



St Michael's Catholic Parish 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: sec@smpt.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. Please contact our Safeguarding Officers, Chris DiCorleto and Shane Reid on 0417 572 546 if you have any concerns.

St Michael's Parish Information

Fr Francis Otobo Parish Priest

Fr Ajin Albarnas IVD Assistant Priest

Parish Centre 5174 2060

Priests' Residence: 5174 6765

Deacon Tony Aspinall

Phone 5174 8167

Em: deacontony8@gmail.com

Sr Doreen Dague 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 to Friday 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 and your contact details.

All non-urgent calls should be made during office hours.

Baptisms: currently in abeyance

Weddings: currently in abeyance

Parish Pastoral Council: Greg Imhagve 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

NEXT SUNDAY IS MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY:

The celebration of 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugee is on 27 September 2020. Pope Francis has chosen the theme, "*Like Jesus Christ, forced to flee*", for the 106th World Day of Migrant and Refugees.

Although we are not able to celebrate this day together in our churches, the message of Pope Francis can be found online at <https://migrants-refugees.va/resource-center/world-day-of-migrants-refugees-2020/>

Further information can also be found at –

Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project <https://basp.org.au/>

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre <https://www.asrc.org.au/>

East Gippsland Asylum Seeker Support (EGASS)

<https://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/rar-groups/victoria/east-gippsland/>

COVID RESTRICTIONS: The latest round of easing restrictions has not changed anything for our Parish. There is currently no provision for Masses (indoor or outdoor). Weddings are limited to 10 people, including the couple and two witnesses. Funerals are limited to 20 people plus the minimum required to conduct the funeral. Children under one year of age are not counted in the 20 person limit.

So many parish events have had to be postponed or cancelled; we've missed First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Celebrate!, heaps of meetings, SMY@L gatherings, Prayer Cells Groups, RCIA, Mick's Kitchen, Mens Breakfasts, Knights of the Southern Cross, Youth Formation, Masses in our Nursing Homes: so many, many occasions where we 'normally' gather together as parish.

Even our fundraisers – this is the first year that the SMY@L group have not been able to support Operation Christmas Shoe box in a long, long time.

And so many of the causes our parish and Diocese support, Catholic Mission, Caritas, the Priests Welfare Foundation, the Good Friday Appeal for the Christians in the Holy Lands, Catholic Care, . . . all these amazing groups who are the hands and feet of God in foreign lands, in Australia, wherever there is poverty and oppression. May we remember all those who are supported by these organisations in our prayer life, and if we are able, assist financially.

And so, these are all the events we now look forward to in 2021, and we pray that soon we may again celebrate Mass in our Church.

And still . . . our faith continues. Our relationship with our God is still strong, our yearning to again gather as the family of God grows stronger, it does not wane. God's blessings on us all, stay well, stay safe and continue to pray for each other, and for our world which seems to be in such a battered condition.

Fr Francis

Celebrations of weekday and Sunday Masses are in abeyance until further notice.

11:00am Thursday 24th September Requiem Mass for Nellie Coleman (attendance by invitation only)

1:30pm Saturday 26th September Requiem Mass for Dungal De Los Angeles (attendance by invitation only)

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We remember those who have died recently including Nellie Coleman, Hiliary Rooney, Dungal De Los Angeles Julie Ferrier and Joseph KM, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Ray Still, Alan Webber, Andrew Seychell, Mark Martin, Warren Wicks, Tom King, Wilhelmina Nljenhuis, Fr Tim Hourigan and Jim Birmingham.

Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

MASS OFFERINGS: Masses have been offered this week for Win Thompson, Julie Ferrier, Hiliary Rooney and Ray Still.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK including Maria Alessandrini, Lee Allman, Lulu Aragon, Cath Boers, Fr Bernard Buckley, Conceicao Carvalho, Peter Dal Pra, Ann-Maree Daly, Sr Cathy Dean RSJ, 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, Jerry Templer, Julie Vaz, Brian Vivian, Celie Smith, George Walkan, Roy Ward and Fr Frank Young, and all those we hold dear in our hearts.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The simple and loving act of Spiritual Communion (written by St. Alphonsus Liguori) can be made when we are unable to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist.

Pray these words:

My Jesus,

I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at

least spiritually into my heart. As though You have

already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to

You; never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

A BIG THANK YOU to those parishioners who have so generously been leaving meals at the doorstep of the Presbytery. Our two priests are very grateful, and have enjoyed some amazing meals.



CONGRATULATIONS: To Agnes & Bob Drenen, who earlier this month celebrated their 62nd Wedding Anniversary. A great milestone!

GRATITUDE LITURGY: On Wednesday evening this week over 30 parishioners gathered together via Zoom and shared an uplifting liturgy with the theme of 'Gratitude'. In the midst of this anxious time, we have so much to be grateful for, we are still blessed with much to celebrate. We had a number of families in attendance, and the children drew pictures and briefly wrote about what they are grateful for.

It was so very refreshing to see these amazing youngsters putting their thoughts into art - each child then spoke about what they had drawn, a most enjoyable and entertaining part of the liturgy.

Again our sincere thanks to the Liturgy Team and to all involved in bringing this Liturgy to fruition.

There is another 'zoom' liturgy planned for September 30 - more details in next week's Bulletin.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: The office remains closed due to the pandemic restrictions. All contact needs to be made by phone (5174 2060) or email (sec@smpt.org.au). Thank you.

In case of an after hours emergency please call 0448 529 712 and leave a clear and concise message and your contact details for Father.

SEPTEMBER: A Catholic Season of Creation: In September we are asked to focus on God's creation and our care for it. Pope Francis states in *Laudato Si (On Care for our Common Home)* that the Season of Creation is a "season of increased prayer and effort on behalf of our common home". Please take the time to check out various websites and resources to help us celebrate this important time in communion with our Christian brothers and sisters.

