

**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 Dagne 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

Christmas Message 2019 from Bishop Pat:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, every year has its mixture of good and bad. Every year has its various successes and failures. Each year has its number of unexpected and unnerving events, as well as its deep joys and successes.

2019 is no different. For many it has been a tough year. Back in February this year our Diocese seemed to be ringed by bushfires in places around Bunyip, Churchill and Dargo. In late November, it seemed as if the whole country was on fire. Some of our people are facing a challenging new year.

Things feel a little fragile right now for some: the economy is tight; there is not much of a social security net; jobs are under major threat in the Latrobe Valley and in our timber country; some of our young people are uncertain about their future.

While we know that uncertainty and the unforeseen are to be expected in our lives, it leaves us a little unsettled.

And then into this uncertainty once again, as it does each year, comes Advent and Christmas. A reminder that the kind of God we have is a God who first comes to us; a God who is not only God for us, but God with us; a God who reminds us that we are not alone. At Christmas the One who is our light comes into our lives. The prophet Isaiah tells us that the 'people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. On those who dwell in the valley of death a light has shone.' This is our story as well.

Our joy at Christmas is not simply the celebration of another birthday. It celebrates that we have someone who is our Light; One who can show us the path of life; One whose light accompanies us especially in the darkness.

If Christ is that for us then Christmas also challenges us to become that Light in our world. At Christmas we see in the child born in Bethlehem a God who comes in search of us; a God who is our true Light, a God who teaches us that we are not alone. It shows us that we have someone upon whom we can lean.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, may Christmas 2019 be a time of great peace, trust and forgiveness, for you and your families and friends. May we rediscover Jesus Christ our true light, a light that is always there. God is good, good indeed.

Bishop Patrick O'Regan*Bishop of Sale*

READING LUKE: By now, we're almost at the end of Luke . . . only a few more chapters to go.

Everyone is invited to a 'Luke Get-Together' on Wednesday 22nd January, a barbecue at 6:00pm in the Parish Centre, and a chat about how we found Luke.

Please let the Parish Office know if you can come. Parishioners are asked to bring a salad or sweets to share.

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

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

WEEKDAY LITURGY TIMES

December 23 to 27

Mon 23 9:30am Liturgy of the Word

Tues 24 Christmas Eve

11:00am Requiem Mass for Bereneice Fraser
7:00pm Christmas Mass
11:00pm Christmas Mass

Weds 25 Christmas Day

9:30am Mass

Thurs 26 9:30am Mass

Fri 27 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.

Mary's Dream

I had a dream Joseph. I don't understand it, not really, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our Son.



I think that was what it was all about. The people had been preparing for it for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought elaborate gifts. It was peculiar though, because the presents were for our Son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right in their house. They decorated the tree also. The branches were full of glowing balls and sparking ornaments. There was a figure on top of the tree. It looked like an angel might look. Oh, it was beautiful.

Everyone was laughing and happy. They were all excited about the gifts. They gave the gifts to each other Joseph, not to our Son. I don't think they even knew Him. They never mentioned His name. Doesn't it seem odd for people to go to all that trouble to celebrate someone's birthday if they don't know him. I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration, He would have been intruding. Everything was so beautiful, Joseph, and everyone so happy, but it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus not to be wanted at His own birthday party.

I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real.

Author Unknown.

NEWS OF FR BERNARD: Fr Bernard has now officially resigned as Parish Priest of St Patrick's Pakenham, to allow himself more time to attend to his health.

If you would like to send him a card, please drop it at the Parish Office, and it will be forwarded on to him.

Please keep Fr Bernard, and all those who journey with ill health in your prayers.

Clergy Appointments: Bishop Pat has announced the following movements of clergy as of January 15th 2020.

Fr Janeesh Puthenpurackal CMI will become Parish Priest of St Patrick's Pakenham.

Fr Antony Rebelo IVD will become Parish Priest of Yarram and Foster

Fr Stanly Davasi will be Assistant Priest of Cranbourne

Fr Jayakody Francis will be Assistant Priest of Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance & Orbost.

