



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, 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

OPERATION STUDY YOUR BIBLE

We will all now be just past the half-way mark, well done. It's marvellous to hear snatches of conversations between parishioners about how they're finding reading Luke.

Some passages in some of the chapters read thus far have proven challenging and difficult to understand. It can be hard to appreciate why certain passages have been written in the way they have.

Keep up this exciting spiritual journey with all our parishioners. We are planning to get together in January (at a date and time to be advised, watch this space!) to share a barbecue and some time together to chat about the experience of daily reading, listening to and being affected by 'our chapter' of Luke's Gospel.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL ~ WELCOME BACK!

To our six young pilgrims who journeyed to Perth and represented our Parish at the ACYF last weekend. Deacon Confidence also attended the Conference with a group of secondary school students. I'm sure they will let us know how they got on, it sounds as though it was very exciting! The youngsters will speak to us briefly at our Masses next weekend and let us know how they got on.

Thanks too, to Anthony Symonds, Sue Rickwood and Jen Hanratty who accompanied our young folk on this amazing adventure.



The St Michael's Crew at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Perth

Fr Francis

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

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

WEEKDAY LITURGY TIMES

December 16 to 20

Mon 09	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word
Tues 10	10:45am	Communion Service Margery Cole
	11:00am	Requiem Mass for Mary Kelly
Weds 11	11:00am	Exposition
	12:00pm	Mass
Thurs 12	9:30am	Mass
Fri 13	9:30am	Mass

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 Allen Garrett, Mary Kelly, Sr Bride O'Bryan, Joan Oates, Juan Goicoa, Hank Dortmans, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Fergus Darmody, Bill Hazelman, Ruby Doyle, O V Kuriakose, Fr James Duffy, Irene Hoch, Mary Potter, Salvatore & Catena Ciminello.

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 McKerchar, 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.



THANK YOU: to Fr Solomon for sharing with us this Sunday evening. It's wonderful having you here with us.

CONGRATULATIONS: to Fr Francis, who has successfully completed his Doctorate in Philosophy! Our very own Fr Doctor Otobo.

TO THE CHILDREN OF THE PARISH:

Fr Francis has two questions for you.

- What is Christmas for you?
- What is your Christmas message for our parishioners?

Please write your answers and bring them to Masses on Dec 21 and 22, or bring them to the office before Dec 20.

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 **Tuesday January 14 at 7:00pm in the Parish Centre.** Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 for further information.



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Tues 10
7:00pm Finance Team,
Parish Centre

*Advent increases our hope,
a hope which does
not disappoint.*

The Lord never lets us down".

Pope Francis.



OUR PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

"The Lord is Near" Today the Church bids us rejoice, the Lord is near, indeed He is with us. Let us rejoice today for those who have said 'yes' to the call of Jesus. Pray for our priests and religious. Pray for the seminarians and religious in formation at this time and for more young people to join them.

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.

PPC REPORT: News from our recent PPC Meeting:-

* Our thanks to Ray Moretti, who has retired from the PPC. His experience, enthusiasm and generosity to our Parish has been greatly appreciated.

* The various Parish Policies, eg Privacy, Code of Conduct, etc, needed to be updated. There are some small changes to be made.

* Early in 2020, a Committee will be formed to look after the winding up of the Glangarry property.

* A welcoming Mass and cuppa for the Glangarry community will be held in the hall after Mass on Sunday December 22. Parishioners are asked to bring a plate of morning tea to share.

* The updated Strategic Plan will be presented at our Masses on the weekend of February 02.

FINANCE MATTERS: November 2019

Loose collections

November 03	\$1,367.00
November 10	\$2,053.00
November 17	\$1,072.00
November 24	\$1,302.40
	<u>\$5,749.40</u>

Planned Giving

Envelopes	\$ 6,176.55
Direct Debit	\$ 5,748.00
Credit Card	\$ 2,735.00
<u>Unplanned giving</u>	<u>\$ 915.45</u>
November total	<u>\$15,575.00</u>

SHARE THE DIGNITY: Many thanks to the staff of St Michael's and St Gabriel's schools for their efforts again this year in donating 39 handbags filled with necessities and a few luxuries for women who are doing it tough in our community. St Michael's staff have taken this project on in place of the usual Kris Kringle. Thank you to all who participated- your generosity is much appreciated.



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, 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.

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



THE CANDLES OF ADVENT: The candles of Advent represent the four weeks of waiting for Christmas. The first is called the 'Candle of Hope', it symbolizes faith in God keeping his promises to humanity. The second is called the "Candle of Preparation", reminding Christians to 'get ready' to receive God. The third candle is the "Candle of Joy". It recalls the angels joyfully singing about the birth of Christ. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love", reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth. The white candle in the centre, stands for Jesus Christ himself.

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. There are still vacancies for shepherds and angels in the Nativity Scene, so please complete the necessary paperwork and come to the costume-fitting this Sunday after 9:30am Mass. Completed forms can be dropped into the Parish Office, if after hours, please put the forms through the mail slot beside the front door. Please take the information section of the flyer home so you have all the relevant details.



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.

FINANCE MATTERS:

"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." (James 5:8)

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

PARISH FINANCE MATTERS:

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

Counters

Dec 15 Waanders Team
Dec 22 Arend Team

Rosters for December 21 and 22 ~ Fourth 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	H Theissling	A Taylor	J Scholtes, R Tactor, J Ware, Volunteer	S Frankland L Kennedy	Jane	A & M Giddens
9:30am	M Hanson N Georgeson	C McCabe	W Detering, C Payne, M Hanratty, S Reid, Volunteers x 2	C Collis E Freeman	Jane	G Imhagwe
5:30pm	S Luscombe	S Grout	C Hill, E Hill, volunteers x 2	G Edgar J Sykes	Jane	Volunteer required

- **Altar Cleaning:** Dec 15 J Scholtes Dec 22 F Rycak
- **Church Cleaning:** Dec Van Berkel Team Jan Joske Team
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Dec 22 School holidays
- **Touring Statue of Our Lady:** Dec 15 E Kanara Dec 22 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 19 McLaughlin Team Closed to January 09

Entrance Antiphon Phil 4:4-5

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

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-6 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm PS 71:1-2 7-8 12-13 R cf V7**(R.) Lord, come and save us.**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** Jas 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Is 61: (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Next weeks Readings 4th Sunday in Advent

1 st Reading	Isaiah 7:10-14
2 nd Reading	Romans 1:1-7
Gospel	Matthew 1:18-24