

www.smpt.org.au
email: sec@smpt.org.au

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

15 January 2023

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.

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



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI (Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger)

16th April 1927 - 31st December 2022

Australian Bishops Conference Media Release

Pope Benedict, born Joseph Ratzinger, led the Church from April 2005 until February 2013, becoming the first Pope in centuries to resign. He had earlier served as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, one of the Vatican's most influential departments, for more than two decades. Pope Benedict died in Rome, where he had lived since his papal retirement, on Saturday December 31.

"From his time as an expert adviser – or peritus – at the Second Vatican Council onwards, there was no question that Joseph Ratzinger was a major figure within the Church around the world," said Archbishop Costelloe, president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. "His papacy will be remembered as one of rich teaching, including his encyclicals on love, hope and truth, as well as his book series *Jesus of Nazareth*, and for important reforms in areas like liturgy and in the handling of child sexual abuse." Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB says Pope Benedict XVI will long be remembered fondly in Australia as the Pontiff who led young people from around the globe in prayer at World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, the bishop who oversaw World Youth Day in 2008, said Pope Benedict had been a key influence and someone with whom he became close. "I had the great privilege of spending some private moments with Pope Benedict, away from the spotlight," Archbishop Fisher said. "They were moments I will forever cherish. He had a great intellect, which he shared through his work as a professor, a Church leader and ultimately as Pope. "He did not seek nor enjoy the spotlight, but he produced some magnificent works that have shaped and will continue to shape Catholic thought and Catholic life." Archbishop Fisher said he was very grateful to spend some time with Pope Benedict during his visits to Rome. "Reminiscing about his time in Australia and learning from this gentle father figure was a real joy," he said.

"There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know him and to speak to others of our friendship with him."

Homily of Pope Benedict XVI at the Mass of the Inauguration of his Pontificate,
24 April 2005

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Jan 17	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Jan 18	11:00am Reconciliation 11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Mass
Thursday Jan 19	9:30am Mass*
Friday Jan 20	9:30am Mass

*Thursday morning mass during 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 Cardinal George Pell, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Trevor Brand and Desmond Campbell, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Williamina Battista, Roger Biancon, Jack Dessent, Jonathan Phelan, and Ellen Koch.

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

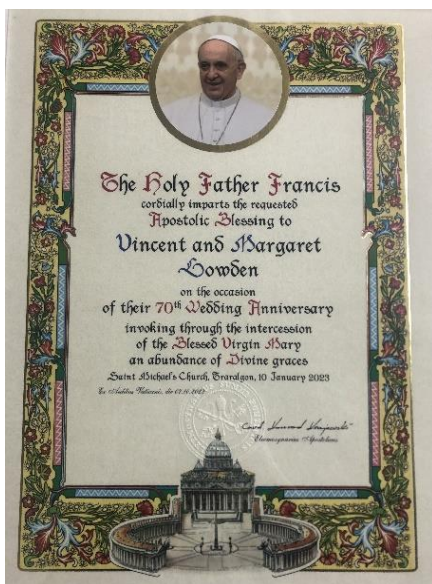
WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: including Peter Dal Pra, Ann-Maree Daly, Gary Donchi, Bill Edgar, Bernadette Formaran, Fr Frank Freeman, Marj Gilbert, Carolyn Gleeson, Jacqui Granville, Barbara Greaves, Ellen Hammond, Jenny Hansch, Robert Hazelman, Imogen Hillier, Joyce Martin, Ivy May, Deborah Mc Kerchar, 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, Kathleen Whitty and Martin McLaughlin, and all those we hold dear in our hearts.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Vincent and Margaret Lowden who celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary this week. Their special day was commemorated with mass at St Michael's Tuesday morning where Father Aju presented them with a blessing from Pope Francis. They are grateful that so many of their 9 children and partners, 21

grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren were able to be with them on the day. They tell us that the secret to a long and happy marriage is hard work and prayer. Best wishes Vin and Margaret, you are an inspiration to us all.



THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Wednesday January 18	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday January 19	
7:30pm	RCIA Meeting, Parish Centre

BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for Baptism **Jackson Charles Kennedy**, son of Joshua and Hannah, **Lottie Bernie Akkerman** and **Harlow Rakel Akkerman**, daughters of Stephanie.



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.



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. Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060, if you, or someone you know might be interested.

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.

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.

CAR PARKING: We are currently unable to use the St Michael's school yard to park our cars for weekend masses. The gates and outer fence are being replaced over the next two weeks so we should be able to use the school yard from the weekend of the 28/29 January.

LENTEN RESOURCES: We are delighted to present Garratt Publishing's new 2023 Lenten program for Year A, *God is on the Journey, Too*. Once again, **Chris Monaghan** has created a timely Lenten resource that speaks to the concerns – and weariness – of Australians who have spent several years dealing with the COVID pandemic.

