

**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 Otobo** Parish Priest**Deacon Confidence Masvosva**

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 an emergency please call 0448 529 712 and leave a message. All non-urgent calls should be made during office hours.

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

Parish Pastoral Council: Greg Imhagwe Chairperson, Fr Francis, Sr Doreen, Lia Di Corleto, Watson Gomez, Jenifer Hanratty, Steve Kimani, Judi McLaughlin, Thomas Mathew, Ray Moretti, Amanda Reid, Kevin Taylor, 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 Dianne Bergant CSA

The first reading of the first Sunday of this liturgical year contains a vision of universal peace and an invitation to participate in that peace by fidelity to the word of God. This vision of the future describes the eschatological age of complete faithfulness to God and the peace and harmony among people that will flow from it. Although the peace depicted here can come only from God, people do in fact play a very important role in its advent. Because this eschatological age has not yet come in its fullness, this vision is a promise, and an invitation that will continue to be relevant to each succeeding generation.

The responsorial psalm, a song of Zion, is an individual hymn of joy and praise of one who had the opportunity to go to the temple in Jerusalem. The city was built on Mount Zion, a hill that towered above much of the neighbouring low-lying terrain. This not only gave it a vantage point from which one could survey the surrounding territory, an important asset in case of possible attack, but its height enabled it to be seen from a distance, thus creating the impression of watchfulness and protection. Peace, as spoken of here, incorporates more than the absence of war or strife. It includes prosperity, well-being, and completeness. It is for this peace that the psalmist requests prayer.

Paul speaks about the decisive time of fulfilment, the kairós, the period of transition from the present age of sin to the long-awaited age of fulfilment. He employs several images to characterise this division of time: 'this age' is like slumber, or night and darkness; 'the age to come' is like wakefulness, or day and light. The statement 'already but not yet' acknowledges that the age of fulfilment has already dawned, but it has not yet been brought to completion. The new life that Christians are called to live is characterised as putting on clothing – armour, because they face spiritual warfare. To 'put on the Lord Jesus Christ' means to become identified with him.

The gospel reading is a lesson on the character of the parousía or future coming of the Son of Man. It addresses the sudden nature of this imminent time of fulfilment and of the need to be ready at all times for its dawning. In order to explain this, Jesus draws an analogy with one of the stories of ancient Jewish tradition, and then sketches two very ordinary experiences of life as demonstrations. He concludes with a kind of parable that teaches a lesson. All of these teaching devices follow the same twofold pattern: 1) the people had no idea of what was in store for them; 2) calamity befell them because they were unprepared. The message here is clear: 'Stay awake!' 'Be prepared!'

**OUR PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:**

"Stay Awake". Jesus urges us to be ready. Today let us pray for the young people in our parish community, that they may be ready and alert to hear the Lord calling them to the faithful vocations of marriage, priesthood, consecrated or single life.

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Saturday	5:30pm	St Michael's
Sunday	9:30am	St Michael's
	5:30pm	St Michael's

WEEKDAY LITURGY TIMES

December 02 to 06

Mon 02	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word
Tues 03	9:30am	Mass
Weds 04	11:00am	Exposition
	12:00pm	Mass
		Communion Service in the Church (SGPS End of Year Service in the Church)
Thurs 05	9:30am	Communion Service at Dalkeith Hostel
	10:30am	Communion Service at Dalkeith Hostel
Fri 06	9:30am	SMPS End of Year Service

Rosary: Tuesday to Sunday 30 minutes before Mass.

Reconciliation: Saturdays 5:00pm, Wednesdays at 11:30am or any other time by arrangement with Father.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We remember those who have died recently including Judy Cooney, Mary Lawless and Ricardo Lallea and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Fr David Cagney, Agostino Damiano, Antonio Spurio, Veronica Barter, Mark Harrup Peter Meneghetti, the Saliba family, John Zahra, Salvatore Agostino, Giovanni Lombardo and Caterina Raso-Lombardi.

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

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

including, including Megan Agostino, Maria Alessandrini, Lee Allman, Lulu Aragon, Cath Boers, Fr Bernard Buckley, Conceicao Carvalho, Julie Dal Pra, Peter Dal Pra, Ann-Maree Daly, Anthony Derham, Gary Donchi, Bernadette Formaran, Fr Frank Freeman, Marj Gilbert, Carolyn Gleeson, Robert Hazelman, Imogen Hillier, Marie Howard, Joan Lamont, Peter Lont, Joyce Martin, Ivy May, Deborah Mc Kerchar, Ben Melenhorst, Fr John O'Kelly, Joan Quigley, Joan Riggall, Kath Ryan, Ray Smith, Jerry Templer, Julie Vaz, Brian Vivian, Celie Smith, George Walkan, and Fr Frank Young.



WELCOME TO BISHOP PAT: We warmly welcome Bishop Pat to our Parish this weekend, thank you for coming to be with us as we send forth our young people who are attending the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Perth from December 07 to 11. Bishop Pat will also help us mark the end of an era at Glengarry, as the Church there ceases to be a Mass Centre. Over 126 years of Masses celebrated, parishioners baptised, married and buried from St Columbkille's: Over this period, the Catholic Church has been an important part of the Glengarry community.

PRAYERS AT THE CRIB: An Ecumenical Advent Prayer Evening will be held in the Church on **Wednesday December 18**, commencing at 7:30pm. Then enjoy a shared supper in the Parish Centre afterwards.

