



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



SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Dianne Bergant CSA

The young woman in Isaiah's prophecy is probably the wife of the king. Since every Israelite king was considered a sign of God's presence with the people, Emmanuel, meaning 'God with us', could refer to any one of them. One might think that a royal child who signifies the presence of God with the people would indeed be a sign of God's fulfilment of the promise made to David concerning the perpetuity of his dynasty (cf. 2 Sam 7:12-16). Here it is also a promise of God's presence regardless of the situations within which the people find themselves. This prophecy encourages the king to place his trust in God, not in the child himself.

Behind the imagery of the opening verses of the psalm response is the ancient Near Eastern cosmology. The focus here is the earth which, the ancients believed, floated like a saucer on the cosmic waters. This earth and all those who live on it belong to or are under the protection of the Lord. Such a claim would not be made if there were any doubt about the Lord's sovereignty. The liturgical portion of the response suggests pilgrims approaching the walls of the city, certain persons (probably priests) inquired about the suitability of those who would enter the sacred precincts. External conformity to cultic prescriptions is not enough; an appropriate inner disposition is required as well.

Paul relates the gospel that he preaches with the promises made by God through the prophets. Thus he highlights the link between the message of Jesus and the ancient traditions of Israel. However, Jesus is more than human. Through his resurrection he has been established Son of God in power. The resurrection uniquely manifested his divine sonship. Finally, this was all accomplished according to the Spirit of holiness. Here we find the foundation of Paul's Trinitarian faith. His final salutation is composed of the Greek expression 'grace to you' and the Hebrew greeting 'peace'. It is really a prayer for grace and peace, of coming conjointly from God and from Christ.

The gospel reading describes how Jesus, though not the natural son of Joseph, can through him be legitimately considered a son of David. Mention of the Holy Spirit is probably less a question of Trinitarian theology than of eschatological fulfilment. The name 'Jesus' is the Greek form of the Hebrew Yehçšua, which means 'YHWH is salvation'. Regardless of how the tradition of Mary's virginity eventually developed within Christian theology, the content of this passage indicates that the concern is less with Mary's actual perpetual virginity than with the origin of Jesus in God. He comes from God; he is the salvation from God; he is the presence of God; the new age will be born through him.

Mass Times	
Tuesday Dec 20	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Advent Reconciliation
Wednesday Dec 21	11:00am Reconciliation 11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Mass
Thursday Dec 22	9:30am Mass*
Friday Dec 23	9:30am Mass
Saturday Dec 24	7:00pm Vigil Mass 11:00pm Midnight Mass
Sunday Dec 25	9:30am Christmas Day Mass
Tuesday Dec 27	9:30am Liturgy
Wednesday Dec 28	11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Liturgy
Thursday Dec 29	9:30am Mass*
Friday Dec 30	9:30am Mass
Saturday Dec 31	5:00pm Mass
Sunday Jan 01	9:30am Mass

*Thursday morning mass during Advent and School Holidays 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 those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Monsignor John Allman, Kerrie Jenkin, Maureen Rutter, William Hardbottle, Shirley Gibson, Bereniece Fraser, Joe Thompson, Charles Mangura, Eulalia Mangura and Mary Kelly.

Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.



ROGELIO 'JUNIOR' TRINIDAD: Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Rogelio 'Junior' Trinidad will be held at Sacred Heart Morwell, Tuesday December 20 at 11am. Junior has been a strong supporter of the music ministry throughout the

Valley region and his infectious smile and leadership of our Filipino Choir will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.

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.



**Closed
for
Christmas**

The office will be closed from 12pm Thursday December 22 and will reopen on Tuesday January 10 at 9am. May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours and may the coming year be filled with happiness. We look forward to catching up with you all in the New Year.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Tuesday December 20	
11:00am	Requiem Mass for Junior Trinidad, Sacred Heart Church, Morwell
5:00pm	Advent Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Wednesday December 21	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday December 22	
6:00pm	Mick's Kitchen Christmas BBQ, Mary MacKillop Room

BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for Baptism **Joey Maxwell McGennissen**, daughter of Jed and Chantelle, **Angus Joe Bertolin**, son of Simone, **Reeve Emerson Tyrrell** and **Corbin James Tyrrell**, children of David and Monique.



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.

SACRAMENTS 2023: Save the date! The following dates for the Sacramental Program have been announced for 2023.

Reconciliation: March 21 - 23

Confirmation: June 9

First Communion: November 11-12, or November 18-19

END OF TERM: Wishing all our school staff and children a happy, holy and safe Christmas, and a restorative and enjoyable holiday. Staff return to our Schools on Friday January 27, 2023. Please check the school's websites for dates for students return to school.

