



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

Gospel Reflection

Is it any wonder that there was a growing sense among the people that John might be the Christ? His teaching in the first part of this week's gospel might just as easily have come from the mouth of Jesus. It demonstrates for us just how much John was preparing the way for Jesus: even his teaching was in line with what Jesus would later say. In this instance, the people gathered around John (presumably having been baptised by him) are asking how they should live out their new-found conversion of heart. John's response to the three groups is about the need for generosity and justice. It is about not taking more than your share when someone else does not have sufficient. To the crowd of people, he instructs them to give away a second tunic to someone who doesn't have one at all and to share their food with those who are hungry. To the tax collectors, he cautioned them to collect no more than what they were supposed to. Tax collectors made their profit by overcharging taxpayers. Together with the fact that they worked for the Roman occupiers, this made tax collectors one of the most despised groups in society. John's caution to them is to be just in their dealings. He also cautions the soldiers against intimidation and extorting money from the people to supplement their pay. The themes of justice and hospitality that will echo

throughout the gospel of Luke are clearly evident in this episode with John. When the people start to talk about him being the Christ, John is quick to point them to the one who is still to come; the one who will share with them more fully the love of God and the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Living the Gospel – Generosity of spirit

John's words to the crowd, the tax collectors and the soldiers are about adopting a spirit of generosity and a generosity of spirit. A generosity of spirit can be expressed simply in the attitude with which we approach other people: a positive, hope-filled and generous attitude will often turn around a potentially negative situation. As we approach the Christmas season, there is a need for practical actions of generosity as well. Those in need can approach Christmas with dread rather than joyful expectation. It can be the hardest time of year for struggling families. Acts of generosity can make all the difference.

Taken from a reflection by Greg Sunter



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 17 to 22

Mon 17	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word
Tues 18	10:45am	Mass, Marjery Cole
	11:00am	Funeral Prayers for Johanna Van Zwieten
Weds 19	11:00am	Exposition
	12:00pm	Communion Service
Thurs 20	9:30am	Mass
Fri 21	9:30am	Mass
Sat 22	9:30am	Mass,

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 Johanna Van Zwieten, John Kemp and Sam Al-Samarrie and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Fr James Duffy, Mary Potter and Fergus Darmody.

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, Margaret Hall, 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.



AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR 2019 DIARIES!

All leaders of all our Parish Groups are requested to attend a parish meeting to be held in the Mary MacKillop Hall on Tuesday 26th February, 2019.

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 18

7:00pm **2019 Youth Ministry Meeting** Parish Centre

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.

MEETING: JANUARY 16 at 7:00PM:

A special meeting for ~

* all those who take up the collections at our Masses,

* for those who count the money and
* for those who bank it,

is being held on **Tuesday January 16 at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre.**

If you feel this is how you could volunteer too, please come along. It is important that all involved in these ministries attend this meeting.

We are so very grateful to our Parishioners who currently assist in these duties.

Again, wonderful parishioners seeing a need and doing something about it.

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.



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works

The St Vincent de Paul Society, Traralgon Conference are busy receiving goods and preparing to distribute Christmas Hampers and Toys to 180 homes in Traralgon. Words are not enough to express our gratitude for the generosity of the community at this time of year. For their continued support we would especially like to thank, St Michael's Parish for monetary donations, food and the gifting tree donations, Lavalla Catholic College for a monetary donation as well as festive and pantry food. St Gabriel's School for a wonderful variety of new toys and St Michael's School for approximately 50 bags filled with festive and pantry food.

Thank you again, and we wish all every blessing and a peace filled Christmas.



St Michael's students delivering their donations



St Gabriel's - donated toys

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.

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.

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**

The third Candle on the Advent wreath is called the "Shepherd's Candle." Its light is a symbol of the Joy that filled the world in the past at the birth of Jesus- the joy that first came upon the shepherds at night watch in the fields when the Angel of the Lord appeared to them and said,

"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." (Lk 2:10)

This Candle is rose in colour to remind everyone that the very joyful occasion of the Lord's birth is truly at the heart of our Advent preparation of prayer and penitence, represented by the liturgical colour purple.

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:

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

Counters

Dec 16 Morris Team
Dec 23 Mitchell Team
Dec 25 Waanders Team

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." PHILIPPIANS 4:6

St. Paul reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. When we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to share what we have been given.



Rosters for December 22 & 23 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Music	Sacristan
6:00pm	Sr Doreen	S Grout	J Scholtes, R Tactor, Volunteers x 2	S Frankland L Kennedy	Jane	A & M Giddens
9:30am	T Denny S Reid	L Van der Velden	W Detering, C Payne, J Cahill, C Mesaric, M Hanratty, S Reid	C Collis E Freeman	Jane	G Imhagwe
6:00pm	H Theissling	Robyn Tarraran	J O'Brien, R O'Connor, Volunteers x 2	D Buckland	Jane	L Theissling

- **Altar Cleaning:** Dec 23 L Kennedy Dec 30 M Giddens
- **Church Cleaning:** Dec Van Berkel Team January Limbom Team
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word:** In recess, school holidays
- **Touring Statue of Our Lady:** Dec 23 J & L Zalesiak Dec 30 J & W Waanders
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 20 Burns Team Jan 10 Moretti Team

Rosters for December 24 & 25 ~ Christmas Masses

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Music	Sacristan
Dec 24 7:00pm	Susan Luscombe	Sr Doreen	J Hanratty, M Giddens, C DiCorleto, G Imhagwe, Volunteer x1	C DiCorleto G Edgar	Diamente family	Matt Hanratty
Dec 24 11:00pm	B O'Brien	D Smith	J & W Waanders,	M Rodda M Wilkinson	Jane	Greg Imhagwe
Dec 25 9:30am	S Grout	M Moulton		R Benbow C Collis	Charismatic Choir	P & L Van der Velden

Entrance Antiphon Phil 4:4-5

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.*

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of
Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven
your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious
warrior.

He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by
his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as
on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm Is 12:2-6 Rv6

**(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great
and Holy One of Israel.**

1. Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. **(R.)**
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. **(R.)**
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the
Holy One of Israel. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I
repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your
tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very
near. There is no need to worry; but if there is
anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with
prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God,
which is so much greater than we can understand, will
guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

*Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News
to the poor.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?'
he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share
with the man who has none, and the one with
something to eat must do the same.' There were tax
collectors too who came for baptism, and these said
to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them,
'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked
him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?'
He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be
content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people,
who were beginning to think that John might be the
Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you
with water, but someone is coming, someone who is
more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the
strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy
Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to
clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into
his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will
never go out.' As well as this, there were many other
things he said to exhort the people and to announce
the Good News to them.

Next weeks Readings:

First Reading:	Micah 5:1-4
Second Reading:	Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel:	Luke 1:39-44