



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 adults at risk: 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 adults at risk and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

Please contact our Safeguarding Officer 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 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: Lia Di Corleto, Chairperson, Fr Aju, Steve Kimani, Greg Imhagwe, Watson Gomez, Jenifer Hanratty, Judi McLaughlin, Thomas Mathew, Amanda Reid, Jodie Ware, Michelle Charlton, and Doug Doherty.

Our Schools:

St Gabriel's School 5174 5515
Principal: Mrs Michelle Charlton

St Michael's School 5174 3295
Principal: Mrs Jodie Ware

Lavalla Catholic College 5174 5272
Principal: Mr Ryan Greer

Kildare Campus 5174 8111
St Paul's Campus 5174 7355



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Australian bishops back local Advent appeal for Ukrainian people

MEDIA RELEASE November 29, 2022

The country's bishops are encouraging Catholics to respond to the call from the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia to provide financial support to people in the war-torn nation as winter arrives. Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR gave an update on the situation in Ukraine during the plenary meeting of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference earlier this month. He thanked the bishops for praying – and inviting their communities to pray – for Ukraine, and asked them to renew those prayers. He also requested that bishops hold a special collection to “support refugees and people in Ukraine during this winter, which will be the most challenging for our country for decades of independence”. The bishops gave strong support to that proposal, and are encouraging dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools and other ministries to facilitate a special collection during Advent for Ukraine. “Mindful of the busyness of this pre-Christmas period, communities are invited to find a day, a weekend or some other moment or moments to focus on the people of Ukraine,” said Bishops Conference president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB. “It should also be a time to again place the Prayer for Peace in Ukraine that the Bishops Conference composed in February in our minds and in our hearts.” Archbishop Costelloe said the bishops are also individually considering Bishop Bychok's invitation for a delegation of Australian bishops to travel to Ukraine in an act of solidarity with the people there, including the Catholic faithful. “Although it is nigh on impossible for us to capture the magnitude of what is unfolding in Ukraine, Bishop Mykola helped paint the desperate picture to augment what we are seeing on our TVs,” he said. “While financial contributions can and will help, it has been made clear to us that a group of bishops spending time on the ground would be a powerful sign of our closeness to the plight of the Ukrainian people.” In his address to the bishops, Bishop Bychok described the devastation being caused in Ukraine – through loss of life, internal and international displacement, widespread property destruction or damage and other consequences of war. He thanked Caritas Australia, Catholic Mission and Aid to the Church in Need, as well as dioceses and religious communities, for raising funds to provide humanitarian support. He also acknowledged the Australian Government's allocation of humanitarian visas for people fleeing the war. All donations raised during the Advent appeal will support the work of Mudra Sprava (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons.

Find out more and access resources at www.catholic.au

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am & 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Dec 06	9:30am Mass 1:30pm Requiem Mass for John Cooney
Wednesday Dec 07	11:00am Reconciliation 11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Mass
Thursday Dec 08	9:30am Mass
Friday Dec 09	9:30am Mass

*Thursday morning mass will be celebrated at St Michael's Church **not** at St Gabriel's Primary School during Advent and the summer holidays.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Maureen (Marina) Green, Sister Margaret Bromhead RSJ and John Cooney, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Stefania Smalera, Veronica Barter, Juan Goicoa, Fr Dave Cagney, Agostino Damiano, W.D Michael, W.D Miury, Victor Julian George, Giovanni Salvatore and Salvatore Agostino. *Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: including Peter Dal Pra, Ann-Maree Daly, Gary Donchi, Bill Edgar, Bernadette Formaran, Fr Frank Freeman, Marj Gilbert, Carolyn Gleeson, Jacqui Granville, Barbara Greaves, Ellen Hammond, Jenny Hansch, Robert Hazelman, Imogen Hillier, Joyce Martin, Ivy May, Deborah Mc Kerchar, Ben Melenhorst, Maree Morris, Henry Polo, Joan Riggall, Theresa Rosello, Jerry Templer, Damiano Tripodi, Julie Vaz, Brian Vivian, Sharon Veleff, George Walkan, Roy Ward, Victoria Rohli, Father John Speakman, James Whitty, Pasqualina Loprese, Ria Tactor, and all those we hold dear in our hearts.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 4: Christmas family Mass at 9:30am followed by picnic in the school grounds.

December 7: Blessing of the Icons, 9:30am

December 11: Christmas presents to be returned to SVdP Gifting Tree

December 13: Advent Liturgy in the Church at 7:30pm

December 20: Advent Reconciliation, 5:00pm

CWL WALKING GROUP: Parishioners and friends are invited to join the CWL ladies on a morning walk this Tuesday December 6. The group will meet in Kay St, near the 'Lady of Our Way' at 10am. All ages and fitness levels welcome.



VIRTUAL ADVENT TALKS:

Garratt Publishing is presenting a series of free Virtual Advent talks by four Australian biblical scholars

from Yarra Theological Union. This is a perfect opportunity to enrich your Advent journey. For more information or to register, visit garrattpublishing.com.au

Tuesdays December 6 & 13, from 7pm – 8pm, via Zoom.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Sunday December 04	
10:30am	Parish Picnic, St Michael's Primary School
Tuesday December 06	
10:00am	CWL Walking Group, Meet at the Lady of Our Way, Kay St
Wednesday December 07	
9:30am	Blessing of the Icons, St Michael's Church
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday December 08	
9:30am	St Gabriel's Whole School Mass, St Michael's Church
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
7:30pm	RCIA Meeting, Parish Centre
Friday December 09	
10:30am	BUPA Nursing Home Liturgy, BUPA
11:30am	St Michael's Whole School Mass, St Michael's Church

BAPTISMS: The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held **Tuesday December 6th at 7:00pm** in the Church. Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 if you are interested in attending.



