



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

Called to be witnesses

A five-year old boy after listening to a song which contains the word, witness, asked the dad: what does it mean to witness? The father looking at a five-year-old, simply said to him: that is when you experience/see/hear something, an event, etc, and you talk about it. The little boy was quiet for a while and asked further, how then can I witness to Jesus when I was not there when "things" happened to him? Again, the father simplified an answer saying: we witness to Jesus because he blesses us, and provides for us, for instance, our food. The five-year old cut in straightaway: no daddy, Jesus does not give us food, you buy our food from the supermarkets. All the explanations did not make any sense to the little boy. The father sent him back to Sunday school...Yet even for us adults, the question remains valid.

In two separate texts today, the Lord gives us a task: to bear witness to him (Acts 1:8); and, to proclaim the Good News (Mark 16:15) that Jesus is alive (Acts 13:32). The early disciples are called witnesses because they experienced the risen Lord (Acts 13:30-31), and they publicly proclaimed and lived their experiences of the Lord, in their day and time. We are also called to be witnesses to our own experiences of Jesus in our day and time. Jesus is not a figure in the past. He is very much in the present and in our lives. Witnessing in this regard does not call for proving the factuality of history, but expressing my experiences of him today.

We cannot do this without the enabling grace of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; John 16:12). Paul prayed for the Ephesians that God may give them "a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed"—Jesus (Eph 1:17). Paul writes this to believers who have no direct knowledge of Jesus. The prayer is meant to ignite in them a desire for furthering their relationship with the risen Jesus and so to become witnesses of their time.

Of course, we have experienced Jesus in so many simple/heartfelt ways, but probably ascribed those blessed moments to other explainable causes—the more reason we may need to pray, like Paul, for the Spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed. He is not dead, he is alive. "The ascended Jesus is not an absent Jesus." By bearing witness to Jesus from our life experiences today, we make the faith relevant and alive in our time. Praise Lord!

In this little five-year old's profound query which calls for deep reflection, could it be Jesus asking us the same question, but calling us to a renewed desire, quest and search for our Christian mission. As John Paul II said: "Have you met Jesus? Proclaim him to the world."

Fr Francis

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm
Sunday	9:00am 10:30am 5:00pm
Attendance numbers at our Masses are limited to 180 people. <i>Please arrive 15 minutes early to register your attendance. Covid safety practices apply</i>	
Weekday Mass Times	
Tues May 18	9:30am Mass
	10:45am Mass, Margery Cole
Weds May 19	11:00am Adoration
	12:00pm Mass
Thurs May 20	9:30am Mass
Fri May 21	9:30am Mass
	5:00pm Diocesan Leadership Mass (invited guests)
Parishioners attending weekday Masses are asked to arrive 15 minutes before Mass to ensure their attendance is recorded.	

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We remember those who have died recently including Felix Sejdkak, Noreen Waud, Debbie Fowles, Kaye Nailer, Conceição Maria de Nascimento, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Peg Kearney, John Zahra, Emil Swiety, Dot Mulquiney, Amanda O'Brien, Simon O'Brien and Monsignor Jim O'Mara, **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.



TRULY THE END OF AN ERA!! Today we farewell Sr Doreen Dagge from our Parish. Sr Doreen has been part of our community for seven years, this time round. She was also with us about 20 years ago.

During our time with her, she has brought God's love to so many of us in so many ways – through youth ministry, baptism, RCIA, CWL, Liturgy, Reading, counselling . . . you name it, she's been there helping. She truly lives St Mary MacKillop's adage, 'never see a need without doing something about it'.

We wish her well in her future and hope she settles in quickly and well in Carlton. She will be greatly missed by so many of us. Thanks, Doreen, you will always remain in our hearts and our prayers.

BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for baptism:-

- **Halle Florence Amaira**, daughter of Julia and Sam ;
- **Darragh Jude Dimagiba**, son of Aubrey and Jasper.



Congratulations to the families, from us all. We look forward to getting to know Halle and Darragh better as they grow.

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 8th June at 7:00pm** in the Church. Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 if you are interested to attend.

CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT: It's wonderful to see so many enrolments. Enrolments for 2021 Confirmation have now closed. Further details of the Confirmation Program will be in next week's bulletin.

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. (please see page 3 for further info)

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS

Tuesday May 18

10:00am CPG Core Group
 Mary MacKillop Room

Wednesday May 19

1:00pm Weds PM Prayer Group
 Mary MacKillop Room
 7:30pm Risk Management Team
 Parish Centre

Thursday May 20

7:00pm Finance Team, Parish Centre

OPENING OUR CHURCH: Our Church will again be opened during the day. Anyone may come in, but we ask that they ensure they properly clean the seats, kneelers etc which they use whilst in the church. Thanks to Lee Theissling for opening and locking the Church during the week.

