	J Reid, R Tarraran, D Locke, volunteer	M Noone		Volunteer needed

- **Altar Cleaning:** Dec 16 F Rycak Dec 23 L Kennedy
 - **Church Cleaning:** Dec Van Berkel Team
 - **Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Dec 16 Alison, Tamille and Josephine
 - **Touring Statue of Our Lady:** Dec 16 E Kanara Dec 23 J & L Zalesiak
- 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:** Dec 13 Hemming Team Dec 20 Burns Team

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold,
The Lord will come to save the nations,
And the Lord will make the glory of his voice
heard
In the joy of your heart.

First Reading Bar 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch
Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v.3

**(R.) The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.**

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **(R.)**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

Next week's Readings:

First Reading:	Zephaniah 3:14-18
Second Reading:	Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel:	Luke 3:10-18

Second Reading Phil 1:3-6, 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 21:36

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God..
Alleluia!*

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

