



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 Otopo 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 Imhagwe 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

Farewell Monsignor John Patrick Allman PE RIP

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Monsignor John Allman early Friday morning. We give thanks for the life of Mons Allman as he gave so much to our Diocese, particularly here at St Michael's Parish. He was born and raised in Denison via Heyfield, and ordained in Sale in 1951. He was a proud Gippslander, the un-official Bishop of Glengarry, who even after his official retirement, continued to offer Mass at St Columbkille's, and then O'Mara House. He will be remembered every time we enjoy the life of Jesus through the windows in our Church.

While he always introduced himself as Father, the name "Mons" is legend among the thousands of Catholics who encountered his welcoming ministry and found in him a priest after the heart of the Good Shepherd himself. His extraordinary ability to connect with people has meant that Catholic and non-Catholic alike found a pastoral friend: The "Mons" has held a special place in the homes and hearts of so many. Many will remember his care at the time of family grief and the deep connection he forged in the "valley darkness" and as he led them safely to "pastures green." The hundreds of couples he accompanied to their marriage vows and the joys which they would celebrate. Thousands of families will recall Mons Allman at Sacraments of Initiation. Others will recall a kindly confessor at critical moments of conversion. Others still will recall his proclamation of the Word and the thousands of Masses which he celebrated uniting his priesthood to Christ. We mourn the loss of this great priest of Sale. We rejoice that he has enjoyed such a long and wonderful life. We are grateful for the profound witness in service of Jesus Christ and his deep devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help through whom he dedicated his life.

His last Mass was celebrated on Saturday afternoon at his bedside at O'Mara House. He whispered every prayer. He gazed upon the consecrated host and chalice with eyes as though fixed on heaven: A moment when time and eternity were united. He said he knew Jesus was suffering with him and he was offering his suffering to the Lord. He blessed his bishop, clergy, people of Sale invoking the intercession of Our Lady. There was nothing more to do other than await the great victory he had preached through his words and actions the promise of eternal life. His life and his death will be remembered in the stories which will be told and as his name falls gently from our lips. While our hearts are saddened today, we can be sure in faith that our brother John will be welcomed by the angels into paradise. We pray he now enjoys the rewards of his faithful life in the eternal presence of God to whom he dedicated his life, and in the presence of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, upon whose intercession he relied and in whose model of discipleship he lived.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Bishop Greg Bennet

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 14	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Dec 15	9:30am Mass 11:00am Adoration 12:00pm Mass
Thursday Dec 16	9:30am Mass
Friday Dec 17	9:30am Mass

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We remember those who have died recently including Monsignor John Allman, George Hallinan, Stefania Smalera, Father Joseph, and Mr Varghese, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Shirley Gibson, Bereniece Fraser, Joe Thompson and Mary Kelly.

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, 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 until this **Sunday December 12**. 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.

FAREWELL MASS 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.

BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for Baptism, Aisling Winifred Coulthard, daughter of Gary and Claire, and Matthew James Arbuthnot, and Megan Jennifer Arbuthnot, children of Daniel and Sarah. 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: All are invited to attend	
<u>Saturday December 11, 2021</u>	
4:00pm	Synod Coffee Conversations, Mary MacKillop Room
<u>Sunday December 12, 2021</u>	
4:00pm	Synod Coffee Conversations, Mary MacKillop Room
<u>Wednesday 14, 2021</u>	
1:30pm	Knight's of the Southern Cross, Mary MacKillop Room
<u>Wednesday December 15, 2021</u>	
9:00am	Wednesday morning Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
10:00am	Blessing of the Icons, St Michael's Church
<u>Thursday December 16, 2021</u>	
7:30pm	Advent Retreat- Journey to Bethlehem, St Michael's Church
7:30pm	R C I A, St Michael's Church
<u>Sunday December 19, 2021</u>	
10:30am	Farewell Morning Tea for Fr Francis, after Mass MMR
6:00pm	Farewell Supper for Fr Francis after Mass MMR

WORDS FROM MONS ALLMAN:

To celebrate his 70 years of priesthood in the Diocese of Sale:

It is my privilege to express "thanks" to many during these 70 years for the support received and needed.