NATIONAL MASS COUNTS: This is the third weekend of the National Mass Attendance Counts. This weekend we need to record male and female attendees. Our thanks to those who have volunteered to help us gather this information for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

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. Please bring a plate of morning tea to share.

ONGOING LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Dearest friends in the Lord, you may remember that I wrote to you earlier about an upcoming Life in the Spirit Seminar; it is now an ongoing Life in the Spirit Seminar. The seminar commenced on the 17th of April, and it has been ongoing weekly in various parishes and prayer groups, praise God. As hinted earlier, the purpose of the seminar is to pray for a renewed in-filling of participants with God’s Holy Spirit in order to vibrantly live and fulfill our baptismal vocation. This is the wish of Jesus for all his followers (Luke 24:49; Acts 2:38-39), reflected in the desire of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, that all Catholics be renewed in the Spirit. At this point in time, we all need that enlivening power and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives to move on with the mission entrusted to us. For this reason, Jesus instructed his disciples that they will become witnesses only when they have been filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). The second Diocesan gathering for this ongoing Life in the Spirit Seminar comes up on Saturday 22nd May, the eve of Pentecost, at St Ita Drouin. You are all encouraged to be part of this day. Activities, which include the “laying on of hands,” will begin from 10.30am. Prior to the day, you may want to pray with and reflect on the texts of Luke 24:49; Acts 1:1-4, 8; 2:1-4. Believe that Jesus’ words are meant for you and come to the gathering. The Lord works in mysterious ways. Looking forward to seeing you all. You may also want to note in your diary the commissioning Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Greg Bennet, on June 19th. Let us continue to pray for the renewal of the Spirit’s presence in the life and ministry of the church in our Diocese. Praise the Lord!
(Fr Francis Otobo, Chaplain, CCR Sale Diocese).

INFORMATION EVENINGS FOR ALL LECTORS: Fr Francis has asked that all lectors, current and new, attend an information evening to ensure that everyone is up to date with the correct procedures when being a Lector. Proclaiming the Word of God is an honour and all Lectors need to attend an information session.

Both sessions will be held in the Church at 7:00pm.

June 02 Meeting for current and new Lectors above secondary school age.

June 15 Meeting for current and new Lectors of Secondary School age.

Please let the Parish Office know which meeting you will attend. (5174 2060, or sec@smpt.org.au)



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.

INDIA COVID RELIEF: Bishop Greg has asked that our Parishes take up a collection to go towards helping the dreadful situation which Covid-19 has brought to that country.

We have all been troubled by the increased spread of Covid-19 in India and other countries. It is distressing to see so many people suffering and struggling for the essential gift of oxygen. We are mindful of the families and friends of our clergy and parishioners at this time. May nations work together in the support and welfare of our brothers and sisters in their need. May our humble prayers during this pandemic bring healing, comfort and unity in addressing the pandemic.

Our Parish will have leaving collections for this serious cause on the weekend of **May 29 & 30**. Please remember with generous hearts, those whose lives are truly challenged by this wretched disease.

KAY ST CLOSURE: Kay St will be closed between Church & Breed Streets on Thursday May 20th between 9:30am and 2:30pm. Please remember when coming to Mass.

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.” – 1 JOHN 4:15
How strong is your faith? When you have an opportunity to either defend or clarify a question about our Catholic faith, do you do it? Or, do you remain silent so that others don’t think you are weird? Pray for the courage to be strong in all circumstances and to joyfully share your witness with others.

Rosters for May 22 & 23, 2021 ~ Feast of Pentecost

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Usher	Altar Servers
Sat 5:00pm	R Foote/T Larkin	D Smith	A Ryan	Volunteer required
Sun 9:00am	S Reid / S Reid	Volunteer required	Volunteer required	Volunteer required
Sun 10:30am	U Imhagwe	EL Van der Velden	Volunteer required	E Imhagwe, E Imhagwe, N Kimani, L Roy
Sun 5:00pm	C Hill / S Hill / E Hill		Volunteer required	Z Hanratty, E Hanratty, J Hanratty, E John
<i>Mick's Kitchen</i>	May 20	Van Berkel Team	May 27	Burns Team

Entrance Antiphon Acts 1:11

*Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.*

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

**(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

Second Reading Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 28:19. 20

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Mk 16:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

*Next weeks Readings**The Feast of Pentecost*

<i>First Reading:</i>	<i>Acts 2:1-11</i>
<i>Second Reading:</i>	<i>Gal 5:16-25</i>
<i>Gospel:</i>	<i>Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15</i>