St Michael's Parish Traralgon Art Competition

Congratulations to all our entrants in this year's Parish Art Competition. We had 154 entries from children all around our parish inspired by the theme 'we are waiting'. Thank you to our schools and parents for supporting and encouraging our children, whose colourful and creative artwork you can see and enjoy at the back of the church.

BLESSING OF THE ICONS: We will have a special blessing of the icons on Wednesday at 930am in the church. Everyone is invited and welcome to join us.

TOURING STATUE OF OUR LADY: We would like to restart our Touring Statue of our Lady Ministry. If this is something you have been a part of before, or would like to learn more about, please contact the parish office. We are also looking for someone to oversee the roster. Marie Moulton has done a wonderful job previously and we are very grateful for all of her time and support.

COLLECTIONS: From next weekend we will go back to passing the collection bowl around the congregation. We will only have one collection, all loose money will go to the presbytery, and all envelopes will go to the church/planned giving program. We will also begin processing in with Father, so we ask readers and eucharistic ministers to meet in the alcove at the back of the church before mass.

CHRISTMAS GIFTING TREE: St Michael's St Vincent de Paul Conference has again organised the Christmas Gifting Tree to be in our Church. Parishioners are asked to take a gift tag and return your gift/voucher to the tree before December 11. The conference would like to thank all parishioners for their support throughout the year and wish everyone a happy and Holy Christmas.



SYNOD 2021 - 2023: The next phase of the Synod has arrived with the publication of the Continental Document, containing the fruits of the consultation of hundreds of syntheses from countries all over the world. We are now inviting

interested people to participate in one of two online meetings to respond to the Document. The Continental Document for the Synod and information on registering your interest can be found by visiting the diocesan website cdsale.org.au/events Online meetings:

7:00 – 8:30 pm, Tuesday 6 December 2022

Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

*God of peace and justice,
Who change the hardened heart
And break the power of violence,
We entrust the people of Ukraine to you.
Protect them in this time of peril;
Let them know not death but life,
Not slavery by freedom.
You are Father of all;
We are brothers and sisters.
Give us the strength to live that truth in love,
Choosing peace not war.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen*



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023: For more than 30 years, World Youth Day has been an opportunity for the young people of the world to go on pilgrimage and discover how Jesus calls each of us to be his disciples. In 2023 it will be held in Lisbon,

Portugal in the month of August. The Diocese of Sale is organizing a group of young people between the ages of 16-35 to join with the Archdiocese of Melbourne for pilgrimage. If you would like to know more, there will be an information night held at St. Agatha's Parish Hall, Cranbourne December 12 at 7pm.

Our young parishioner Zahra Hanratty will be attending World Youth Day and will be fundraising over the coming months to pay for her ticket. You will see her around the parish selling cadbury chocolates for \$1 each. Please support her however you can and keep her in your prayers as she prepares for this exciting next step in her faith journey. Hopefully we will have some other young people from St Michael's to go with her, anyone who is interested can contact the parish office or our Diocesan representative Fr. Avinash George for more information on 03 5997 1510 or avinash.george@cdsale.org.au.

ADVENT LITURGY:

December 13 at 7:30pm

We have seen his Star in the East and have come to Worship him. Matthew 2:2

We Saw The Star In The East-

Let us gather during this Advent season and celebrate the coming birth of the Saviour. We come into God's presence with thanksgiving and joy, bringing all the sick, the suffering, the marginalized, the refugees, and the uprooted before him, knowing God can dispel our darkness with his light. Join us for a special Advent Liturgy at St Michael's Church at 7:30pm on December 13.



Our Advent Prayer:

*In Cities and Towns
In apartments and terraces,
All: Christ is waiting to be born
In palaces and paddocks
In high streets and back streets,
All: Christ is waiting to be born
In the vastness of the universe
In the intimacy of our hearts,
All: Christ is waiting to be born
All: Come, Lord Jesus
Come into our homes
Come into our lives
Come and stay*



Christmas Mass Times 2022:

CHRISTMAS EVE: Saturday December 24

7:00 pm Family Mass,
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 with Carols from 10:30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY: Sunday December 25

9:30am Mass

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION:

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." (Matthew 3:10)

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you spend your time, talent, and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter, and junk. Our time, our talent, and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

Rosters for December 10 & 11 2022			Third Sunday of Advent, Year A		
	Lector	Commentator	MERT	Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Dec 10 5:00pm	R Webber	D Smith	U Imhagwe	C Payne	Jane & Simon
Sunday Dec 11 9:30am	S & S Reid	M Wilkinson	S Hemming	J & P Dal Pra	Diamente Family
Sunday Dec 11 5:00pm	V Vaz & S Harikrishna	S Darby	M McLaughlin	B McNulty	Jane & Simon
Mick's Kitchen:			Dec 22 nd Christmas Celebration		

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 Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,

his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm PS 71:1-2 7-8 12-13 R cf V7

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

- O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**
- In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth's bounds. **(R.)**
- For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**
- May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. **(R.)**

Next weeks Readings 3rd Sunday in Advent

1 st Reading	Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10
2 nd Reading	James 5: 7-10
Gospel	Matthew 11: 2-11

Second Reading Rom 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 3:4,6

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths:*

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'