

**St Michael's Parish, Traralgon**

St Michael's Church, Traralgon

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**Fr Ajin Albarnas IVD** Assistant Priest**Deacon Confidence Masvosva**

Parish Centre 5174 2060

Priests' Residence: 5174 6765

Deacon Tony Aspinall

Phone 5174 8167

Em: deacontony8@gmail.com

Sr Doreen Dage 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 –

Tues, Weds, Fri 9:00am to 4:00pm

Parish Secretary: Bev O'Brien

Email: sec@smpt.org.au

Sacraments / Youth Jenifer Hanratty

Email: sacraments@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

Mark Hughes and the ministry of acolyte

Our Bishop, Pat O'Regan, informed me that our Seminarian Mark Hughes has indicated interest to receive his ministry of acolyte at our church at St Michael Traralgon. Mark decided to receive this ministry at a Mass celebrated in Traralgon because of the great love he has for us in Traralgon. As he always says: "I love Traralgon..." God bless him...

Who is an acolyte? The term comes from the Greek *akolouthos*, meaning [he who] comes, a follower, an attendant. In the past it was exclusively part of "minor orders," one of the stepping stones to becoming a priest. The acolyte would light the candles on the altar, carry them in procession, and during the solemn singing of the Gospel; prepare wine and water for the Eucharistic celebration; and assist the ministers at the Mass. In 1973 Pope Paul VI abolished "minor orders" but kept the role of acolyte, calling it instead a "ministry".

Hence, the acolyte is appointed in order to aid the deacon and to minister to the priest. It is his duty therefore to attend to the service of the altar and to assist the deacon and the priest in liturgical celebrations, especially in the celebration of the Eucharist. He may also, to the extent needed, take care of instructing other faithfuls who on a temporary basis are appointed to assist the priest or deacon in liturgical celebrations. It is a beautiful and sacred role in the church, one that comes with much responsibility in assisting priests and deacons during the Eucharistic celebration. This is the ministry that Mark would be receiving as scheduled below

Date: Saturday 21 March at the 5.30 pm Mass.**Venue:** St Michael Parish Traralgon.

Please let us come out *en masse* to support Mark and his family. There would be cuppa after the Mass, so a plate to share would be appreciated.

ALPHA IS COMING SOON

A young man met me on the road recently and asked me: what is alpha? Not sure where he was coming from I asked him in return: what do you mean? He smiled and said there is this sign on your church signage that says ALPHA IS COMING SOON... so what is that? At this point I took my time to explain to him what it was all about. He concluded by saying: that tells you that someone is reading your signs. Indeed, ALPHA IS COMING SOON. See details in the bulletin or contact Cathy McLure or the parish office.

OPERATION READ YOUR BIBLE

The discussion on the Gospel of Matthew last Monday March 2nd was very exciting, inspiring and educative. I learnt a lot from that meeting; thanks to those who were able to make it. The next Gospel for our reading is Mark. The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four canonical Gospels, only 16 chapters. We are hoping to read this for the rest of March. A theme for our discussion and a date of meeting will be communicated soon.

CORONA VIRUS: Please read important information from Bishop Pat on page 2 regarding the Corona Virus.

God bless you.

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

March 09 to 13

Mon 09	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Tues 10	10:45am	Mass, Margery Cole
Weds 11	11:00am	Exposition
	12:00pm	Mass
Thurs 12	9:30am	Mass, SGPS (Yr3/4)
Fri 13	10:30am	Mass, Bupa Care

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, remembering especially Patrick Gorman and Sheila Edgar and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Marie Ireland, Ann Campbell, Carmelo Pizzi, Gemma Rossl, Frank Valencic and John Zahra.

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, Bill Edgar, 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, Joan Quigley, Joan Riggall, Kath Ryan, Ray Smith, Jerry Templer, Julie Vaz, Brian Vivian, Celie Smith, George Walkan, and Fr Frank Young.



