



## 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

### GOOD NIGHT MONS.

This weekend, Mons, the entire Diocese of Sale, and St Michael's Parish in particular, mourn your departure. We mourn, not sorrowfully, but with gratitude to God for a life well lived, trusting that you are now enjoying your choicest wine with the good Lord of abundance (Isa 25:6). You saw this coming, didn't you? On Sunday, 14 November, when I visited you, you did say that you did not sleep well the previous night, and retorted: "could this be death knocking?" Well, you laughed over it, trivialising the weight of your "joke." However, when you decided to show me where the Tabernacle key is "should something happen sooner than later," you, in a way, scared me. I did not take much notice of your worries because you've always bounced back. This time, you chose to not return, but to take the path to eternity; the eternal kingdom to which you devoted 70 years of your life in its propagation and preaching. I can visualise the Lord Jesus smiling, and with open arms, saying: "Well done good and faithful servant" (Matt 25:23).

You had wished to celebrate the Christmas vigil Mass with the residents at O'Mara House. Fr Peter and I were prepared to see this come to pass. It was pencilled in our diaries and in the events diary at O'Mara House. However, the Lord's ways of fulfilling our prayers and wishes are sometimes different from ours (Isa 55:8). So, on your last Saturday on earth, the 4<sup>th</sup> of December, the Lord sent his servant, Bishop Greg, to celebrate the Eucharist with you. Though you were in and out of sleep most of the liturgy of the Word, you came alive at the liturgy of the Eucharist. So, your last Mass, Mons, was at O'Mara House, with Bishop Greg present. It was a glorious moment. As fate would have it, on that glorious Friday morning, the 10<sup>th</sup> of December, you transitioned from time to eternity. Good on you, Mons.

Through every moment, you were quite sober, endured every pain, and carried out your ministry to the full (2 Tim 4:5). Your words after the Mass with the Bishop reflected the pattern of Paul: "I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time for my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept faith." (2 Tim 4:6-7). Of course, the crown of glory awaits you (2 Tim 4:8), to be presented to you by our Lord, accompanied by our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Well, it's been great ministering with you, though for a short while. Your dedication, devotion, and commitment to the priestly life and ministry in unprecedented. You have given us all an example of true commitment to the "call" and to the faith. A man of great strength, passion, and love of God and ministry, you are. You are indeed a priest forever, a priest like Melchizedek of old (Gen 14:18-20).

Though you are now gone, it is for a while for I shall see you again in the morning, in the city that "has no need of the sun or moon to shine on it..." (Rev 21:23). Good night, Mons... until we greet again in the morning.

*Fr Francis Otobo*

<b>Sunday Mass Times</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5:00pm (no vaccination check required)</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:30am (no vaccination check required) 5:00pm (no vaccination check required)</b>
<b>Please arrive 15 minutes early to all Masses to enable your check in, you no longer need to show your vaccine certificate.</b>	
<b>Booking to attend Masses is no longer required.</b>	
<b>Weekday Mass Times</b>	
Tuesday Dec 21	9:30am Mass 10:45am Mass at Margery Cole
Wednesday Dec 22	11:00am Adoration 12:00pm Mass 5:00pm Reconciliation
Thursday Dec 23	9:30am Mass
Friday Dec 24	9:30am Mass 7:00pm Christmas Vigil 11:00pm Christmas Vigil

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** We remember those who have died recently including Monsignor John Allman PE, Maureen Rutter, Kerrie Jenkin and George Hallinan, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Danny, Bridget and Eamon Hiney, Fr James Duffy, Shirley Gibson, Bereniece Fraser 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, 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, Roy Ward and Kelly Maher and all those we hold dear in our hearts.



**FAREWELL MONSIGNOR JOHN ALLMAN PE:**

All Parishioners are invited to celebrate the life of Mons Allman at a special Vigil Mass to be held at St Michael's Church Traralgon, this Sunday at 6:30pm. We will begin with the Rosary at 6:00pm. A Requiem Mass will be held Monday at St Mary's Cathedral Sale at 11:00am.



**BAPTISMS:** This weekend we welcome for Baptism, Kaiden Arlo Zappulla, son of Matthew and Naomi, and Shay Peter Cooper, daughter of Michael 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.

**WEDDINGS:** Congratulations and every blessing to Danielle Fava and Adriano Fazioli, as well as Teena Della Fortuna and Christopher Calabrese, who are being married at St Michael's this weekend.

