



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 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
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: Catherine Hill
 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, Lia Di Corleto, Watson Gomez, Jenifer Hanratty, Steve Kimani, Judi McLaughlin, Thomas Mathew, Amanda Reid, Jodie Ware, Ros Joyner, and Doug Doherty.

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

Advent Reflection:

Advent is a time of waiting in hope and expectation. We may hope for many things: to win the lottery; get a better-paid job; pass an examination; find the right person to marry; overcome an illness; heal a soured relationship. Perhaps though the Church's celebration of Advent is more akin to the kind of excited joy in a child's heart awaiting a forthcoming birthday party. Or the joy of expectant parents awaiting the birth of their first child.

For the Church, Advent is the season that prepares us for the celebration of a birth and a birthday: Jesus Christ on the 'first Christmas'. However, this is not simply a celebration of an event that occurred some two thousand years ago. This first coming of Jesus Christ includes his birth, public life and ministry, his death and resurrection, as well as his continuing presence among us.

This is what we celebrate in the Church's liturgy, especially the Eucharist; it is also at the heart of Christian mission which sees Christ present in every person, tribe, people and nation, as throughout the whole of creation.

Advent, then, is meant to awaken us to this reality that Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth, ministered throughout Galilee and was crucified and rose from the dead in Jerusalem. He ascended to the Father and continues now as 'light of the world' in which we live today. In other words, this first coming of Jesus Christ is an ongoing event calling us ever and always to centre our lives on his teaching and example, and to recognise his living presence in our Church and world.

While all this is central to our Christian faith, we do well to think about what the Scriptures call the *second or final coming* of Jesus Christ. Remembering that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow" (Hebrews 13:8), we need to read his role as judge of the living and the dead in relation to his central message of the "Kingdom of God" yet to come and already present among you. Equally central to this message is the call to repentance and the offer of salvation.

We are not called to live our lives in fear and dread. Of all people, Christians should be full of joyful expectation in the knowledge that the one who comes to judge is also the one whose love for us and offer of salvation are so poignantly expressed in the figure of Christ on Calvary.

Christians are no longer so narrow-sighted to think only they will be 'saved'; rather they see their mission to the world to be Christ for others and to show that God's divine mercy and forgiveness are offered to all. Or, in the words of Pope Francis, "The mercy of God is the mission of the Church."

Gerard Hall SM

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CHANGES TO MASS TIMES:

Please note that from next weekend, the 11th and 12th of December, we will return to our normal Mass times:

Sat 5:00pm No limits, vaccination check-in required

Sun 9:30am No limits, vaccination check-in required

Sun 5:00pm 50 people, no vaccination check-in required

| Sunday Mass Times | |
|--|---|
| Saturday | 5:00pm (vaccination check required) |
| Sunday | 9:30am (vaccination check required) 5:00pm (50, no vaccination check required) |
| Please arrive 15 minutes early to all Masses to enable your vaccination status to be sighted. Booking to attend Masses is no longer required. The door to the Church will be closed when we have reached our covid limited numbers. | |
| Weekday Mass Times | |
| Tuesday Dec 07 | 9:30am Mass |
| Wednesday Dec 08 | 9:30am Mass No Adoration No 12:30pm Mass |
| Thursday Dec 09 | 12:00pm Mass |
| Friday Dec 10 | 9:30am Mass |

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We remember those who have died recently including Stefania Smalera, Father Joseph, Mr Varghese, Maria and Ivan Kolesaric, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Mary Kelly, Allen Garrett, Agostino Damiano and Fr Dave Cagney. *Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK

including Monsignor John Allman, Maria Alessandrini, Fr Bernard Buckley, Conceicao Carvalho, Peter Dal Pra, Ann-Maree Daly, Anthony Derham, Gary Donchi, Bill Edgar, Kevin Fitzsimon, Bernadette Formaran, Fr Frank Freeman, Marj Gilbert, Carolyn Gleeson, Jacqui Granville, Barbara Greaves, Ellen Hammond, Jenny Hansch, Robert Hazelman, Imogen Hillier, Joan Lamont, Joyce Martin, Ivy May, Deborah Mckerchar, Ben Melenhorst, Maree Morris, Henry Polo, Joan Riggall, Theresa Rosello (Phillipines), Kath Ryan, Jerry Templer, Damiano Tripodi, Julie Vaz, Brian Vivian, Celie Smith, Sharon Veleff, George Walkan and Roy Ward and all those we hold dear in our hearts.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL:

St Michael's Conference members invite parishioners to support this year's St Vincent de Paul Christmas program. The Christmas Gifting Tree will be in the church from Sunday November 28th to Sunday December 12th. Parishioners are asked to take a gift tag, and return your gift/voucher to the tree by December 12.

The conference would like to thank all parishioners for their support throughout the year, and wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas spent with those we love most.



BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for Baptism, Claire Cheryl Gatt, daughter of Jayke and Tayla. Congratulations from us all. The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on Tuesday January 11 at 7:00pm in the Church. Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 if you are interested in attending.



| THIS WEEK'S EVENTS | |
|---|---|
| <u>Monday December 06, 2021</u> | |
| 7:30pm | Prayers at the Crib- Christmas Liturgy, St Michael's Church |
| <u>Wednesday December 08, 2021</u> | |
| 9:00am | Wednesday morning Prayer Group Mary MacKillop Room |
| 7:00pm | Parish Pastoral Council Meeting, Parish Centre |
| <u>Thursday December 09, 2021</u> | |
| 9:30am | St Gabriel's Primary School, Whole School Mass, St Michael's Church |
| 7:30pm | R C I A, St Michael's Church |

PRAYERS AT THE CRIB:

All Parishioners are warmly invited to come to our Prayers at the Crib service in the Church on **Monday December 6 at 7:30pm**. This celebration is a great way to help us celebrate the Nativity story.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Journey to Bethlehem, Advent Retreat: Thursday December 16 at 7:30pm, in the Church. Farewell Masses for Father Francis: Sunday December 19, at 9:30am and 5:00pm, stay behind afterwards for a coffee and a chat in the Mary Mackillop Room, please bring a plate to share.

CHANGES TO MASS TIMES:

The Diocesan Clergy Advent Reflection Day will be held next **Wednesday December 8** here at St Michael's, therefore that day's mass will be held at 9:30am instead of the usual 12:00pm. Unfortunately there will also be no Adoration on that day. **Thursday December 9** Parish Mass will be held at 12:00pm instead of the usual 9:30am.

As restrictions ease and we move towards a 'new normal', and as we transition from two priests to one, we will move to our usual Mass times from next weekend. **From the 11th/12th of December**, we will have Mass at 5pm Saturday night and 9:30am Sunday morning without capacity limits, but vaccination checks are required. We will no longer hold a Sunday Mass at 10:30am, however the Sunday evening Mass at 5:00pm will be restricted to 50 parishioners, and no vaccine checks will be required. Baptisms will also go back to the original time of 11:00am, rather than 12:00pm. We appreciate your understanding and support as we navigate these new times and apologise for the uncertainty and confusion this may have caused.

BLESSING OF OUR ADVENT WREATH:



Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Saviour of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Christmas Eve

Friday December 24

7:00 pm Family Mass, St Michael's Church with Carols from 6:30pm

All children of the Parish (and their families) are warmly invited to attend our Christmas Eve Family Mass dressed in shepherd, wise men, angels costumes.

11:00pm Mass at St Michael's, with Carols from 10:30pm

Christmas Day Tuesday December 25

9:00am Mass
10:30am Mass



PARISH VOLUNTEERS:

Thank you very much to all our volunteers who continue to step up and support our Parish in many different ways, it is very much appreciated! If you would like to offer your time or talents, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish office. Volunteering is a great way to meet other parishioners and ensures St Michael's Parish continues to be a vibrant and enriching community. Volunteers are required to have a current Working with Children Check, be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and sign the Parish Code of Conduct form. Forms are still available in the entry of the Church or from the Parish office. A big thank you to all the parishioners who have returned these in the last few weeks. Paperwork and restrictions can be frustrating but help keep our community safe and our parish compliant with current regulations.

SYNOD 2021-2023 LET'S WALK TOGETHER:



Our Listening. Listening with an open heart and mind is the first step. How good are we Catholics at listening with the ear of our hearts? Who don't we listen to? Have your say <https://tinyurl.com/HavingASay> or use the



QR code
Find out more
<https://www.cdsale.org.au/synod-of-bishops>

Written submissions can also be dropped into the Parish Office which can be included as part of the collective Parish response. In the coming months we will arrange Parish sessions to meet and discuss the themes of the Synod together, our first 'coffee conversations' will be held next week in the Mary MacKillop Room, we warmly invite all Parishioners to attend. In the meantime, feel free to gather with other parishioners, friends and family and share your ideas on communion within the Catholic Church.

Coffee Conversations- How do Catholics 'Journey Together'? How might we do it better?

Before Mass Dec 11 & 12: 4pm in the Mary MacKillop Room
After Mass Dec 16: 10am in the Mary MacKillop Room

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

Pope Francis on Synodality
"Let us ask: in the church, are we good at listening? How good is the hearing of our heart? Do we allow people to express themselves, to walk in faith even though they have had difficulties in life, and to be part of the life of the community without being hindered, rejected or judged? Let us not soundproof our hearts."
(Pope Francis, Homily for the Launch of the Synod 2021-2023, 10 October 2021.)

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10

Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that are in need.

| Rosters for December 11 & 12, 2021 | | Third Sunday of Advent, Year C | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| | Lector | Commentator | Usher (COVID Marshall) | Musicians |
| Saturday 5:00pm | B O'Brien | B Purcell | A Henry C Payne | |
| Sunday: 9:30am | M Hansen K Roy | M Wilkinson | D Bau W Banks-Smith | |
| Sunday: 5:00pm | Volunteer | J Fleming | M Noone | |
| <i>Mick's Kitchen:</i> | Dec 09 Van Berkel Team | | Dec 16 McLaughlin Team | |

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold,
The Lord will come to save the nations,
And the Lord will make the glory of his voice
heard
In the joy of your heart.

First Reading Bar 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch

Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v.3

**(R.) The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.**

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **(R.)**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

Next week's Readings:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| First Reading: | Zephaniah 3:14-18 |
| Second Reading: | Philippians 4:4-7 |
| Gospel: | Luke 3:10-18 |

Second Reading Phil 1:3-6. 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 21:36

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God..
Alleluia!*

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

