



# 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

### SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Dianne Bergant CSA

The reaction of the people in the wilderness to the lack of water laid bare their resistance to the leadership of Moses and the shallowness of their trust in God. After all that God had done, they still put God to the test. Just as God had delivered them from the bondage of Egypt through the leadership of Moses, so now, again through the actions of Moses, God gives them the water they demand. The miracle demonstrates that God is indeed in their midst. Why does God endure such thanklessness, rebellion and audacity? This is but another example of God's boundless and compassionate love for sinners.

The relationship between God and the people is characterised in the psalm response by means of several metaphors. God is the rock of their salvation, their creator and their shepherd. The images of rock and shepherd characterise God as protector. The psalmist issues a serious plea to be open to the voice of God. This is followed by an appeal by God for a response that is different than the spirit of rebellion that governed their ancestors while they were in the wilderness. God desires hearts that are open, not hardened by selfishness or a lack of faith. 'Today' the descendants of those rebellious wanderers are called upon to respond with open faith and willing obedience.

He tells the Christians in Rome that they have been justified through the actions of others, not their own. Human righteousness is based on the righteousness that originates in God, a righteousness that gives and sustains life, security and well being. We have no right to this relationship with God. It has been won for us by the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul maintains that this divine love is the foundation of our hope. This love is poured into our hearts through the Spirit who has been given to us. The prodigality of God's graciousness is beyond comprehension. It is poured out like water, life-giving, enriching, overflowing. Anticipation of the Trinitarian theology here is unmistakable.

Jesus asks the Samaritan woman for water when in fact he intends to give water. He is not talking about the water that could be drawn from the well. However, his real meaning was not immediately evident, and her misunderstanding is the opening for Jesus' instruction. His knowledge of her marital situation prompts her to call him a prophet and to engage him in a discussion about the proper place to worship God. Once again Jesus moves the conversation away from what is merely perceptible to the level of deep spiritual meaning. He declares that when the eschatological hour arrives, all religious observance will be superseded by worship that is animated by the Spirit. Ultimately it is through this woman that the word of salvation takes root in the hearts of the despised and marginalised and grows into a great harvest.



*Dianne Bergant CSA was a Professor of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where she taught from 1978 to 2014. She holds a BS in Elementary Education from Marian College, Wisconsin; an MA and PhD in Biblical Languages from St Louise University. She has taught and lectured in many places in the United States and throughout the world, and has written numerous books, articles and chapters in books.*

## SUNDAY MASS TIMES

<b>Saturday</b>	5:30pm	St Michael's
<b>Sunday</b>	9:30am	St Michael's
	5:30pm	St Michael's

## WEEKDAY LITURGY TIMES

### March 16 to 20

<b>Mon 16</b>	1:00pm	Requiem Mass for Mary Holmes
<b>Tues 10</b>	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word
<b>Weds 11</b>	11:00am	Exposition
	12:00pm	Mass
<b>Thurs 12</b>	9:30am	Mass, SGPS (Yr3/4)
<b>Fri 13</b>	9:30am	Mass, (SMPS Yr5/6)

**Rosary:** Tuesday to Sunday 30 minutes before Mass.

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

**BAPTISMS:** Our next meeting for those preparing for Baptism is on **Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Parish Centre.** Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 for further information.



### SATURDAY MARCH 21 5:30PM MASS:

Please come out *en masse* to support Mark as he celebrates his becoming an Acolyte, an important step for him on his journey to the priesthood.

We'll have a cuppa and share some supper afterwards in the hall, so please bring a plate of supper to share.

### 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 SMY@L Team members will lead us on **March 20**.

## NEXT WEEKS MEETINGS:

### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March

- 11:00am** Aged Care Facilities Visitation Team, Parish Centre
- 7:00pm** Baptism Preparation Meeting

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

- 9:00am** Weds AM Cells Group Mary MacKillop Room
- 1:00pm** Weds PM Cells Group Parish Centre
- 5:30pm** Risk Management Team Parish Centre

**CHURCH CLOSURE:** Following the Liturgy of the Word on Tuesday morning, the Church will be closed whilst our contractor sprays to kill the spider and bug population in the Church.

It is best if we all stay out of the Church on Tuesday. Thank you.

**CHILD SAFETY** . . For those parishioners who missed the Child Safe Training Day held here on November 09, 2019, there are a number of Child Safe Training Days being held throughout the Diocese in coming weeks. This may be a good way for all our parishioners to catch up with our role as Parish in creating, providing and maintaining a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults in our midst.

**Sacred Heart Primary Hall, Morwell – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 10:00am-12:30pm**

**ALPHA 2020:** In just over 4 weeks our parish will begin the Alpha Course. You've seen the signs, now come and check it out for yourself.



The Introductory Dinner will be held in the St Vincent de Paul Centre (corner of Kay & Breed Streets) on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 6:30pm.**

To register or ask questions, please contact Cathy on 0432 588 195.

