



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

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

By Brendan Byrne, SJ

Today's Scripture readings bring us at last to the threshold of Jesus' birth.

The **First Reading**, from the prophet Micah, 5:1-4, is famous for designating Bethlehem as the place of the Messiah's birth. The early Christians found it rich with pointers to what they believed God had done in Christ: salvation coming from what is 'least' in human terms; the sense of the 'ruler' to be born 'out of her' who, in contrast to most of the rulers of the time, will be a 'shepherd' who will feed his flock (a theme picked up in the Responsorial Psalm). Finally, there is the pledge that his rule will be synonymous with 'peace', something that the angels will echo when they announce the birth of a Saviour to the shepherds of Bethlehem (Luke 2:14).

The **Second Reading**, from Hebrews 10:5-10, stresses the superiority and effectiveness of what Christ has achieved, in comparison with the sacrificial ritual of the old covenant. To bring this out the writer appeals to a passage from one of the psalms (Ps 40 [39]:7-9). This makes the point that what God wants from worshippers is not so much material sacrifices – holocausts of animals and the like – as an inward commitment to do God's will. The text of Hebrews exploits a curious variant featured, it would seem, in the author's copy of the Greek version of the psalm. Instead of reading 'ears you have opened for me', as in the Hebrew original, it reads: 'a *body* you have prepared for me'. This makes the psalm all the more applicable to Christ in that it perfectly describes the obedience with which he offered up his body to death on Calvary.

Along with this, the Advent setting invites us to hear in the phrase, 'You ... prepared a body for me', a reference to the Incarnation, about to become manifest in the birth of the Lord. The human life of Jesus, from its very first moment to its end on Calvary, will be a continual act of bodily obedience offered for the salvation of the world.

The **Gospel**, Luke 1:39-45, at last brings us to the major players in the story of Jesus' birth. Presuming our knowledge of the Annunciation to Mary, it describes the meeting between Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth. In this 'Visitation' story, the two women share their remarkable experience. As their two stories come together, faith overflows in new insight, knowledge and celebration.

Mary has surrendered in faith and obedience to the extraordinary role that Gabriel has announced to her. In faith, too, she has obeyed the angel's additional command to go and seek out the 'sign' to be seen in the pregnancy, at an advanced age, of her cousin Elizabeth. Biblical faith does not presuppose signs already given: it acts, goes on its journey, and *then* discovers signs that confirm what has been believed. This is how Elizabeth's pregnancy functions for Mary. This lesser wonder brought about by God's power (the conception of a child to parents of advanced years) confirms her faith in the far greater marvel: that with God's Spirit replacing the role of male parent she is to become the mother of her people's Messiah.

... Continued, Page 2

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 24 to 29

Mon 24	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word
<i>See</i>	7:00pm	Family Mass
<i>Christmas</i>	8:00pm	Mass, Glengarry
<i>Mass</i>		
<i>Times</i>	11:00pm	Mass
<i>Page 3</i>		
Tues 25	9:30am	Mass
Weds 26		Liturgy of the Word
Thurs 27		Liturgy of the Word
Fri 28		Liturgy of the Word
Sat 29	9:30am	Mass

Rosary: Tuesday to Sunday 30 minutes before Mass.

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

KNIGHT OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

NEWS:

During the week the annual Knights of the Southern Cross Scholarships were presented during their recent school assemblies.



The winners for 2018 are **Brandon Piening** (St Michael's PS) and **Joshua Sova** (St Gabriel's PS).

The Award was first presented at St Michael's in 1993 and at St Gabriel's from 1999. The \$500 Scholarships assist each child in moving from primary schooling to secondary education at Lavalla Catholic College.

FAREWELL (for the time being). After spending the last six weeks here amongst us, our second year seminarian Mark Hughes will return to the city. Thank you Mark, for all your joy and energy. We hope to see him here again during 2019.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: The Parish Office will be closed from 12:00pm on Friday December 21, and will re-open on Thursday January 02, 2019.