-St Michael's Primary School:

www.stmtraralgon.catholic.edu.au

-St Gabriel's Primary School,

www.stgtraralgon.catholic.edu.au

-Lavalla Catholic College

www.lavalla.vic.edu.au

CWL WALKING GROUP: Parishioners and friends are invited to join the CWL ladies on a morning walk this Tuesday December 20. The group will meet in Kay St, near the 'Lady of Our Way' at 10am. All ages and fitness stages welcome.

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.

COLLECTIONS: We have now returned to passing the collection bowl around the congregation during mass. We will only have one collection, or one passing of the bowl. 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.

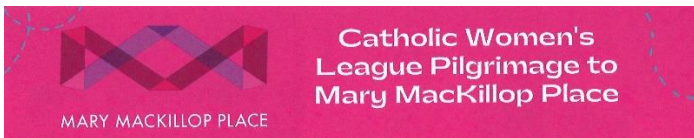


SYNOD OF BISHOPS: The Church around the world has entered the Continental Stage for the Synod of Bishops on Synodality. Groups around the country are praying with and responding to the Document for the Continental Stage, which was published recently. Groups around Australia have spent time in responding to the Document which reflect the voices of the People of God from over 114 countries around the world. A collation of the Australian submissions is being prepared for the Bishops from the Oceania region when they meet in Fiji in February 2023. Access the Document for the Continental Stage www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch

Mick's Kitchen:

Mick's Kitchen will host a special Christmas BBQ on Thursday December 22 at 6pm from the Mary MacKillop Room. All are welcome. It is a chance to celebrate and reflect on the past 12 months with our volunteers and guests. We are grateful to all the support we have received this year, particularly from Baker's Delight, Banjo's Bakery, Traralgon Aged Care, Lavalla Catholic College, Australia Post, Traralgon Centre Plaza, Latrobe City and AGL.

We are in need of Strawberries to go with our Christmas Desserts on Thursday and would really appreciate it if parishioners could donate a punnet, either to the parish office or leave it in the Mary MacKillop Room next Wednesday. Thank you in advance!

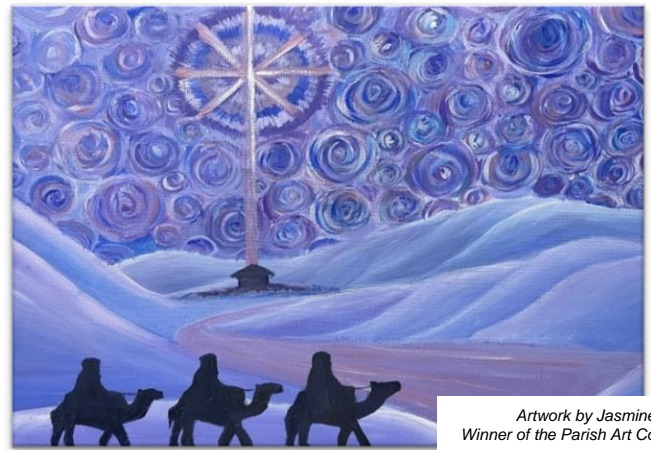


PILGRIMAGE TO MARY MACKILLOP PLACE: The Catholic Women's League is organizing a pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Place in Sydney from the 5th – 7th June 2023. The tour includes return travel via bus from the Latrobe Valley to Sydney, and 2 nights accommodation. For more information speak with Johanna Sykes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

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION:

*"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home."
(Matthew 1:24)*

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.



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 OR NEW YEAR'S DAY

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*



In the darkness, a light shines. An angel appears, the glory of the Lord shines around the shepherds and finally the message awaited for centuries is heard: "To you is born this day a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" ... That is the sign: a child, a baby lying in the dire poverty of a manger. No more bright lights or choirs of angels. Only a child. Nothing else, even as Isaiah had foretold: "unto us a child is born".

POPE FRANCIS, St Peter's Basilica, 24th December 2021

Rosters for December 24 & 25 2022			The Nativity of the Lord		
	Lector	Commentator	MERT	Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Dec 24 7:00pm	B Purcell	Z Hanratty	Volunteer	G Edgar & C Hill	Diamente Family
Saturday Dec 24 11:00pm	B O'Brien	T Denny	Volunteer	M Noone & C Payne	Jane & Simon
Sunday Dec 25 9:30am	W & J Gomez	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Jane & Simon
Mick's Kitchen:			Dec 22 nd Christmas Celebration		

Entrance Antiphon Cf Is45:8

*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 Isaiah 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm Ps23:1-6 R see vv 7.10

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

Next weeks Readings**Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil**

1st Reading Is 62:1-5
2nd Reading Acts 13:16-17.22-25
Gospel Mt 1:18-25

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Midnight

1st Reading Is 9:1-7
2nd Reading Ti 2:11-14
Gospel Lk 2:1-14

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Day

1st Reading Is 52:7-10
2nd Reading Heb 1:1-6
Gospel Jn 1:1-5.9-14

Second Reading Rom 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.
From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.