'May your love be upon us O Lord, as we place our hope in you.' Psalm 32

<b>THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:</b>	
<b>Sunday December 19, 2021</b>	
10:30am	Farewell Morning Tea- Fr Francis, Mary MacKillop Room
<b>Sunday December 19, 2021</b>	
6:30pm	Vigil Mass, Mons John Allman PE, St Michael's Church
<b>Monday December 20, 2021</b>	
6:00pm	Malayalam Christmas Mass, St Michael's Church
<b>Wednesday December 22, 2021</b>	
5:00pm	Christmas Reconciliation St Michael's Church
<b>Friday December 24, 2021</b>	
6:30pm	Christmas Carols, followed by Mass at 7:00pm- St Michael's Church
10:30pm	Christmas Carols, followed by Mass at 11:00pm- St Michael's Church
<b>Saturday December 25, 2021</b>	
9:30am	Christmas Mass St Michael's Church

**CHANGES TO MASS TIMES:**

- There will be no evening Mass this Sunday December 19, as we will be holding the Vigil Mass for Mons at 6:30pm.
- There will be one Mass Christmas morning, at 9:30am, no restrictions apply.
- There will be no evening Mass Christmas Day
- We will hold Mass at 9:30am and 5:00pm on Sunday December 26, The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph.

**Mass times from 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> January:**

- Saturday 5:00pm**
- Sunday 9:30am**
- Sunday 5:00pm**

The latest changes to COVID restrictions mean that there will no longer be any vaccination requirements or limits on the number of parishioners attending masses. Face coverings are no longer required, however we encourage parishioners to continue to wear them if they are with vulnerable people or are unable to maintain social distancing. Our church no longer needs to be cleaned between uses, so you do not need to wipe down your pew before leaving. We do, however, need to ensure that our church remains clean and safe, and ask anyone who has some time, to join our cleaning roster. Please contact the Parish office if you are willing to assist.

**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

**FAREWELL MASS FOR FATHER FRANCIS:**

We will hold a farewell mass this Sunday December 19, at 9:30am, for Father Francis. All are invited to stay behind afterwards for a coffee and a chat in the Mary Mackillop Room, please bring a plate to share.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS:**

Our Parish office will be closed from Friday December 24 at 12:00pm, and reopen on Tuesday January 11 at 9:00am. During this period, you can call the office on 51742060 and leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

**STEWARDSHIP MATTERS**

*"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." LUKE 1:44*

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading each Sunday, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. Do you prepare for Mass each week or do you just show up and expect to be entertained? We are called to be active participants, not passive bystanders.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:**

**Reconciliation**

Wednesday December 22: 5:00 – 6:00pm

**Christmas Eve**

**Friday December 24**

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

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

**Christmas Day**

**Saturday December 25**

**9:30am** Mass at St Michael's Church



**SYNOD 2021-2023 LET'S WALK TOGETHER:**



**Our Celebration:** Communal celebrations where we explore God's Word and break bread are our glue. Are our celebrations guiding and inspiring our decisions & our lives and where are they failing? 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. In the meantime, feel free to gather with other parishioners, friends and family and share your ideas on communion within the Catholic Church.

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:**

Pope Francis on Synodality

"There is no need to create another church, but to create a different church. Keep us from becoming a 'museum church,' beautiful but mute, with much past and little future."

"May we be pilgrims in love with the Gospel and open to the surprises of the Spirit."

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

**MICK'S KITCHEN:** Will be closed from December 24, and reopen on Thursday January 13, 2022.

Rosters for December 24, 25 & 26, 2021					
		Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Friday Dec 24	6:30pm	U & E Imhagwe	B Purcell	A Ryan & V Vaz J & M McLaughlin	Diamente Family
Friday Dec 24	10:30pm	J Fleming	M Noone	Volunteers	Simon & Friends
Saturday Dec 25	9:30am	S & S Reid	C McCabe	Volunteers	Charismatic Choir
Sunday Dec 26	9:30am	R Foote	M Noone	A Sykes & M Rigg	
Sunday Dec 26	5:00pm	Volunteer	S Grout	M & J Hanratty	
<i>Mick's Kitchen:</i>		Dec 23 Scholtes Team		Jan 13 Moretti Team	

**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** Micah 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah

*Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.*

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

**(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

- O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**
- God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**
- May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*I am coming to do your will.*

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices  
for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in  
the scroll of the book,

'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

**Gospel Acclamation** Luke 1:38

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*I am the servant of the Lord:*

*may his will for me be done.*

*Alleluia!*

**Gospel** Luke 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?*

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Next weeks Readings:

*The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph*

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Second Reading: Col 3:12-21

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52