



## 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



### Christmas Message from Bishop Greg Bennet

Warmest Christmas greetings from the beautiful Church of St Jarlath, Yarragon, where people have gathered to pray for over 120 years and to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

I think of all of you and your loved ones as you gather to celebrate Christmas this year. I picture the many beautiful churches across the Diocese of Sale, where you will gather to remember the birth of Jesus. Some of you may be at home, or in aged-care; wherever you are, I send my greetings to you.

Our hearts are filled with awe as we contemplate the birth of this fragile baby. God chose to come among us sharing our humanity. In the poverty of the manger of Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph present their child to the shepherds who search for him, and they hold him out to us to cradle too: *Come let us adore him!*

As we reflect upon this year, we remember the thousands of people whose lives have been so affected by the devastating floods. Many will not be in their own homes this Christmas and have lost so much. We are inspired by the witness of so many generous people who went to rescue those in need, to provide shelter to the homeless, to feed the hungry, offer them clothes and who continue to accompany people with such empathy. Seeing communities supporting one another, reminds us of the goodness which truly exists and surrounds us – we see people at their very best in times of crisis.

There are many others across the world whose lives are currently beset by poverty, the turmoil and the violence of a war they did not choose: The loss of so many innocent people are tragic as are the horrors which have been inflicted upon them. We pray for the work of nations to seek peace, and the many agencies which offer solace and comfort. We might think of how we can support Caritas Australia, Catholic Mission and other agencies who can really assist people in crisis.

For some of you, there will be an empty chair as you gather for Christmas. May you share your memories of your loved one with the hope of the promise of the child of Bethlehem.

Wherever we are this Christmas, and however we are this Christmas, God meets us, holds us, carries us. He is born for us – Emmanuel – God with US. All we need to do is to open the wrapping of our hearts to receive the greatest gift of all, Jesus born for us that we might live.

I wish you every peace, joy and blessing for Christmas and for 2023!

+Greg Bennet, December 2022

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Dec 27	9:30am Liturgy
Wednesday Dec 28	11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Liturgy
Thursday Dec 29	9:30am Mass* 7:00pm Rosary- Lorraine Brady
Friday Dec 30	9:30am Mass 1:30pm Requiem Mass for Lorraine Brady

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

### PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY OR NEW YEAR'S DAY

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** those who have died recently including Lorraine Brady, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Peter Glaubitz, Gerhard Riess, William Hardbottle, Fr James Duffy, Monsignor John Allman, Kerrie Jenkin, Maureen Rutter, Shirley Gibson, and Bereniece Fraser. *Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*



**LORRAINE MARGARET BRADY:** A Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Lorraine Brady will be held here at St Michael's Traralgon on Friday December 30 at 1:30pm. The rosary will be recited in the church on Thursday December 29

from 7pm. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend. Our thoughts and prayers are with John and the Brady 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 McKerchar, 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, Kathleen Whitty, and all those we hold dear in our hearts.



**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.

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS NOW CLOSED FOR THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD AND WILL REOPEN ON TUESDAY JANUARY 10 AT 9AM.**

**BAPTISMS:** The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held **Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup> 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

### 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.
- Wednesday Morning Prayer Group will return on Wednesday February 01
- Mick's Kitchen will reopen on Thursday February 02.
- The Charismatic Prayer Group will return on Thursday February 09.
- Knights of the Southern Cross will return on Tuesday February 14
- 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.

### Mick's Kitchen:

Mick's Kitchen is now closed until Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup> when it will reopen at the St Vincent de Paul Centre from 6pm. We are grateful to all the support we have received during the year from our volunteers, parishioners and community members. We would like to particularly thank Baker's Delight and Banjo's Bakery for providing bread and baked goods each and every week, Traralgon Aged Care for their weekly homemade biscuit drop as well as the hampers provided for the Christmas BBQ. We would like to thank Lavalla Catholic College, Australia Post, Traralgon Centre Plaza and Loy Yang B for their generous financial support as well as Latrobe City Council and the ERNLac group for their ongoing administrative and compliance support. We acknowledge and appreciate the patience and flexibility of all involved as we moved between our usual home at St Vincent de Paul, the St Michael's School Hall and the parish's Mary MacKillop Room. We are grateful for the leadership of Ray Moretti and Judi Scholtes, and all our team leaders, as well as our unwavering volunteers, who have pushed through COVID restrictions, moving from dine in to take away, back to dine in, preparing meals without a kitchen, and all with smiles on their faces. Special thanks to Barbara McNulty, Lyn Burns and Charlie Medhurst and the team at St Vincent de Paul Traralgon for their ongoing support of the Mick's Kitchen initiative.

**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.



**2023 DIVINE RENOVATION AUSTRALASIA CONFERENCE:**

Catholics across Australia and New Zealand are hungry for a Church that’s fully alive. And through the power of the Holy Spirit, renewal is possible.