I have always had a fond devotion to our Lady, especially under the title of Perpetual Help. I have prayed for her help that I would become a priest and my devotion with time has grown stronger.

I also thank the parishioners of our diocese for their inspiration and example which has encouraged me. I have gladly been a priest under eight Bishops since my ordination by Bishop Ryan. He has been followed by Bishop Lyons, Bishop Fox, Bishop D'Arcy, Bishop Coffey, Bishop Prowse, Bishop O'Regan and Bishop Bennet – I have always appreciated their kindness and leadership as an inspiration for me and parishioners who have been united as the Church of Sale. Each parish has had a variety of occasions when unity and strength has been restored after disappointment or hurt visited.

I do wish to thank especially my family who have always supported me in my vocation and shown their love and generosity with personal sacrifice.

Generosity and gratitude are strong Christian virtues

Please pray – May his life and sacrifice as a priest be pleasing to Almighty God: all wonderful, merciful and powerful.

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



THANK YOU:

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the many parishioners and parish groups for the well wishes, flowers and gifts which were so generously given to me as I begin the new adventure in my life, retirement.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my seven years in the parish office; it's been both a privilege and an honour to work for the families of our parish. I now look forward to again being a parishioner and volunteer in our wonderful parish.

My sincere thanks to Fr Bernard, Fr Francis, Fr James, Fr Babu, Fr Prasanna, Fr Saji, Fr Ajin and Deacon Tony, Sr Doreen, Jenifer Hanratty, Catherine Hill and our many group leaders for all their generous support and help. I am delighted knowing that Cath Hill has taken on the Parish Secretary role - our parish is in good hands. Bev O'Brien

SYNOD 2021-2023 LET'S WALK TOGETHER:



Our Speaking Out: Everyone is invited to speak boldly and courageously in truth and love. Are we as Catholics good at saying publicly what is important to us? If not, why not? 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 this weekend 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
"The "art of encounter," said Francis, is marked by listening and seeking to understand the other. "Every encounter, as we know, calls for openness, courage and a willingness to let ourselves be challenged by the presence and the stories of others."

(Pope Francis, Homily for the Launch of the Synod 2021-2023, 10 October 2021.)

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." PHILIPPIANS 4:6

St. Paul reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. When we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to share what we have been given.

Rosters for December 18 & 19, 2021			Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C	
	Lector	Commentator	Usher (COVID Marshall)	Musicians
Saturday 5:00pm	R Webber	D Smith	A Ryan B O'Brien	Alison & Amanda
Sunday: 9:30am	A M Thomas	C McCabe	B McNulty E McNulty	Charismatic Choir
Sunday: 5:00pm	E Joseph M Joseph	S Grout	C Hill	
Mick's Kitchen:	Dec 16 McLaughlin Team		Dec 23 Scholtes	

Entrance Antiphon Phil 4:4-5

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.*

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah
With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of
Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven
your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious
warrior.

He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by
his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on
a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm Is 12:2-6 Rv6

**(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great
and Holy One of Israel.**

1. Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. **(R.)**
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. **(R.)**
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the
Holy One of Israel. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I
repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your
tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very
near. There is no need to worry; but if there is
anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with
prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which
is so much greater than we can understand, will guard
your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

*Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News
to the poor.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?'
he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share
with the man who has none, and the one with
something to eat must do the same.' There were tax
collectors too who came for baptism, and these said
to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them,
'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked
him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?'
He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be
content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people,
who were beginning to think that John might be the
Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you
with water, but someone is coming, someone who is
more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the
strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy
Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to
clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into
his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will
never go out.' As well as this, there were many other
things he said to exhort the people and to announce
the Good News to them.

Next weeks Readings:

First Reading:	Micah 5:1-4
Second Reading:	Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel:	Luke 1:39-44