This is a wonderful chance to join with other Christians as we listen to Scripture passages tracing the story of the birth of Jesus. Join in singing of Carols and Christmas Hymns and benefit from some time spend in prayer for ourselves and for the world. *Parishioners are asked to bring a plate of supper to share.*

BAPTISMS: Our next meeting for those preparing for Baptism is on **Wednesday December 04** at **7:00pm** in the Parish



Centre. Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 for further information.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Weds 04

- 7:00pm **Baptism Preparation Meeting**, Parish Centre
- 7:00pm **Parish Pastoral Council**, Parish Centre

SACRAMENTS 2019: In 2020 we will be celebrating First Communion at the beginning of Term 2, Confirmation early in Term 3 and Reconciliation in Term 4. Enrolment Forms for all the Sacraments are available from the Parish Office.

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 11 to December 09.**



Parishioners are asked to take a gift tag, and return your gift/voucher by December 09. There will be envelopes in the foyer if you wish to make a monetary donation. Last year more than 350 children received gifts, and a similar number is expected this year. The conference would like to thank all parishioners for their support during 2019, and wish all a happy, holy and safe Christmas spent with those we love most.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: The Parish Office will close at 10:00am on Friday December 06 to allow staff to attend a meeting.

MORNING TEA FOR SENIOR

PARISHIONERS: Our CWL will hold a morning tea for our senior parishioners in the St Vincent de Paul Help Centre, 43 Kay Street on Wednesday 18th December from 10:30am to midday. All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Johanna on 0413 489 704 if you are able to attend.

MISSING COMMUNION PYX: Could all our wonderful parishioners who take communion to our sick and housebound please return the many missing pyx as soon as possible.

TOURING STATUE OF OUR LADY: it's roster time again, and we have great need of five people (singles, families) who will happily pray the Rosary for one week with the Statue of our Lady in their homes. This tradition has been alive in our Parish for over sixty years, help us please to continue it. Please contact Marie Moulton on 0427 740 938 if you are able to help out.

2020 ROSTERS: *Good Grief!* It's already that time of year again!! Could all those wonderful people who manage the Parish Rosters please forward the rosters for 2019 to sec@smpt.org.au no later than Friday December 07. Many thanks.

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 2019

Christmas Eve Tuesday December 24

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.

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

Christmas Day Wednesday, December 25

9:30am Mass Mass at St Michael's
Please note there is no evening Mass on Christmas Day



! LEAVING COLLECTION: A reminder that after all Masses this weekend, there will be a leaving collection to raise money to help alleviate the costs involved in sending our six young people and three adults to Perth to attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. With grateful thanks.

FINANCE MATTERS:

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Matthew 24:42)

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given. You begin to see God's active presence in your life.

PARISH FINANCE MATTERS:

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

Counters

Dec 02 Arend Team
Dec 09 Armstrong Team



YOUTH MASS Our next Youth Mass will be at **9:30am Mass on December 08**, our Junior Choir will sing. Please contact Uwa Imhagwe on 0406 212 504 for further information.

ACYF in Perth, December 2019: it's exciting that we have six teenagers and three adults heading to Perth in December to attend the 2019 Australian Catholic Youth Festival.

As you can imagine, there's quite a cost involved in sending these enthusiastic teenagers who are all eager to discover more ways of living and celebrating their faith, and so if anyone is able to assist with sponsoring this group, all donations would be gratefully accepted. Please contact Jen in the Parish office of on 5174 7703.

There are 70 young people from the Diocese attending the ACYF, 40 from our Schools and 30 from our Parishes, what a great celebration of faith for so many, many young people. They will enjoy a marvellous faith-filled experience along with the 5,000 other young people who will be in attendance. Please keep them all in your prayers during the coming weeks.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY SCENE: preschool and primary school aged children who wish to participate in the Nativity Scene at the Christmas Family Mass at 7:00pm on December 24 need to complete the information required on a flyer on the entrance tables. Please take the information section of the flyer home so you have all the relevant details. Thank you.

Rosters for December 08 and 09 ~ Second Sunday of Advent Year A

Special Ministers of the Eucharist – 4 ministers are required for 5:30pm Masses, and 6 ministers at 9:30am.
Deacon Tony and Deacon Confidence will assist when present.

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Music	Sacristan
5:30pm	A Taylor	D Smith	J Scholtes, R Tactor, B Purcell, A Membrey	G & D Bassett	Jane	Volunteer required
9:30am	Youth Mass	Youth Mass	W Detering, D Prestipino, G Imhagwe, A Reid, A Phillips	C Payne M Wilkinson	Jr Youth Choir	M Hanratty
5:30pm	J Panozzo-Tilè	J Hanrahan	J Fleming, S Luscombe, Volunteer	M Noone	Jane	Volunteer required

- **Altar Cleaning:** Dec 08 M Tainsh Dec 15 J Scholtes
- **Church Cleaning:** Dec Van Berkel Team
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Dec 08 Youth Mass
- **Touring Statue of Our Lady:** Dec 09 V Vaz Dec 16 E Kanara

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

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 Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm PS 121:1-2 4-5 6-9 R see v1.**(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**
2. It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. **(R.)**
3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!' **(R.)**
4. For love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rom 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 21:36

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

Gospel Matthew 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

**Next weeks Readings**

December 08

Second Sunday in Advent

1 st Reading	Isaiah 11:1-10
2 nd Reading	Romans 15:4-9
Gospel	Matthew 3:1-2