

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

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 0499 162 313 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

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP GREG BENNET, DIOCESE OF SALE

Warmest blessings and greetings as we gather to celebrate Christmas 2021!

One of my priest friends wishes his parishioners each year a, "very messy Christmas". He does so not to wish them an unhappy Christmas, but as a reminder to be realistic about Christmas. Because it can be "messy" - as it was from the beginning of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke the evangelists contain the infancy narratives of the birth of Jesus. Over the years, these stories become so familiar to us: Mary and Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem, away from home and unable to find a place to rest, give birth to their child, the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, the Wonder Counsellor. The reality lived experience of "mess" is where God meets us in his son, Jesus, Emmanuel – God with Us.

As we gather for Christmas this year we are mindful of the journey we have had throughout 2021 – and it has been pretty "messy". We think of the COVID experiences of families and others this year: people working at home; parents assisting their children to learn remotely and all that has gone on throughout this long time. We think of the aged and vulnerable, the sick and dying and those who felt alone, dislocated and disconnected. We think of those families and businesses who have been under so much stress, some in fact have lost their livelihoods. We are mindful of these people and their needs as we approach Christmas (the Christmas manger?). Alongside this, we are grateful for the gifts of goodness shared by so many.

Throughout the pandemic the parishes of the Diocese of Sale (clergy, religious and lay people) have continued to find ways to connect, to pray and accompany their people. In this "messy" time we witnessed the love of Emmanuel. There have been times of grief and sadness, and lots of postponements of important celebrations. Thankfully we now begin to re-emerge from this time.

Christmas reminds us that we gather as a people of hope and promise. The children from our Catholic primary schools have produced some beautiful Christmas cards based on the theme on the visitation of the Magi who bring their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant King. The lives of the Magi were changed forever by daring to follow the star to find where Jesus lay. – And the same can be true for us – once we meet Jesus Christ and accept him, our lives are changed forever.

We remember at Christmas the gifts which we receive from the birth of Jesus: peace, hope, promise, mercy, compassion, and above all, the knowledge that Jesus accompanies us in every moment of our lives.

As you gather this year, hopefully with family and friends for the first time in a very long time, may you experience the God of Promise in the birth of Jesus. May you be blessed and enjoy the gifts of this time for God has sent his son, born among us and for us – God-with-us.

May you have a very blessed, holy and a "messy" Christmas!

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm (no vaccination check required)
Sunday	9:30am (no vaccination check required) 5:00pm (no vaccination check required)
Please arrive 15 minutes early to all Masses to enable your check in, you no longer need to show your vaccine certificate.	
Booking to attend Masses is no longer required.	
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Dec 28	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Dec 29	9:30am Mass
Thursday Dec 30	9:30am Mass
Friday Dec 31	9:30am Mass

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We remember those who have died recently including Monsignor John Allman PE, Maureen Rutter, Kerrie Jenkin, George Hallinan and Gerhard Riess, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Danny, Bridget and Eamon Hiney, Fr James Duffy, Leo Bernard Vaz and William Hardbottle.
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.



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.

BAPTISMS:

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.



CHANGES TO MASS TIMES:

- 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 1st/2nd 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 must be worn in all indoor venues in Victoria, including our church, regardless of how many people are in attendance.

We are no longer required to clean our church 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.



First Holy Communion:

Congratulations to Lia Maria Roy, Tresamaria Thomas and Rosemaria Thomas who will celebrate their first Holy Communion on the 28th of December. They have all been working hard with Fr Ajin in preparation and we wish them all the best.

Knights of the Southern Cross Scholarships:

Congratulations to the winners of the Knights of the Southern Cross Scholarships presented to Johnny Roscoe (St Michael's Primary School) and Vivian O'Neill (St Gabriel's Primary School) as they prepare to attend Lavalla Catholic College next year. These scholarships are valued at \$500 each and have been awarded for many years

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.

