



## 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 adults at risk 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 5174 2060 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:** Six weeks notice required  
**Weddings:** Six months notice required

**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

### RESIGNATION OF ST MICHAEL'S YOUTH @ LATITUDE (SMY@L) LEADERS

St Michael's Youth Group (SMY@L) has been in ministry in the parish for the last 21 years. Last year, they celebrated 20 years of ministry to the young ones of the parish. Praise God! That was a great achievement – 20 years of continuous ministry to young people. During these years, they have seen various leaders come and go. Some have been more constant; others have joined the team quite recently. Their ministry attended to various aspects of kids fun games, to spiritual involvement and to social justice. We as a parish are grateful to them for all these ministries over so many years.

On 26<sup>th</sup> November, we (the PPC) received a letter from the group leadership advising us of their resignation as leaders of the Youth Group. In their words, "After 21 years of service to the St Michael's Parish Traralgon, the St Michael's Youth Group, SMY@L, has come to an end, effective immediately. The Youth Group Leadership team have not made this decision lightly and we have been considering this for a long time (even before Covid-19)."

The last couple of years have witnessed the introduction of many changes in Victoria in the ways many services are carried out. These changes are applicable not just in the church but also in the civil society, especially in ministry to/around children and vulnerable adults. The Diocese of Sale has taken these changes to heart and has always advised parishes concerning the implementations. It is on account of this that we established **the Risk Management Committee** and also the **Safeguarding Officers** in parishes across the Diocese. This was quite overwhelming for a lot of our volunteers, as many of you already know. Due to these many changes in legislation in child safety in Victoria, and the many demands and requirements for compliance from our **Diocesan Safeguarding Office**, the leadership of the Smy@l Youth Group felt this was too much for them. As they said, "we should have needed only minimal changes, not a complete overhaul." Consequently, they tendered their resignations as leaders of the youth group. I have since then (after consultations with the PPC) written to them to acknowledge their resignation. I have also written to parents whose kids were involved with the Youth Group to advise them of the resignations. It is sad to see them go. Nevertheless, they have done their bit and best –21 years of service to the parish. God bless them. On behalf of my predecessors, and the entire parish, I express my heartfelt gratitude to them for their contribution to the life and ministry of the church in this part of the world. May God bless them and their families.

We will keep you posted about future decisions concerning youth ministry in the parish. God bless you all. *Fr Francis*

<b>Sunday Mass Times</b> (as of December 10, 2020)	
<b>Saturday</b>	5:00pm
<b>Sunday</b>	9:00am 10:30am 5:00pm
<b>Attendance at weekend Masses and Christmas Masses is now limited to 180 people. Attendance must be booked at <a href="https://www.trybooking.com">Trybooking.com</a> or at the Parish Office.</b>	
<b>Weekday Mass Times</b>	
<b>Tuesday Dec 22</b>	9:30am Mass
<b>Wednesday Dec 23</b>	11:00am Adoration 12:00pm Mass
<b>Thursday Dec 24</b>	9:30am Mass Christmas Masses
<b>Friday Dec 25</b>	Christmas Masses
<b>Parishioners attending weekday Masses are asked to arrive 10 minutes before Mass to have their name and contact number recorded by the usher.</b>	

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** We remember those who have died recently including Joseph Berkelmans, Fr Frank Young and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Fergus Darmody, Danny Hiney, Vittoria Rigoni, Shirley Gibson, Bereniece Fraser, Iren Hoch and Joe Thompson.

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

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK** including Maria Alessandrini, Lee Allman, Fr Bernard Buckley, Conceicao Carvalho, 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, Jerry Templer, Julie Vaz, Brian Vivian, Celie Smith, Wil Waanders, George Walkan and Roy Ward and all those we hold dear in our hearts.

**BAPTISMS:** This weekend we welcome for baptism **Luca Brian Mifsud and Harrison Michael Mifsud**, sons of **Matthew and Brooke**. Congratulations to the family, from us all.



The next Baptism Preparation meeting will be held in the Church on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 7:00pm**. Please contact the Parish office to attend.

**PRIESTS MOVEMENTS:**

Bishop Greg has announced the following movements of priests in the Diocese:-

**Fr Confidence Masvosva** will go to Warragul as the Assistant Priest;

**Fr Jithin Anto** will go to St Mary's Cathedral, Sale as Assistant Priest and Assistant Master of Ceremonies;

**Fr Paul Zaher** will go to Pakenham as the Assistant Priest;

**Fr Edwin Ogbuka** will go to Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance as Assistant Priest; and

**Fr Sunil Francis IVD** will go to Berwick as the Assistant Priest.

**RECONCILIATION:** Reconciliation will be offered on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

**PARISH OFFICE NEWS:** The Office remains closed due to the pandemic restrictions.

The Parish Team will not be in attendance in the Parish Office from **12:00pm on Wednesday December 23, 2020 until Tuesday January 05, 2021** whilst they all have a well-deserved break from office duties.

Masses will be celebrated as per our current timetable. If a priest is urgently required during that period, please call 5174 2060 and leave your contact details and a concise, clear message. Thank you.

**ATTENDING MASS:**

Booking to attend Masses:-

To book through [Trybooking.com](https://www.trybooking.com) for Masses on the weekends of **Dec 20, 27 and Jan 03, 10 & 17** please go to <https://www.trybooking.com/BNIAG>.

