



## 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 Aju Varghese** Parish Priest  
 Parish Centre 5174 2060  
 Priest's Residence: 5174 6765

**Deacon Tony Aspinall**  
 Phone 5174 8167  
 Email: deacontony8@gmail.com

**St Michael's Parish Office**  
 Telephone: 5174 2060  
 Address: 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 0449 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 Imhagwe Chairperson, Fr Aju, 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  
 Acting Principal: Mr Doug Doherty  
 Kildare Campus 5174 8111  
 St Paul's Campus 5174 7355

### NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARY by Mary Coloe PBVM

Dear God-lovers...

**1 Corinthians 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27; Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21**

*The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me.*

The first part of today's Gospel is in fact the opening sentence of Luke where he sets out his goal, which is to give an orderly account of recent events. Theophilus is a code word made up of two Greek words, *God* and *Love*, so in fact Luke is writing to all those who love God. Having told us *Luke's* goal, the Gospel then moves to chapter 4 where Jesus announces *his* goal within the synagogue of his home town, Nazareth. Jesus deliberately selects the text from Isaiah 61, so if we want to understand Luke's story of Jesus we need to understand this text. Jesus has a mission to the poor, to the outcasts, the alienated, the ones society despises, the 'down and outers', the ones living in darkness and pain. Jesus' role is to tell these people, who feel most unloved and rejected, 'You are not despised by God; God has not rejected you.' This is what is meant by 'the Lord's year of favour.' This year is the great fiftieth year of jubilee liberation, when slaves are to be released, when debts are to be written off and people are allowed to return home. Jesus says, 'God keeps Jubilee. Your debts to God are written off, do not let guilt and fear enslave you, come home to a welcoming God.' If we can understand that this is the goal Jesus announces then we will understand why in Luke's Gospel he spends so much time with sinners and outcasts. What Jesus announces in Nazareth he will then live out, to the great shock of his family and friends.

What might Jesus' mission be for you?

In Paul's letter, he uses the image of the body as a way of describing the close unity that is to exist between members of the community. This image made more sense to me when I was in Corinth and was on a tour following the footsteps of Paul. What I had not realised before was the importance of the Greek God of healing, Asclepius. This God had two daughters, Panacea and Hygeia and was always depicted leaning on a staff and accompanied by a snake. These images and words are still part of our medical world. Every city would have a Temple to the God Asclepius, just as every town has at least one chemist or doctor. The Asclepian (the Temple to Asclepius) was a most important part of the community life. This is where members would go for healing by the priests of the Temple and to pray for healing to the God. As part of their prayer, they would bring a votive offering, which took the form of a clay or even marble model of the body part requiring healing. In the museum in Corinth, I saw many of these votive offerings from the Corinthian Asclepian. There were many hands, feet, legs, some ears, eyes... as these were requiring healing.

The Temple of Asclepius may well have provided Paul with his image of the many body parts and the need for them to be united to the body. His listeners, familiar with the Temple of Asclepius, would recall the many body parts they saw in this Temple. Paul now transfers the meaning of these votive offerings to the Christian life.

What might it be like if we looked on others as an extension of our own bodies? What difference would this make in our treatment and care of others? Paul expects his community to take his words seriously and in this same letter states that if there is not love of others within the community then there can be no Eucharist.

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday Jan 29	5:00pm Mass
Sunday Jan 30	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
<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>	
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Jan 25	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Jan 26	11:00am Adoration 11:00am Reconciliation 12:00pm Mass
Thursday Jan 27	9:30am Mass
Friday Jan 28	9:30am Mass

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** We remember those who have died recently including Shirley Alford, Bronwyn Janssen, Williamina Battista and Dennis Fitzsimon, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including John Van Berkel, Roger Biancon, Bishop Patrick Phelan and Bishop Noel Daly. *Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK** including Maria Alessandrini, 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 Mc Kerchar, 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.



*St Vincent de Paul members wish to thank St Michael's parishioners for your very generous contribution of gifts and gift cards to our Christmas appeal. With your help, we assisted 120 adults and 170 children at Christmas in 2021. Our conference is so blessed to be part of such a generous parish. Thank you from SVdP.*

**BAPTISMS:**

This weekend, we welcome for Baptism, Mackenzie Joy Edgar, daughter of Iain and Katie, and Yennifer Crowe Caga, daughter of Ed and Katrina.



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

**R.C.I.A.:**

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) St Michael's Parish warmly invites anyone interested in discovering more about the Catholic faith to come along to our meetings which are held on Thursday evenings in the Parish Centre, 7:30-9:00pm. Any parishioners who would like to attend the RCIA sessions are most welcome also. Please contact Susan Grout on 0412 671 308 or the Parish Office on 5174 2060, if you, or someone you know are interested.



THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
<b>Tuesday, January 25, 2022</b>	
5:00pm	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting, Parish Centre
<b>Wednesday January 26, 2022</b>	
Parish Office Closed- Australia Day Public Holiday	
<b>Wednesday January 26, 2022</b>	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
<b>Thursday January 27, 2022</b>	
7:00pm	Finance Committee Meeting, Parish Centre
<b>Thursday January 27, 2022</b>	
7:30pm	RCIA Meeting, Parish Centre

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

Cleaning teams are desperately required as we begin to open up and have more people attending Mass. We are no longer required to clean our pews after each mass, however we do require volunteers to ensure our church is cleaned regularly. We are looking to restart our Parish Cleaning Roster and ask anyone that is interested and able to assist, to contact the parish office. The more people that are willing to help, the less often they will need to be rostered on.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

Our Parish office has re-opened from Tuesday – Friday, from 9am to 4pm. You may attend in person, or call us on 5174 2060 or email us at sec@smpt.org.au, whatever suits you.

**CURRENT RESTRICTIONS:**

Current COVID restrictions mean that there are no longer any vaccination requirements or limits on the number of parishioners attending masses. However we ask that you maintain social distancing where possible and refrain from coming to mass if you are feeling unwell. Face coverings are now required when indoors, including our church, Mary MacKillop Room, and our Parish Centre.

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



**Our Decision Making:** Our aim is to make decisions by discerning what the Holy Spirit is saying through our whole community. How well do we do this and which Catholic discernment and decision-making methods include everyone? How can we do better?

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 participation within the Catholic Church.

**Reflection on Scripture:**

**Now the body is not a single part, but many. You are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. 1 Cor 12: 27**

We give thanks for the spiritual gifts that bind us together and the family of God. We are called to be one people, one body in Christ, enabled and sent out for service.

How are we, both communally and personally, using our gifts to serve others in Christ's name? How can you, along with your fellow-believers, enable the church to bring good news, freedom and liberation to others?

Which gift of yours have you been hiding? Who might need you to use it?

When has your faith in Christ and your awareness of his presence with you brought you joy and a sense of power?

How do we, as a Catholic community, engage in decision making together as the Body of Christ? How do we listen and discern together to know what God is asking of us? Are we making decisions with the heart and mind of Jesus?

What are the factors that might impede our communal discernment and decision-making and how can we minimize them?

**Quote of the Day on Synodality:**

*Authority and Participation: A synodal Church recognizes the call of God to foster co-responsibility in pursuit of the mission. The people of God must examine, together, how authority is exercised within the Church and what practices of teamwork can be taken to better promote the unity of the diverse people of faith.*

(Synod of Bishops Preparatory Document, nos 1, 30; Vademecum no 5.3)

**Prayer for the Synod**

As we embrace this Synodal Process, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to be at work in us so that we may be a community and a people of grace.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.

Amen.



This prayer can be used throughout the duration of the Synodal Process from October 2021-2023.

**STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:**

*"Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared..."*  
(Nehemiah 8:10)

Ezra's instructions to the people show us that God does not forbid us from enjoying the good things in life. He wants us to be happy! However, God expects us to be grateful for all that He has given us and to generously share our blessings with those who are in need without expecting anything in return.

Rosters for January 29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> 2022		Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C		
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Jan 29 5:00pm	T Denny	D Smith	A Henry & C Payne	
Sunday Jan 30 9:30am	S & S Reid	C McCabe	G & U Imhagwe	
Sunday Jan 30 5:00pm	E Babu	S Luscombe	M & J Hanratty	
<i>Mick's Kitchen:</i>	Feb 03 Moretti Team		Feb 10 Hemming Team	



**Entrance Antiphon** Cf. Ps 95:1-6

*O sing a new song to the Lord;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
In his presence are majesty and splendour,  
strength and honour in his holy place.*

**First Reading** Neh 8:2-6 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

*They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.*

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep'. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63

**(R.)** *Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.*

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.  
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**
2. The precepts of the Lord are right,  
they gladden the heart.  
The command of the Lord is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes. **(R.)**
3. The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just. **(R.)**
4. May the spoken words of my mouth,  
the thoughts of my heart,  
win favour in your sight, O Lord,  
my rescuer, my rock! **(R.)**

**Second Reading** 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*Together you are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

**Gospel Acclamation** Luke 1:38

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.*

*Alleluia!*

**Gospel** Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.*

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

Next weeks Readings:

*Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C*

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13,

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30