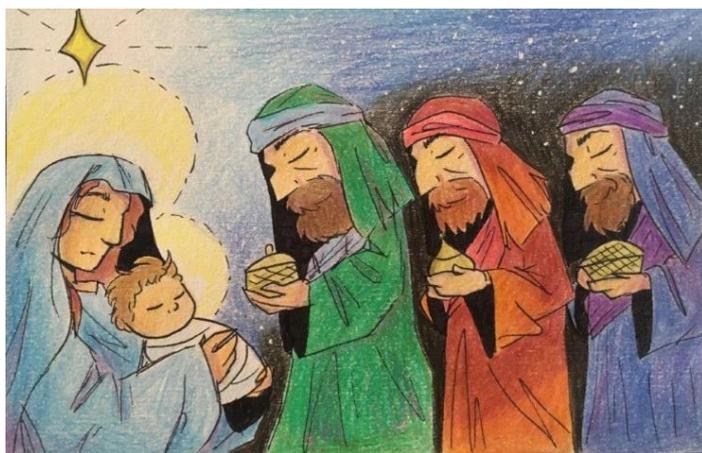
May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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.

Please note that our after hours mobile number has also changed to 0499 162 313. Please use this number if you need to get in touch with Fr Ajin over the Christmas break.

MICK'S KITCHEN: Will be closed from December 24, and reopen on Thursday January 13, 2022. It has been running as a take away only service, with meals provided by local cafes and restaurants thanks to funding from the Latrobe City Council Community Grants Program. We thank everyone who has helped and supported Mick's Kitchen this year and look forward to re-opening as a full dining service in the not too distant future.



2021 IN REVIEW:

While we lived in hope that 2021 would be better than 2020, for many of us it was more of the same. We went in and out of lockdown and dealt with constant changes to restrictions, density limits, mass times and bookings. We learned to homeschool our children, we worked from home and we caught up with loved ones via Zoom and FaceTime. For most of the year, our Parish office was closed and our Ministries put on hold. We returned to Mass when restrictions allowed, but numbers were limited and it was not quite the same. The very act of coming to Sunday Mass changed as we all learned to book ahead; to check in using QR codes; and to clean our own pews. It was a year of stop/start for all. Meetings were scheduled, then cancelled, and celebrations postponed. We have been busy catching up on Sacraments and celebrations that were missed last year. We have become flexible and resilient as circumstances change and plans need to be adjusted. We celebrated Sister Doreen's 60th Anniversary back in January, and enjoyed hearing of her adventures throughout the Diocese from her many friends she has collected on her journey. She has touched many hearts and is well loved by all. We have now had to say farewell, as she officially retired and moved back to Melbourne. Our beloved Parish Secretary, Bev O'Brien also retired after 7 years of looking after our Parish and particularly our priests. After a period of declining health, we recently lost Mons Allman. He celebrated 70 years in the priesthood in August and was shepherding his flock right until the end. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy remembered each time we enter this church and are surrounded by his windows. We say goodbye to all those who have had to leave us, and thank them for all they have done for our Parish.

As we move towards 2022, our parish can look forward to a time of renewal and growth. We look forward to being together and reviving our ministries and our connections with each other. We look forward to the commencement of our building project, and our new parish hall. We look forward to welcoming our new Parish Priest, Fr Aju Varghese. Many things have been put on hold, but we now look forward to resuming our journey, together. We thank you for your patience and unwavering support throughout this time and wish you all the best as you journey onwards, together.



Wishing all our parishioners and all those you love, a holy, safe and peace filled Christmas time.

With best wishes from Fr Francis, Fr Ajin and Deacon Tony

Rosters for December 26, and Jan 1 & 2, 2021

	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Sunday Dec 26 9:30am	R Foote	M Noone	A Sykes & M Rigg	
Sunday Dec 26 5:00pm	Volunteer	S Grout	M & J Hanratty	
Saturday Jan 01 5:00pm	A Taylor	Dorothy Smith	A Ryan & B O'Brien	Diamente Family
Sunday Jan 02 9:30am	C McLure/R Diaz	M Tainsh	J & P Dal Pra	
Sunday Jan 02 5:00pm	M & Z Hanratty	M Noone	J & M McLaughlin	

Mick's Kitchen:

Jan 13 Moretti Team

Jan 20 Hemming Team

Entrance Antiphon Phil 4:4-5

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our
Saviour has been born in the world.
Today true peace has come down to us
from heaven.

First Reading Isaiah 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
A son is given to us.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him:

Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.

Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Responsorial Psalm Is 12:2-6 Rv6

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **(R.)**
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. **(R.)**
4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** Titus

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus
God's grace has been revealed to all people.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Good News and great joy to all the world:
Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Luke 2:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Today a saviour has been for you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven and
peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

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