MONDAY 16TH MARCH: How is God calling us to be a **Christ-Centred Church this is Prayerful and Eucharistic?** Presented by Fr Paul Turner STD (USA)

All are welcome to attend this workshop at 7:30pm at St Patrick's Parish Centre, Princes Highway, Pakenham.

Supper following the workshop. Bookings \$10 per person, please book online go to <https://www.trybooking.com/BIMRS>.

BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for Baptism –

Aurelia Fernando, daughter of Dilan and Ivonina. Congratulations!



Our next meeting for those preparing for Baptism is on

Tuesday March 17th at 7:00pm in the Parish Centre. Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 for further information.

A MORNING TEA WITH MORAG:

Parishioners are warmly invited to share a cuppa with Morag Thompson following 9:30am Mass on Sunday March 29 in the Parish Centre.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be celebrated at 7:00pm each Friday during Lent. The RCIA Team members will lead us on March 13.

NEXT WEEKS MEETINGS:

Tuesday 10th March

- 1:30pm** Knights of the Southern Cross, Mary MacKillop room
7:00pm Mick's Kitchen Team Leaders Meeting, SVdP Centre

Wednesday 11th March

- 9:00am -** Icon School,
12:30pm Parish Centre
9:00am Weds AM Cells Group Mary MacKillop Room
1:00pm Weds PM Cells Group Parish Centre

Thursday 12th March

- 5:30pm** Risk Management Team Parish Centre

'CORONA VIRUS': Bishop Pat has sent a letter to our Parishes setting out steps we ought take to minimise the possibility of spreading the virus.

* please stay home if you are unwell and could possibly be infectious.

* Holy Water to be removed from the stoups at the Church doors. People may bring their own containers to take holy water home.

* At the Sign of Peace, avoid shaking hands, but say 'Peace be with you' and offer a smile, wave, nod or bow.

* Ministers of Holy Communion must take particular care to clean their hands.

* It is recommended that the Body of Christ only be administered to the hand for the time being, and that Holy Communion from the cup be suspended until further notice.

Copies of Bishop Pat's letter are available in the Church entrances and on our website.

60th Anniversary of the Level Crossing School Bus Accident

On 22 March 1960, six students and a bus driver were fatally injured in a school bus accident at a railway level crossing.

Five of the students are buried in a communal grave near one of the Catholic Sections at Traralgon Cemetery. One student was buried in her home town, Cowwarr, and the bus driver is buried at Traralgon close by the communal grave.

Traralgon Cemetery Trust are hoping families and community members will be able to join them on

Sunday 22 March 2020 at 2pm

at Gippsland Memorial Park

at the refurbished grave which will be blessed by Fr Francis followed by a gathering in the Oak Room for afternoon tea.

ALL WELCOME.

Please contact the Cemetery office on 5174 9071 for catering purposes

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: The CPG meets each Thursday in school term time at 7:30pm in the Mary MacKillop Hall. All are welcome to come and join in! Enquiries to Cathy on 5174 3001

ALPHA 2020: Do you know someone who may be looking to connect or re-connect with their Faith? Why not bring them along to the Introductory Evening of Alpha on **Wednesday 15th April.**

The evening will consist of a meal, a DVD presentation and some discussion time – a non threatening way to find out more.

Contact Cathy 0432 588 195 for further information.

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM MEETING: On Feb 20, the matters discussed included:-

* Reports were received from Children's Liturgy, Formation, Youth Mass, SMY@L, Music, Celebrate, Conferences, Fundraising, Compliance and Finance, a busy night!

* All Groups are running well at the beginning of 2020, with lots planned for all our groups.

* Lots of changes have been implemented as all our Youth Leaders learn to adapt to our new way of caring for our youth and meeting all the necessary guidelines; a huge learning curve, for us all.

* *Celebrate! Will occur on August 23, please write this date in your diary!*

* Fundraising - a huge thanks for all support received in 2019, it allowed us to cover all the costs for Celebrate!, and helped reduce costs for families who were involved in the ACYF in Perth, and many other areas of our Youth Ministry.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY: all Primary School aged children
Are invited to attend Children's Liturgy which takes place during the 9:30am Mass.