This is why the 2023 Divine Renovation Australasia Conference is gathering today’s parish leaders where you will be inspired, connected, and equipped to lead missional parishes.

Join Fr. James Mallon, Fr. Chris Ryan, and other leaders in parish renewal for a weekend of inspiring keynotes, impactful workshops, and uplifting liturgy, prayer, and worship — together with parish leaders from Australia and New Zealand who are on fire for the Church’s mission.

Wherever you are in the parish renewal journey, this conference will be a unique and inspiring experience for every Catholic who desires to see their parish come alive.

The 2023 Divine Renovation Australasia Conference will be taking place on 10-12 February 2023 in Sydney, Australia.

**Learn more and register today** at [divinerenovation.org/draus2023](http://divinerenovation.org/draus2023).



**PILGRIMAGE TO MARY MACKILLOP PLACE:** The Catholic Women’s League is organizing a pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Place in Sydney from the 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> 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.



Artwork by Jasmine Hanratty  
Winner of the Parish Art Competition

As we reflect on all the ups and downs of the past twelve months, we approach Christmas and the New Year with a sense of optimism. 2022 has been a year of renewing and rebuilding our parish, our faith, and our ministries. Our PPC has led with a gentle restart; casual morning teas hosted by the CWL; small prayer services led by our Liturgy team. Our ministries and parish groups have returned one after another, growing in number and frequency. Mass attendances have steadily increased and the spirit of our parish is alive and well. It has been a year of new beginnings, a new parish priest, a new PPC chair, and new principals at St Gabriel’s and Lavalla. It has been a year of new ideas and new perspectives, supported by the experience and wisdom of those around them. We are grateful for the ongoing support and knowledge of our long term parishioners, whose active participation and guidance helps us all to grow in holiness and mission to live as Catholics who effectively transform society. We also welcome our new parishioners and new voices who bring fresh ideas and perspectives and help our parish grow and prosper. Together we continue to move forward as a parish, maintaining our traditions and history while evolving to meet current needs.

At this time of year, we are particularly mindful of the birth of Jesus and the message of hope and love that it brings. May the joy of the season fill you hearts and homes, and may the coming year be one of blessings and peace for you and your loved ones.



*Wishing all our parishioners and all those you love, a holy, safe and peace filled Christmas time. With best wishes from Fr Aju, Deacon Tony, Cath & Jen.*

	Lector	Commentator	Welcomer	Musicians
<b>Saturday Dec 31 5:00pm</b>	R Foote & T Larkin	D Smith	A Membrey	Jane & Simon
<b>Sunday Jan 01 9:30am</b>	C McLure & R Diaz	Volunteer	D Bau	
<b>Saturday Jan 07 5:00pm</b>	R Webber	D Smith	M Giddens	Jane & Simon
<b>Sunday Jan 08 9:30am</b>	U & E Imhagwe	C McCabe	A Sykes	Jane & Simon
<b>Sunday Jan 08 5:00pm</b>	J Panozzo-Tile	S Luscombe	J McLaughlin	Jane & Simon

**Entrance Antiphon** Cf. Is 9:5

*A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;  
his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder,  
and his name will be called Messenger of great  
counsel.*

**First Reading** Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of  
our God.*

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one  
who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings  
happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion,  
'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they  
shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face  
to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of  
joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord  
is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the  
nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the  
salvation of our God.

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

**(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the  
saving power of God.**

1. Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. **(R.)**
2. The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. **(R.)**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy. **(R.)**
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,  
with the sound of music.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
acclaim the King, the Lord. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** Heb 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.*

At various times in the past and in various different  
ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the  
prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has  
spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has  
appointed to inherit everything and through whom  
he made everything there is. He is the radiant light  
of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature,  
sustaining the universe by his powerful command;  
and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin,  
he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right  
hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above  
the angels as the title which he has inherited is  
higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son,  
today I have become your father, or: I will be a  
father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he  
brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all  
the angels of God worship him.

**Gospel Acclamation** Lk 3:4 6

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*I am the servant of the Lord:*

*A holy day has dawned upon us.*

*Come you nations and adore the Lord.*

*Today a great light has come upon the earth.*

*Alleluia!*

**Gospel** Jn 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and  
we saw his glory.*

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with  
God and the Word was God. He was with God in the  
beginning. Through him all things came to be, not  
one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him and that life was  
the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a  
light that darkness could not overpower.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men;  
and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world that had its being through him,  
and the world did not know him. He came to his  
own domain and his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who did accept him he gave power to  
become children of God, to all who believe in the  
name of him who was born not out of human stock  
or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.  
The Word was made flesh, he lived among us. And  
we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only  
Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

**9:30am Mass**