

**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

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**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

My dear Parishioners,

Today is the first day that I have had to celebrate Mass in the Sacristy and without parishioners. This follows from the advice we received from the Catholic Bishops of the Province of Victoria on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 regarding the situation of the Corvid-19 in Australia; a follow-up letter to what was read to you last Sunday. The letter advises:

- Immediate suspension of all public liturgies (including the Mass) until further notice.
- All other gatherings are suspended.
- In the light of this, all Catholics of Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligations until further notice (can 1248).

Obviously, this has implications for families planning liturgies such as funerals and baptisms. This can also cause anxiety and even alarm for some, feelings of isolation and loneliness, and sometimes sadness that we cannot participate in our usual daily Masses. This is something new for all of us.

However one thing is certain: that God is with us. We are never alone.

HIS NAME IS EMMANUEL.

I want you to know that while there cannot be public Masses for the time being, we (Fr Ajin and I) will be offering Masses every day for the community and for our intentions. We will continue to pray every day that this crisis may soon be overcome. I wish to reassure you that we (Fr Ajin, Deacons Confidence and Tony and I) will also be available to parishioners especially those in need.

Meanwhile, while participating in Mass online and making spiritual communion is encouraged, engaging in an active prayer together, for instance, praying the Rosary together, having family scriptures reading and reflection, and spiritual readings etc. may be other suggestions.

Our parish staff will continue to be available to you during the usual office hours (we will let you know of any changes to office hours). However, respecting the need for social distancing, I encourage you to phone the parish office or send an email, in preference or prior to coming to the office.

We do intend to communicate via the Parish Web Page and App with information from both the parish and the Diocese. So please stay connected with us.

In another vein, we have received information that **our bishop, Pat O'Regan**, has now been appointed as **the new Archbishop of Adelaide**. This news came in last night. We keep praying for him.

Above all, let us continue to pray for one another and care for each other. Ring those you know who may feel isolated or lonely daily, if possible or let the office know. Through the witness of our faith may we bring hope to those who may be filled with anxiety or despair, and may we bring the joy of God's loving presence into the sadness people may feel.

In Union of prayer and good wishes,

*Fr Francis Otobo*

**COVID-19 VIRUS:** As we are all impacted by the Covid-19 virus and our need to do our utmost to keep everyone safe, below is a list of activities which have been affected.

1. Our local Aged Care Facilities have closed their doors to visitors - we are not able to take communion to or visit with our parishioners who reside in nursing homes.  
Masses will not be celebrated in our Aged Care Facilities for the time being.
2. Baptisms and Baptism Preparation Meetings are suspended for the time being.
3. The Diocesan Child Safe Training Day being held in Morwell on April 18 has been postponed until further notice.
4. St Therese of Liseux relics will not be arriving on April 21.
5. The St Mary MacKillop hall is no longer available for use - this means that our SMY@L group, our Charismatic Prayer Group are suspended, and no morning teas after Mass for the time being.
6. The St Vincent de Paul Centre is no longer available for use - Mick's Kitchen and our proposed Alpha course have been cancelled.
7. The CWL meeting scheduled for March 31, and the diocesan CWL Conference scheduled for March 25 have both been cancelled.
8. Ecumenical Taize prayer service has been cancelled.
9. Meetings of Cells Prayer Groups and the Icon School, and groups using the Parish Centre Meeting Rooms and the Mary MacKillop Room have also been cancelled.
10. All Youth Ministry activities have been suspended until further notice - Children's Liturgy, Youth Mass, Junior Choir, Formation, SMY@L.
11. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Communion preparation program has been suspended.
12. Mark Hughes' Acolyte celebration has been cancelled.
13. Morning tea for Morag Thompson, scheduled for March 29 has also been cancelled
14. Use of the Adoration Chapel has also been suspended for the time being.
15. The service at the Cemetery to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the level crossing school bus accident has been postponed.

#### **PRAYER COVID-19 (Pope Francis Daily)**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of good health and peace that we have enjoyed for so many years. As we find ourselves in this time of crisis today, we ask for your divine intervention and mercy to be upon each of us.

Come and guide the minds of those working to discover a treatment to the COVID-19 virus. Grant them wisdom, knowledge, and clarity of mind, so that all peoples will be free from the threat of this ailment.

We also pray for the healthcare workers that are standing in the front line of this battle. Father, we thank you for their hearts of service, putting the needs of society before their own, generously responding to the cry of Your people. We ask that You will grant them strength and protection. As they give of themselves in selfless service, may You fill them with your Holy Spirit as they work to be Your healing hands and feet!

Father, we also surrender to You all those who have been afflicted with the virus. Grant them Your healing grace, merciful Father, so that they may recover swiftly and continue to be witnesses of Your love in their lives.

Mother Mary, we ask for your intercession in this great time of need. Cover each of us with your blue mantle of protection, so that we may be preserved in good health to continue to glorify your son, Jesus Christ. We make this prayer through Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer.  
Amen.

#### **FINANCE MATTERS:**

*"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart."* (1Samuel 16:7)

How often do we invest our time, talent, and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car, and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent, and treasure here on earth.

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** Please keep supporting Project Compassion.

**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**  
GO FURTHER TOGETHER



Thirty-two-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. After joining a Caritas Australia-funded program, Sakun has learned new skills and gained important mobility. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help uplift vulnerable communities and support the rights of indigenous peoples around the world.**

**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.



**Entrance Antiphon** Cf Is 66:10-11

*Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.*

**First Reading** 1 Samuel 16:1 6-7 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel

*In the presence of the Lord God, the anointed David king of Israel.*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 22 Rv1

**(R.) The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**
2. He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me  
In the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.

**Gospel Acclamation** John 8:12

*Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord,  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

**Gospel**

John 9:1-41

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.*

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

## Next weeks Readings

Sunday March 22	Fifth Sunday of Lent
First Reading:	Ezekiel 37:12-14
Second Reading:	Romans 8:8-11
Gospel:	John 11:1-45