



## 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 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 MOTHER, MY BEST FRIEND.

In our Gospel today, Jesus declares: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Remain in my love" (John 15:9). The emphasis is love. I can hear these words echoing from the hearts of our mothers/mother figures towards us, their children. A million hearty cheers to all mothers and mother figures in our midst.

I once listened to a brilliant presentation by a young girl (Ene) in a competition on the topic: My Best Friend. She began by acknowledging the benevolence of God for sending what she referred to as "angels" to journey with people in their life. She was going to talk about one of these angels who became her best friend. She went on to acknowledge "my mother" who, as she put it, "chose to give birth to me"... and "nurtured me into what I have become today." After this opening introduction, Ene proceeded to recount several sweet and sour memories with this particular unnamed friend: moments of great challenges, breathtaking arguments, pleasant times, and the "NO" and "YES" moments. All these, she said, helped shape her. True love/friendship entails giving you "thumbs up" for bravery, yet challenging you into making the better choice. There is no room for "I should have told him/her..." After a brief moment of silence, Ene concluded: "ladies and gentlemen, I present to you, '**my mother, my best friend**'. At the end of her presentation, which she insisted was inspired by true life experiences with her mum, there was dead silence in the auditorium; then, a standing ovation. Her mother was in tears. She never knew that her daughter "treasured all these things in her heart" (Luke 2:29). She was just being a mother. **This is true friendship, this is love, this mothering.** Since that time, I have always contemplated the phrase, "my mother, my best friend," and its meaning continues to deepen for me as the years go by.

If by "best friend" we mean the one who is always there for you through thick and thin, supports you through life, has your best interest at heart, and always has your back; who then best qualifies for this title but "my mum." Other than God who knew the exact moment of my conception, the only other person who knew was my mother. She nurtured me till I was born and cared for me, even till today.

Oh mothers! Beautiful angels with a golden heart of love!! Mothers have no equal in one's life. Cherish your mother; celebrate her while you still physically can. Do not delay in telling her a million times how much you love her. She loved and celebrated you from when you were only a tiny dot. She still does. On this Mothers' Day weekend, please join me celebrate all mothers and mother figures in our midst. To you all, I say, happy Mothers' Day.

*Fr Francis*

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm
Sunday	9:00am 10:30am 5:00pm
<b>Attendance numbers at our Masses are limited to 180 people.</b> <i>Please arrive 15 minutes early to register your attendance. Covid safety practices apply</i>	
Weekday Mass Times	
Tues May 11	9:30am Mass
Weds May 12	11:00am Adoration
	12:00pm Mass
Thurs May 13	9:30am Mass
Fri May 14	9:30am Mass
	10:30am Mass, Bupa Care
<b>Parishioners attending weekday Masses are asked to arrive 15 minutes before Mass to ensure their attendance is recorded.</b>	

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** We remember those who have died recently including Kaye Nailer, Conceição Maria de Nascimento, Debbie Fowles, Merrilyn Lia and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Dot Mulquiney, Amanda O'Brien, Simon O'Brien, Monsignor Jim O'Mara, Mary Little, Sheila and Ted Caldwell.

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

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK** including Maria Alessandrini, Fr Bernard Buckley, Conceicao Carvalho, Peter Dal Pra, Ann-Maree Daly, Anthony Derham, Sr Delia Donahoe, Gary Donchi, Bill Edgar, Bernadette Formaran, Fr Frank Freeman, Marj Gilbert, Carolyn Gleeson, Jenny Hansch, Robert Hazelman, Imogen Hillier, Marie Howard, Joan Lamont, Peter Lont, Joyce Martin, Ivy May, Deborah McKerchar, Ben Melenhorst, Maree Morris, Joan Riggall, Kath Ryan, Jerry Templer, Damiano Tripodi, Julie Vaz, Brian Vivian, Celie Smith, George Walkan and Roy Ward and all those we hold dear in our hearts.



**SAFEGUARDING CODE OF CONDUCT 2021:** The 2021 Code of Conduct for has been ratified by our Parish Council. All volunteers, staff and contractors of the Parish need to sign the Parish Code of Conduct and ensure they have a current Working With Children's Check.

Please call in to the office to sign the updated Code of Conduct. Leaders of Groups may wish to come and collect enough copies for all volunteers in their group to sign.

Thanks to all for supporting our Parish, especially in the endeavour to ensure that our community is a safe place for all.

**BAPTISMS:** The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7:00pm** in the Church. Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 if you are interested to attend.



**ST JOSEPH'S LITURGY:** In this year of celebrating St Joseph, the parish will hold a special liturgy for Joseph on Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the Church. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

**CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT** We are taking Confirmation enrolments which will be celebrated on June 17 & 18<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the parish office for more information.

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP:** The Thursday morning meetings will be in abeyance from April 29 to May 27, while the Life in the Spirit Seminar is underway. For enquiries, please contact Cathy McLure on 5174 3001.

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR:** Our Parish is joining with other parishes across the Diocese in this exciting seminar. The dates for the gatherings held at 10:30am in our Parish church are as follows:

May 20 Unwrapping God's Gift  
 May 27 Living in the Spirit.

Other sessions will be held in Drouin on, May 22 and June 19 at St Ita's Parish, Drouin.

Please come along and see for yourself what God wants to do in your life.

### THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS

**Tuesday May 11**

10:00am CPG Core Group  
 Mary MacKillop Room  
 7:00pm Baptism Preparation Meeting  
 Church

**Wednesday May 12**

1:00pm Weds PM Prayer Group  
 Mary MacKillop Room  
 7:30pm PPC, Parish Centre

**NATIONAL MASS COUNTS:** This is the second weekend of the National Mass Attendance Counts. Our thanks to those who have volunteered to help us gather this information for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

**SR DOREEN IS LEAVING US:** Parishioners are invited to write her a message on one of the sheets available in the church entry. Please return the sheets to the Parish Office by Tuesday May 11, so they can all be bound into a booklet for Sr Doreen.

We will celebrate a special Mass for Sr Doreen at 10:30 am next Sunday, May 16, and will share a morning tea in the hall afterwards. Our thanks to the wonderful ladies of the CWL who will cater the morning tea.

**PENTECOST – MAY 23:** All parishioners are invited to wear red to Mass on the weekend of Pentecost – let's have another 'red party'. We will get together for a cuppa in the hall following the 10:30am Mass.

**A BLESSING FOR MOTHER'S DAY**

Loving God, as a mother gives life and  
nourishment for her children,  
so you give life and care for your Church.  
Bless these women, as we celebrate this  
day in their honour.

May they be strengthened  
as Christian mothers.

Let the example of their faith and love  
shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and  
daughters, may honour and appreciate  
them with a spirit of profound respect.

May the example of Mary, mother of  
Jesus, inspire them to live their vocation  
as Christian mothers and call their  
children to faith.

Guide and protect them in challenging  
times and help them to continue to trust  
in you all the days of their life.

Amen.



Pope Francis' Prayer to Saint Joseph  
Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and  
defend us from every evil. Amen.

**Notes from our recent PPC Meeting:** The Parish Pastoral Council met on Wednesday evening this week. Matters discussed included :~

- Fr Francis spoke with thanks to the members of the PPC for their continued service to the parish and the PPC.
- Sr Doreen's leaving us will make an impact on the Parish. He is hoping our farewell to her will be a memorable occasion.
- Pentecost May 23 – parishioners are asked to wear red to all our Masses that weekend. We will have a cuppa in the hall after the 10:30am Mass.
- Mike Hansen has prepared a overview of the Parish Strategic Plan using the Diocesan Assembly documents and information gathered at our Plenary Council Meetings. A huge amount of work by Mike, the PPC will work through this information in the coming months.
- The PPC is looking at rostering volunteers on who will be prepared to be first aiders at our parish Masses. More information to follow shortly.
- The Diocese has released a great resource "Slet's Connect – A Resource for families", it is absolutely full of all sorts of very helpful information for all families. We will post this resource to our Website and produce hard copies to be available in the Church.
- School reports - St Michael's reported a good start to Term 2, with lots of interest for 2022 enrolments. Lavalla College reported similarly that interest in enrolments for next year is very pleasing. They will be celebrating their Champagnat Mass on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**STEWARDSHIP MATTERS**

*"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" - JOHN 15:12-13*

Do you love Jesus? Do you consider Him your friend? Jesus says that if we love Him we would be willing to offer whatever we have to Him, not because we want praise and glory, but simply because we love Him. Does your giving seem mechanical out of obligation or do you share freely out of love?

**Rosters for May 15 & 16, 2021 ~6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year B**

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Usher	Altar Servers
Sat 5:00pm	C DiCorleto	D Smith	A Ryan	Volunteers
Sun 9:00am	T Denny	C McCabe	B Kennedy	C & S Reid
Sun 10:30am	M Hanratty Z Hanratty	Volunteer required	Volunteer required	T Thomas, R Thomas, Etse Imhagwe, N Kimani
Sun 5:00pm	E Joseph	S Luscombe	Volunteer required	

*Mick's Kitchen*

May 13

May 20

**Entrance Antiphon** Cf. Is 48:20

*Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;  
proclaim to the ends of the earth:  
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.*

**First Reading** Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.*

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

The Word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2

**(R.)** *The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.*

1. Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. **(R.)**
2. The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. **(R.)**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** 1 Jn 4:7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John

*God is love.*

My dear people,  
let us love one another  
since love comes from God  
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and  
knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,  
because God is love.  
God's love for us was revealed

when God sent into the world his only Son  
so that we could have life through him;

this is the love I mean:  
not our love for God,  
but God's love for us when he sent his Son  
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.  
The Word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation** Jn 14:23

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them and we will come to  
them.*

*Alleluia!*

**Gospel** Jn 15:9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
*No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for  
his friends.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me,

so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments

you will remain in my love,

just as I have kept my Father's commandments

and remain in his love.

I have told you this

so that my own joy may be in you

and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:

love one another,

as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love

than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends,

if you do what I command you,

I shall not call you servants any more,

because a servant does not know

his master's business;

I call you friends,

because I have made known to you

everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me,

no, I chose you;

and I commissioned you

to go out and to bear fruit,

fruit that will last;

and then the Father will give you

anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you

is to love one another.'

**God is**



Next Week's Readings	16 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>The Ascension of the Lord</b>	
First Reading Acts	1:1-11
Second Reading	Eph 1:17-23
Gospel	Mark 16:15-20

(readings used with consent of Liturgy Help Online)