Bookings for Masses on Dec 27 and Jan 03 close at 11:00am on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

To attend a Christmas Mass, please go to <https://www.trybooking.com/BNNUV>

Bookings for Christmas Masses will close at 11:00am on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

If you are unable to use the internet to book to attend Mass, you are welcome to phone the Parish Office, Bev and Jen are happy to make your booking, however the office will be closed from 12.00pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December until 9:00am on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

When attending Mass, please remember that we must follow Covid safe practices at all times.

- \* Please arrive 10-15 minutes prior to Mass starting.
- \* Social distancing must be maintained.

Holy Communion

Communion may only be received in the hand.

The communicant is required –

- To maintain the proper distancing in communion queue.
- To return to their seat via a different pathway.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2020**

**Christmas Eve Thursday Dec 24**

**7:00 pm** Mass at St Michael's  
(this Mass is booked out)

**11:00pm** Mass at St Michael's



**Christmas Day Friday December 25**

**8:00am** Mass at St Michael's

**10:00am** Mass at St Michael's

*It is necessary to book to attend the Christmas Masses.  
(see above for booking information)*

**CAN YOU HELP?** We've been contacted by Dr Mathews Noble who is moving to Traralgon to work at LRH, commencing on January 04. He is looking for a rental home or room from that date. Please contact him on [mathews.noble08@gmail.com](mailto:mathews.noble08@gmail.com) or 0468 634 411. He is happy to provide references from St Gerard's Parish, Dandenong North.

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES:** Our very own **Sister Doreen** will celebrate her 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her religious profession. . . 60 years a Josephite Nun.

We will help her celebrate with a commemoration Mass at 10.30am on Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup>. Following Mass, we will share a lunch with her. Numbers for the lunch will be limited, so please book at the Parish Office as soon as possible.

**SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:**

The Knights of the Southern Cross Scholarships have been presented to **Amelia Atkins** (St. Michael's School) and **Joie Evans** (St. Gabriel's). Valued

at \$500 each the awards help the students to settle into secondary education at Lavalla Catholic College.

*Congratulations Amelia and Joie!*



Wishing all our parishioners and all those you love, a holy, safe and peace filled Christmas time.

*With best wishes from  
Fr Francis, Fr Ajin, Deacon Tony,  
Sr Doreen and the Office staff.*

**STARTING OUR PARISH UP AGAIN:**

As we gratefully return to Masses in our Church, we are again in need of volunteers to help our Parish function and our Masses to be well run and meaningful celebrations:-

We are looking for volunteers in the following areas :-

- Readers, Commentators
- Ushers Eucharistic Ministers
- Youth Ministry Leaders Church cleaning
- Money Counters Banking Team

All these roles are essential to our Masses and to our Parish, and as the old saying goes, 'many hands make light work'.

So please contact the Office on 5174 2060 or by email to sec@smp.org.au and advise that you are able to assist in one of these ministries.

We are all the parish of St Michael's and the responsibility lies with each one of us.

**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**



**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP GREG:** Bishop Greg's Christmas Message is available at the following link <https://www.cdsale.org.au/news/bishop-greg-bennet-s-christmas-message-2020> and also via our Diocesan YouTube account by searching "Catholic Diocese of Sale" on YouTube.

**THE SCHOOLYARDS ARE QUIET NOW:** We'd like to wish all our school staff, children and parents a happy, holy and safe Christmas. Staff return to our schools on Tuesday January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Please check the school's websites for dates for students return to school.  
St Michael's Primary School, [www.stmtraralgon.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmtraralgon.catholic.edu.au)  
St Gabriel's Primary School, [www.stgtraralgon.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stgtraralgon.catholic.edu.au)  
Lavalla Catholic College [www.lavalla.vic.edu.au](http://www.lavalla.vic.edu.au).

*Please remember to book to attend Mass at Christmas and remind your family and friends to do the same!*  
**Trybooking.com**  
<https://www.trybooking.com/BNNUV>

**STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:** "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

Roster for our Christmas Masses		
Mass	Lector	Commentator
Dec 24 7:00pm	Chris Di Corleto	Belinda Purcell
Dec 24 11:00pm	Bev O'Brien	Anne Taylor
Dec 25 8:00am	Watson Gomez	Allan Grout
Dec 25 10:00am	Uwa Imhagwe	Lien Vander Velden
Rosters for Saturday December 26 and Sunday December 27, 2020		
Mass	Lector	Commentator
Sat 5:00pm	Robyn Foote	Margaret Noone
Sun 9:00am	Cathy McLure	Lien Van der Velden
Sun 10:30am	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed
Sun 5:00pm	Anne Taylor	Volunteer needed

**Entrance Antiphon** Cf Is 45:8

*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** 2 Sm 7:1-5 8-12 14 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

*The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

*(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **(R.)**
2. I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.' **(R.)**
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
for him my covenant shall endure. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** Rom 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

**Gospel Acclamation** Lk 3:4 6

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.*

*Alleluia!*

**Gospel** Lk 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*You will conceive and bear a son.*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

*Readings for the Feast of the Holy Family*

*First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3*

*Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12 17-19*

*Gospel: Luke 2:22 -40*