The season commenced on September 01 when we celebrated the World Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends on October 04, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

1. *The Columbans have published a digital resource 'A Catholic Season of Creation – Sundays of September 2020. You can download these files at <https://tinyurl.com/Creation-resource>.*
2. *The Vatican's invitation, Pope's letter, resources and prayers to celebrate the Season of Creation can be found at <https://seasonofcreation.org/catholic>*
3. *Catholic Earthcare Australia is hosting a free online 2020 Convocation with webinar offerings during the month of September. Program and registration at <https://catholicearthcare.org.au/soso-convocation/>*
4. *Full list of resources from the Catholic Bishops of Australia <https://catholic.org.au/national-liturgical-council/holy-see-s-world-day-of-prayer-1-september-and-season-of-creation-1-september-4-october>*

Isolation Prayer Life, Access to Masses online/TV/:

Keep up to date with the latest prayer resources for your communities <https://www.cdsale.org.au/news/prayer-resources-in-time-of-need>

Livestreamed Masses

<https://www.cdsale.org.au/coronavirus>

Mass with Fr Rob Galea can be found by going to frgministry.com.

Music and prayer for 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time. You are invited to pray at home with the Sunday readings with free access to the following online music and video resources

Australian Catholics - use the Scriptures and the reflection questions provided for your personal prayer or for your Sunday Liturgy of the Word celebration at home or via livestream <https://tinyurl.com/Scripture-and-Reflections>

Psalms and chants from Marist Music for this Sunday www.maristmusic.org.au/ available as sheet music and audio.

Sunday Readings and Family Prayer – download and pray the Scriptures of the Sunday Mass and/or use the Family Prayer sheets with children. From Liturgy Brisbane <https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/prepare/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/> (updated weekly). Available by subscription only.

Daily Prayer

Short daily Gospel reflections with access to readings and prayers of the faithful can be found at <https://www.pray.com.au> and at <https://thewell.org.au/about>

Praying at home

1. Pray the Liturgy of the Word: read and pray with the Sunday scriptures. www.liturgybrisbane.net.au
2. Please continue to pray for Bishop-elect Bennett as he makes preparations for his episcopal ordination on 20th October. (see below)

Prayer for Bishop-elect Greg Bennet

Please keep Bishop-elect Greg in your prayers, his ordination planned for October 20, has been postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions. The new date will be advertised when it is known.

Eternal God, our Shepherd and Guide

We bless and thank you for the appointment of your servant, Greg Bennet, as the tenth Bishop of Sale.

May your Holy Spirit grace him with the gifts of wisdom and strength, gentleness and compassion, as he prepares to take up his role as our pastor and teacher.

May he be a shepherd after your own heart, who will walk in your ways and, with loving care, watch over your people.

May he be a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth.

As Bishop-elect Bennet prepares to make his home among us, may we welcome him joyfully into our Diocesan community, now entrusted to his care and leadership.

May we, as the Body of Christ in the Diocese of Sale, through our work and prayer together bear witness to Christ and the building up of your kingdom.

We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen,

Our Lady of Perpetual Help pray for us

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop pray for us. Amen

MAINTAINING OUR PARISH:

In this time of uncertainty, please remember our priests and religious in your prayers. Our priests are financially supported by our weekly 'first collections', and these expenses will still need to be met. Parishioners are asked to make donations by electronic transfer to **St Michael's Parish Traralgon Presbytery Account, BSB 083 879 Account Number 48906 6098, Reference 1Collect.**

Our Parish still needs to pay our utility bills, our wages bills, rates and insurances. We meet these costs through the Planned Giving Program. Parishioners who currently give via the weekly envelopes are asked to consider altering their giving to Direct Debit giving to enable our Parish to continue. Direct Debit Giving forms are available from the office. If you are able to make the change, **please email to sec@smpt.org.au or phone Bev on 5174 2060 and we can get a form to you.**

Anyone wishing to make a general donation to our parish can do so by electronic transfer to St Michael's Parish Traralgon Church Account, BSB 083 879, Account Number 48885 1289, *Reference Donation(surname)*. Please let Bev know by email (sec@smpt.org.au) if you decide to do this. Thank you.

Thanks to those parishioners who have dropped in their planned giving and first collection donations in envelopes through the parish 'mail slot'.

If you are wanting to request a Mass Offering, then please place your donation in an envelope, and clearly mark:-

1. The name of the person(s) for whom you wish the Mass to be offered.
2. Whether it's a death anniversary, or recent death.
3. Your name, contact number and email.

The envelopes can be 'posted' through the mail slot beside the front door of the Parish Office.

Please look out for those in our community who are the most vulnerable and could be in need of our support. Let the Office know if you know of anyone in need.

FINANCE MATTERS:

"So the last will be first and the first last." (Matthew 20:16)

You've heard the saying "It's not where you start, but how you finish." This certainly applies to this Bible passage. We have a responsibility not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. We are called to generously share our gifts with others, not hoard them for our own use. Our sincere gratitude and cheerful generosity will help us live "God-centered" lives and not "self-centered" lives.

FEAST DAY OF OUR PATRON SAINT:

It is the Feast Day of St Michael (and the archangels) on **Friday September 29**. The following prayer to St Michael might help us to remember our Patron Saint on September 29.

Saint Michael,

Defend us in the turmoil of our lives;

protect us against all evil;

that our lives may reflect only the glory of God.

Amen

Entrance Antiphon

*I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.*

First Reading Is 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18**(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.**

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**



Next week's Readings: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Ezekial 18:25-28

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

Second Reading Phil 1:20-24. 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation See Acts 16:14

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same.

Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each.

They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'