



## 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



### Go Make Disciples: The Ascension of the Lord Year A A Reflection by Pope Francis

Today we celebrate Jesus' Ascension into heaven, which took place 40 days after Easter. The Gospel passage, which concludes the Gospel of Matthew, presents the moment of the Risen One's final farewell to his disciples. The scene is set in Galilee, the place where Jesus had called them to follow him and to form the first nucleus of his new community. Now those disciples have traversed the "fire" of the Passion and of the Resurrection; at the visit of the Risen Lord they prostrate themselves before him, although some remain doubtful. Jesus gives this frightened community the immense task of evangelizing the world; and he reinforces this responsibility with the command to teach and baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' Ascension into heaven thus constitutes the end of the mission that the Son received from the Father and the beginning of the continuation of this mission on the part of the Church. From this moment, from the moment of the Ascension, in fact, Christ's presence in the world is mediated by his disciples, by those who believe in him and proclaim him. This mission will last until the end of history and every day will have the assistance of the Risen Lord, who assures: "I am with you always, to the close of the age".

His presence brings strength during persecution, comfort in tribulations, support in the difficult situations that the mission and the proclamation of the Gospel will encounter. The Ascension reminds us of Jesus' assistance and of his Spirit that gives confidence, gives certainty to our Christian witness in the world. He reveals to us the reason for the Church's existence: the Church exists to proclaim the Gospel, for this alone! So too, the joy of the Church is proclaiming the Gospel. The Church is all of us baptized people. Today we are called to better understand that God has given us the great dignity and responsibility of proclaiming him to the world, of making him accessible to all mankind. This is our dignity; this is the greatest honour of each one of us, of all the baptized!

On this Feast of the Ascension, as we turn our gaze toward heaven, where Christ has ascended and sits at the right hand of the Father, we strengthen our steps on earth so as to continue our journey — our mission of witnessing to and living the Gospel in every environment — with enthusiasm and courage. However, we are well aware that this does not depend first and foremost on our strengths, on our organizational abilities or human resources. Only with the light and strength of the Holy Spirit can we effectively fulfil our mission of leading others to know and increasingly experience Jesus' tenderness.

Let us ask the Virgin Mary to help us contemplate the heavenly benefits that the Lord promises us, and to become ever more credible witnesses to his Resurrection, to the true Life.

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday May 23	9:30am Mass 11:00am Requiem Mass for Maxwell Maloney
Wednesday May 24	11:00am Reconciliation 11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Mass
Thursday May 25	9:30am* Mass @ St Gabriel's
Friday May 26	9:30am Mass

\*This Thursday we will celebrate mass at St Gabriel's Primary School. