



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



St Michael's Church

We Saw The Star In The East

ADVENT LITURGY

December 13
7:30pm

Everyone is invited to 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.

- Let us fix our eyes on the star that was seen in the East and allow it to lead us too
- We pray for the Church, ourselves and those we love and care for.
- May we become lights that guide others to Jesus the Saviour.
- A light Advent supper to follow in the Mary MacKillop Room, please bring a plate to share.

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

Matthew 2:2

**Join us for a special Advent Liturgy at St Michael's Church
7:30pm on December 13.**

*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*

Our Advent Prayer:



Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am & 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Dec 13	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Dec 14	11:00am Reconciliation
	11:00am Exposition
	12:00pm Mass
Thursday Dec 15	9:30am Mass*
Friday Dec 16	9:30am Mass

*Thursday morning mass will be celebrated at St Michael's Church **not** at St Gabriel's Primary School

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Rogelio (Junior) Trinidad and Maureen (Marina) Green, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Joe Thompson, Charles Mangura, Eulalia Mangura, Mary Kelly, Stefania Smalera, Veronica Barter, Juan Goicoa, Fr Dave Cagney, Agostino Damiano, W.D Michael and W.D Miury. *Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.* Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Rogelio 'Junior' Trinidad will be held at Sacred Heart Morwell December 20 at 11am. Junior has been a strong supporter of our music ministry throughout the Valley region and his infectious smile and leadership of our Filipino Choir will be greatly missed.

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 Speekman, James Whitty, Pasqualina Loprese, Ria Tactor, and all those we hold dear in our hearts.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 11: Christmas gifts to be returned to the SVdP Tree

December 12: WYD Information Night, St Agatha's 7:00pm

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

December 16: Fr Aju's Birthday Morning Tea, 10:00am

December 20: Advent Reconciliation, 5:00pm

CHANGES OVER THE CHRISTMAS BREAK: The office will be closed for the Christmas break from 12pm Thursday December 22 and reopen on Tuesday January 11 at 9am. RCIA will resume on Thursday January 19. CWL will return on Tuesday January 31. Mick's Kitchen will reopen on Thursday February 02. The Charismatic Prayer Group will return on Thursday February 9. There will be no 5pm Mass on Sunday December 25 or Sunday January 01. Other Mass times will continue as normal during this period, although Thursday morning mass will be in the church not at St Gabriel's Primary School. We thank everyone for their support throughout the year and hope everyone has a joyful and peaceful Christmas break. We look forward to catching up with you all in the new year.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Monday, December 12	
7:00pm	Mick's Kitchen Team Leaders Meeting, Mary MacKillop Room
Tuesday December 13	
7:30pm	Advent Liturgy, St Michael's Church
Wednesday December 14	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday December 15	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
Friday December 16	
10:00am	Fr Aju's birthday morning tea, MMR

BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for Baptism **Carter James Taplin** and **Isabella Joy Taplin**, children of Michael and Bridget, **Isabella Maree Townsin**, daughter of John and Sharnee, **Ollie James Anthony Rodaughan-Motton**, son of Boadie and Anna, and **Lenny James Stute**, son of Eythan and Mikayla. Congratulations and welcome to our parish.



The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held **Tuesday January 17th 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'. Well done to all our artists, particularly our winners: Jasmine, Eve, William, Charlie, Beau, Zach and Aaliyah. 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.

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE: Congratulations to Father Aju for winning the CWL Christmas Raffle! Special thanks to Wanda for organising the hamper and parishioners for supporting the raffle, they managed to raise \$243!

At the recent CWL AGM, the following positions were announced for 2023-

President- Johanna Sykes

Vice President- Kay Radford

Secretary- Robyn Marxsen

Assistant Secretary- Rosanna Del Fortuna

Treasurer- Marie Moulton

Assistant Treasurer- Maureen Rigg

Thank you to all the members and especially our outgoing secretary Maria Munari and treasurer Wanda Banks-Smith for all their time and talent they have used to support CWL over the past 12 months. We look forward to an exciting 2023.



COLLECTIONS: From this 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.

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.



MORNING TEA: Everyone is invited to help celebrate Father Aju's birthday on Friday December 16 after 9:30am mass. We will have morning tea in the Mary MacKillop Room from 10am, everyone is welcome. It would be great if you could bring a plate to share.

THE GREY ARMY: Would you be interested in joining our newest parish team? We are organizing a group to meet once a fortnight at the church to do minor maintenance and external/internal cleaning activities, followed by a cup of tea and a chance to catch up. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact the parish office. We are hoping to get the group up and running towards the end of January, all are welcome.



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.

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. There will also be an information night held at St. Agatha's Parish Hall, Cranbourne **Monday December 12 at 7pm.**

*Advent increases our hope,
a hope which does
not disappoint.
The Lord never lets us down*

Pope Francis.

PILGRIMAGE TO MARY MACKILLOP PLACE: The Catholic Women's League is organizing a pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Place in Sydney from the 5th – 7th June 2023. The tour includes return travel via bus from the Latrobe Valley to Sydney, and 2 nights accommodation. For more information speak with Johanna Sykes or contact the parish office.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL: Thank you to everyone who has already returned their gifts to the St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree. It is not too late to support this wonderful initiative which provides donated Christmas gifts to children in need. Final gifts will be collected this **Sunday December 11** so please ensure any other gifts that have been purchased are returned to the church by then.

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



PARISH FINANCE MATTERS: November 2022

Loose collections:

November 06	\$1, 186.25
November 13	\$1, 045.00
November 20	\$ 877.50
November 27	\$ 883.60
November total	\$3, 992.35

Planned Giving:

Envelopes	\$ 2, 501.50
Direct Debit	\$ 9, 385.00
Credit Card	\$ 650.00
November total	\$12, 536.50

Thank you for your ongoing financial support of the parish, it is very much appreciated.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION:

"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." (James 5:8) Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

Rosters for December 17 & 18 2022			Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A		
	Lector	Commentator	MERT	Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Dec 17 5:00pm	B Purcell	M Noone	S Thomas	L Kennedy	Alison, Jeanne & Amanda
Sunday Dec 18 9:30am	U & E Imhagwe	M Tainsh	G Imhagwe	M Wilkinson	Charismatic Choir
Sunday Dec 18 5:00pm	E & T Joseph	C Hill	E Joseph	M Noone	Jane & Simon
Mick's Kitchen:			Dec 22 nd Christmas Celebration		

Entrance Antiphon

Phil 4:4-5

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

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

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

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

Jas 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Is 61: (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Next Weeks Readings**4th Sunday in Advent**

1st Reading Isaiah 7:10-14

2nd Reading Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Matthew 1:18-24