In *God is on the Journey, Too*, Chris says, 'At every stage of the journey of faith, there is something to learn, invitations for us to grow, and opportunities for our relationships with God and others to be strengthened, healed, and renewed.'

In addition to the scriptural readings, a selection of quotes are included in the program featuring both ancient and modern saints, as well as contemporary sources of wisdom. These have been chosen because they shed their own light on this time of grace, acting as trustworthy and wise guides for the journey that lies ahead.

If this is something you would be interested in, please let the office know as soon as possible so we can include you in our order. Books will be sold at the RRP of \$8.95.



Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia

AN EXAMEN PRAYER FOR THE YEAR: from jisa.org.au

We invite you to experience an Examen Prayer for the Year to reflect back on the

past twelve months in order to look forward to the future in hope! This simple, yet powerful prayer of ‘consciousness,’ is a means of sifting through the interior movements of the heart, the emotions and feelings, joys, sorrows, and challenges of the day. It is a process of greater awareness, which, over time, enables discernment of choices and behaviours which are life-giving and rejection of those which are not.

Step One: I become aware of God’s presence.

I ask the Holy Spirit to help me to review the year gone by through the sacred lens of God’s perspective. I pray that I may view the past months with openness and clarity.

Step Two: I review the year with a grateful heart.

As I use this sacred lens to look over the year, I ask the Holy Spirit to help me recall all the gifts and graces of the year – I take a few moments to review these with a grateful heart.

Step Three: I consider emotional responses and feelings experienced over the past months, noticing where there was spiritual consolation or spiritual desolation.

I slowly recall the year again, becoming aware of the significant emotional responses experienced. In doing this, I turn to the Holy Spirit asking for help. I notice what rises within me now as I recall important relationships, conversations, and actions. Which are the strongest memories that arise, are they consoling or disturbing? I hold these memories, as I ask the Holy Spirit for a deeper understanding and clarity of myself, my situation and my relationships with others.

Step Four: I pray on one significant aspect from the year.

As I sift through the memories and emotions that have arisen, I ask the Holy Spirit to help me choose one significant aspect of the year that needs to be the focus of my Annual Examen. Perhaps it is an important relationship, situation, or a pattern of behaviour that might need to be addressed. I let all the other memories fall away as I pray from the emotions and feelings that have arisen around this one important aspect from last year.

Step Five: I look towards the new year with hope.

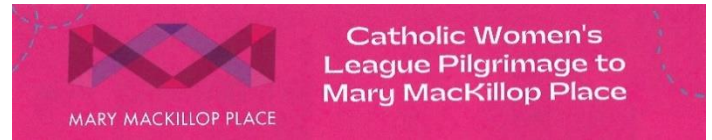
I conclude my Annual Examen by imagining what gifts and blessings the Holy Spirit may have for me in the year ahead. I see myself as God’s beloved and in that love, ponder all that lies ahead – decisions, challenges, changes, healings, and I pray for the courage to face whatever the next year will bring. Finally at the start of another year, I choose to be a person of hope, not only for myself but for the world and importantly for the next generation.

AMEN



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



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:

“Now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb...” (Isaiah 49:5)

God has given each of us different gifts. In order for God’s plan to work, you have to do what God is calling you to do, and I have to do what God is calling me to do. And guess what? God has given each of us a different plan! So, stop comparing yourself to others. Don’t let envy and jealousy enter your life. Be thankful for the gifts God has given you and generously share them with others.

PARISH FINANCE MATTERS: DECEMBER 2022

Loose collections- Presbytery

December 04	\$ 923.15
December 11	\$1,180.40
December 18	\$1,002.40
December 25	\$3,065.25
TOTAL	\$6,171.20

Planned Giving- Church

Envelopes/Direct Debit	\$13,933.00
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Thank you for your ongoing financial support of our parish, it is greatly appreciated.

Rosters for January 21 & 22, 2023			Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A		
	Lector	Commentator	MERT	Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Jan 21 5:00pm	M & J Hanratty	Z Hanratty	Volunteer	L Kennedy	
Sunday Jan 22 9:30am	W & J Gomez	M Wilkinson	Volunteer	J & P Dal Pra	
Sunday Jan 22 5:00pm	E & T Joseph	C Hill	Volunteer	M Noone	
January Cleaning:	Welcomer’s Team				
Mick’s Kitchen:	Feb 02 McLaughlin Team		Feb 09	St Michael’s Staff	

Entrance Antiphon Ps 65:4

*All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name,
O Most High!*

First Reading Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I will make you the light of the nations so that my
salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.*

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength.

And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel;

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 39: 2 4 7-10 Rv 8 9

(R.) Here I am Lord, I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. **(R.)**
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. **(R.)**
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

Corinthians 1:1-3

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

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 1:29-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.'

John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

Next weeks Readings**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

1 st Reading	Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3
2 nd Reading	1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Gospel	Matthew 4:12-23