SCHOOL LED PARISH MASS: On March 15, our 9:30am Mass Will be led by the staff and students of St Michael's Primary School, please come and join in.

Following Mass, there will be morning tea in the hall. Parishioners are asked to provide a plate to share. Come and share some time and fun together.



YOUTH MASS: will be celebrated on the fourth Sunday of the month at the 5:30pm Mass. Rehearsals will be held one hour prior to Mass (at 4:30pm). Parents are reminded that they need to sign their child/ren in to rehearsals.

'RISE!' MELBOURNE ANNUAL YOUTH EVENT on Saturday March 21. Please contact Jen on 5174 7703 for further details of this event.

YOUTH FORMATION EVENING: Friday March 13th at 6:45pm-9:00pm. Supper provided. Our young folk will join in the Stations of the Cross.

FIRST COMMUNION: Dates for First Communion Preparation are as follows:-
*Parent & Child Workshops 1&2 **Wednesdays March 11 & 18** 4:00-5:00pm or 5:30-6:30pm in the St Mary MacKillop Hall.

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH ... we have been advised that Kay Street will be closed at 8:00am-11:30am on Sunday 15th March.

Parking for Mass will be available in Church Street and the school yard.
Please drive with care and remember to leave the schoolyard via the Church Street entrance.



Twenty-seven-year-old Phany was a struggling farmer and was forced to leave her daughter to take up construction work in the city. Her life has been transformed since joining a Caritas supported program, learning crop growing skills and better water management, to combat drought.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 and help mothers like Phany continue to uplift their communities, and provide food for their families.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

FINANCE MATTERS:

"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you." (Genesis 12:1)

God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow Him, placing our complete trust in Him. Some of the old ways that we may have to struggle to leave behind might be materialism, selfishness, and greed. Yet God promises to show us a new land and a better way to live. Remember what St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "God does not call us to be successful, God calls us to be faithful."

PARISH FINANCE MATTERS:

February 2020

Loose collections

February 02	\$ 986.25
February 09	\$1,052.00
February 16	\$1,077.00
February 23	\$ 1,297.00
	<u>\$4,412.25</u>

Planned Giving

Envelopes	\$ 4,645.20
Direct Debit	\$ 5,598.00
Credit Card	\$ 2,730.00
Unplanned giving	\$ 388.15
February total	<u>\$13,361.35</u>

Should you wish to have information about our Planned Giving program please contact the Parish Office.

Counters **Mar 08** Armstrong Team
Mar 15 Morris Team



March 14 & 15 ~ Third Sunday in Lent 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	R Foote B Purcell	D Smith	C DiCorleto, B Power, M Giddens, A Meredith	H Luque	Diamente Family	Volunteer required
9:30am	St Michael's PS	St Michael's PS	T Denny, J & W Waanders, L Panozzo-Tillè, A Symonds,	St Michael's PS	St Michael's PS	P & L Van der Velden
5:30pm	E Harte E Joseph	S Luscombe	J Reid, D Locke, C Roga	Volunteer		Volunteer required

- **Altar Cleaning:** Mar 08 J Scholtes Mar 15 F Rycak
- **Church Cleaning:** Mar Hanratty Team
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Mar 08 Marianne and Therese Mar 15 Amanda and Shane
- **Touring Statue of Our Lady:** Mar 09 P & W Gomez Mar 16 J & D Doherty
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:** Mar 12 Adroit Team Mar 19 Mitchell Team

Entrance Antiphon Cf Ps 24:15-16

*Of you my heart has spoken, seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.*

First Reading Genesis 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:4-5 18-20 22 Rv22

(R.) *Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.*

1. The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** 2 Tim 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

God has saved us, and called us to be holy

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 17:5

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Gospel 17:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

Next weeks Readings

15th March - Third Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

2nd Reading: Rom 5:1-2 5-8

Gospel: John 4:5-42