OUR PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

"God is With Us" St Joseph listened to the call of God, his vocation was to trust. Today let us pray that many young people from our parishes and families will hear the call of God and trust enough to say 'yes' to priesthood and consecrated life.

BAPTISMS: This weekend, we welcome for Baptism :- **Sam Thomas McMahon**, son of John and Bec.



Congratulations to the family, and welcome to our Parish, Sam!

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.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

This year the St Vincent de Paul Society, Traralgon Conference distributed Christmas Hampers and Toys to approximately 120 homes in Traralgon. Words are not enough to express our gratitude for the generosity of the community at this time of year.

We would like to give a special thank you to the parishioners of St Michael's Parish for monetary donations, food and the gifting tree donations. Also, our grateful thanks to Lavalla Catholic College for a monetary donation and a very well organised supply of festive food, to St Gabriel's School for a wonderful variety of new toys and St Michael's School for approximately 50 bags filled with festive food.

Thank you again, for embracing the true spirit of Christmas in giving to someone in need. We wish everyone a holy and peace-filled Christmas time.

KSC 2019 SCHOLARSHIPS: The annual Knights of the Southern Cross Scholarships have been presented during end of year school assemblies. Winners were **Julian Dore** (St. Michael's) and **Regan Bailey** (St. Gabriel's).

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We remember those who have died recently including Shirley Gibson, Bereneice Fraser, Allen Garrett, Mary Kelly and Sr Bride O'Bryan and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Lynette Cahill, Ding Aragon, Leo Bernard Vaz, Vincent Bernard Vaz, Fergus Darmody, Bill Hazelman, Ruby Doyle, O V Kuriakose and Fr James Duffy.

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.



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.**



PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: The Parish Office will close on Friday December 20 at 2:15pm, and re-open at 9:00am on Tuesday 6th January 2020.

The staff wish all a safe, holy and happy Christmas and give thanks for all the wonderful people who are the Parish of St Michael's.

Should you urgently require Father in that time, please call 0448 529 712 and leave a message.

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



Plenary Council News: Have you been a

part of the Plenary Council process of listening, prayer, dialogue and discernment? Do you feel called to express your interest in being a delegate from our diocese? Speak with your Parish priest, school principal or agency leader today about the details. Expressions of Interest due by **January 25th 2020.**

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:

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." (Matthew 1:24)

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

PARISH FINANCE MATTERS:

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

Counters

Dec 22 Arend Team
Dec 29 Armstrong Team



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.

Rosters for Christmas Masses

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Music	Sacristan
7:00pm 24/12	C DiCorleto	B Purcell	Greg Imhagwe, Sue Rickwood, Jill Reid, Volunteer	Youth Ministry	Diamante family	M Hanratty
11:00pm 24/12	B O'Brien	A Taylor	Theresa Denny, Wil & John Waanders	G Bassett M Blanchard	Jane	
9:30am 25/12	U Imhagwe	L Van der Velden	Bill Jacobs, Volunteers	A Ward C Collis	Charismatic Choir	Volunteer

Rosters for December 28 and 29 ~ Feast of the Holy Family

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Music	Sacristan
5:30pm	R Foote	D Smith	J & M McLaughlin, C DiCorleto, Volunteers	Volunteers	Jane	A Symonds
9:30am	C McLure R Diaz	L Van der Velden	D Bau, L Panozzo-Tilè, A Phillips, B Jacobs, Volunteer	Volunteers	Jane	P & L Van der Velden
5:30pm	C Roga	Volunteer required	J Reid, J Fleming, S Luscombe, volunteer	Volunteers	Jane	Volunteer required

- **Altar Cleaning:** Dec 22 F Rycak Dec 29 L Kennedy
 - **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 22 J & L Zalesiak Dec 29 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:** Closed to January 09

Entrance Antiphon Cf Is45:8

*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 Isaiah 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm Ps23:1-6 R see vv 7.10

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** Rom 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.
From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

*A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Next weeks Readings**The Feast of the Holy Family**

1 st Reading	Sirach 3:2-6 12-14
2 nd Reading	Colossians 3:12-21
Gospel	Matthew 2:13-15 19-23