In case of emergency, please call 5174 2060 and clearly leave your name, number and a short message. The message will be received by Father.

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.

PRAYERS AT THE CRIB: Parishioners who attended the Prayers at the Crib on Thursday evening enjoyed a wonderful time of prayers, scripture readings and carol singing and shared in supper and enjoyed a chat afterwards.

Thanks to Michael Hansen, Jane Mitchell, Mark Hughes and all who participated in this moving liturgy. It was a lovely peaceful time to reflect on the meaning of the nativity story.

MEETING: JANUARY 22 at 7:00PM:

Please note new date

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 **Wednesday January 22 at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre.**

Scripture Commentary:

(Continued from page 1)

The account makes much of Mary's greeting, which in the language of the time, would have been 'Peace' (*Shalom*). Mary brings the 'peace' that is to characterise the messianic age. As soon as she utters this messianic greeting, Elizabeth experiences the infant John within her womb leaping with 'messianic' joy. The Baptist is already exercising his role of pointing to the presence of the Messiah. Hence Elizabeth confirms what Mary has hitherto simply believed: that she is indeed pregnant with the infant Messiah whose role and destiny Gabriel had announced. She now has the 'sign' that she was sent to find.

It is important to note Elizabeth's insistence that Mary is 'blessed', not simply because she is 'the mother of my Lord', but because of her faith: 'Blessed is she who *believed* that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.' What Mary had to believe far outstripped the faith required of Zechariah. Her faith was the essential channel through which salvation would flow into the world. It is people of faith who open up the world to God's power. All the scriptural promises heard through Advent come to their point of focus in the faith of Mary, the beginning and the model of all subsequent Christian believing.

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We remember those who have died recently, including Norman McDonald, Irene Hoch, Sr Stella O'Donnell and Johanna Van Zwieten, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Lynette Cahill, Rino Frescura, Roberto Lago, Cecilia Diadula and Joe Agostino.

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



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



STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:

*"For behold, when the voice of your greeting
came to my ears, the babe in my womb
leaped for joy." LUKE 1:44*

When you hear the scripture readings and
Gospel reading each Sunday, do you "leap
for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or
priest, rather look inside yourself. Do you
prepare for Mass each week or do you just
show up and expect to be entertained? We
are called to be active participants, not
passive bystanders.

PARISH FINANCE MATTERS:

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

Counters

Dec 23 Mitchell Team
Dec 25 Waanders Team
Dec 30 Waanders Team

Rosters for December 29 & 30 ~ The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Music	Sacristan
6:00pm	S Grout	B O'Brien	J & M McLaughlin, C DiCorleto, Volunteers x 2	Volunteers	Jane	A Symonds
9:30am	C McLure R Diaz	L Van der Velden	D Bau, L Panozzo-Tilè, Volunteers x 4	Volunteers	Jane	P & L Van der Velden
6:00pm	C Roga	E Joseph	J Reid, R Tarraran, Volunteers x2	Volunteers	Jane	L Theissling

- **Altar Cleaning:** Dec 30 M Giddens Jan 06 M Tainsh
- **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 30 J & W Waanders Jan 06 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:** Jan 10 Moretti Team

Rosters for December 24 & 25 ~ Christmas Masses

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Music	Sacristan
Dec 24 7:00pm	Rob Tarraran	Robyn Tarraran	J Hanratty, M Giddens, C DiCorleto, G Imhagwe, Volunteers x 2	C DiCorleto	Diamante family	Matt Hanratty
Dec 24 11:00pm	B O'Brien	D Smith	J & W Waanders Volunteers x 4	M Rodda	Jane	Greg Imhagwe
Dec 25 9:30am	S Grout	M Moulton	Volunteers x 6		Charismatic Choir	P & L Van der Velden

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading Micah 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

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**

Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices
for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in
the scroll of the book,

'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Next weeks Readings:

*The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph*

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Second Reading: Col 3:12-21

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52