### **Alpha Prayer**

*Heavenly Father, thank you that you made your love for the world known by sending your Son to die for us all. I pray that through the Alpha program that many people will come to a deeper knowledge of your love as it has been revealed in Jesus Christ, and as a result, follow him. Amen.*

### 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Level Crossing School Bus Accident

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

**'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 on our website.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** We remember those who have died recently, remembering especially Mary Holmes, Terry McMahon, Enio Bastianutto and Ron Baker and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Joan Jennings, Carmelo Pizzi, Ann Campbell and Marie Ireland.

**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 McKerchar, 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 that 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.

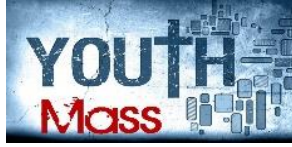
Supper following the workshop. Bookings \$10 per person, please book online go to <https://www.trybooking.com/BIMRS>.

**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:** Our first 'School Led' Parish Mass is being held **this Sunday, March 15**, at 9:30am, and morning tea will be held in the hall afterwards.

Parishioners are asked to bring a plate of morning tea to share, and to be there to meet our staff, families and youngsters from St Michael's Primary School.



**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 into rehearsals.

**YOUTH FORMATION EVENING: Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Workshop 2 **March 18** 4:00-5:00pm or 5:30-6:30pm in the St Mary MacKillop Hall. First Communion will be celebrated at our Masses on the weekend of **April 18 & 19**.

**SMY@L: FRIDAY 20TH MARCH Easter & Games Night** Join in an Easter Egg hunt & discover the real meaning of Easter as we take part in the Stations of the Cross. Indoor and outdoor games and activities. St Mary MacKillop Hall, 6:30-8:30pm. Cost \$3 plus bring some canned foods to be donated to St Vincent de Paul. Phone Sally 0403 282 630 for further information.

**FUNDRISING LUNCH:**

Bishop Pat O'Regan and the Knights of the Southern Cross invite you to Fundraising Lunch to support the education of the Seminarians for the Diocese of Sale.

Saturday July 25 2020, 12:00pm at the Black Tie Function Centre, 90 Alfred Street, Warragul. \$50 per head – a two course meal, drinks at bar prices.

To buy tickets, please go to <https://www.trybooking.com/BIWRN>

**FINANCE MATTERS:**

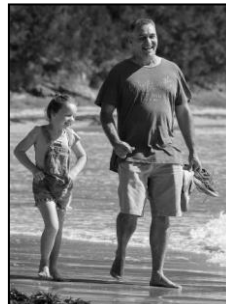
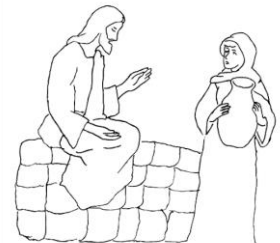
*"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again." (John 4:13)*

Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us for long. When we build our lives around material possessions, we always want more. True Joy and Peace only comes when we follow Jesus; when we become more "God-centered" and less "self-centered."

**PARISH FINANCE MATTERS:**

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



Barry grew up in a tough environment. With the support of a program from Caritas Australia's partner, Red Dust Healing, Barry has overcome many of life's challenges. He is now an inspirational father to his four girls and a leader in his community.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 and help vulnerable people like Barry, So that they are empowered to assist members of their communities in Australia.**

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

**March 21 & 22 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A**

Special Ministers of the Eucharist – 2 ministers are required for 5:30pm Masses, and 2 ministers at 9:30am until further notice. Deacon Tony and Deacon Confidence will assist when present.

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Music	Sacristan
5:30pm	A Tylor H Theissling	S Grout	J Scholtes, R Tactor, J Ware,	S Frankland L Kennedy	Jane	A & M Giddens
9:30am	S Reid U Imhagwe	M Tainsh	W Detering, C Payne, M Hanratty, S Reid	C Collis E Freeman	Jane	G Imhagwe
5:30pm	Youth Mass	Youth Mass	C Hill, E Hill	Youth Mass	Youth Mass	Volunteer

- **Altar Cleaning:** Mar 15 F Rycak Mar 22 L Kennedy
- **Church Cleaning:** Mar Hanratty Team
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Mar 15 Amanda and Shane Mar 22 Volunteers
- **Touring Statue of Our Lady:** Mar 16 J & D Doherty Mar 23 U & G Imhagwe  
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](mailto:memou_38@bigpond.com)
- **Mick's Kitchen:** Mar 19 Mitchell Team Mar 26 Scholtes Team

**Entrance Antiphon** Cf Ps 24:15-16

*My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.*

**First Reading** Exodus 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

*Give us water to drink.*

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

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**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

**(R.)** *If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.*

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R.)**

**Second Reading** Rom 5:1-2 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the  
Holy Spirit which has been given to us.*

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in

which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

**Gospel Acclamation** John 4:42 15

*Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world, give me living  
water, that I may never thirst again.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

**Gospel** John 4:5-15 19-26 39-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.*

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you:

Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants.

God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that the Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'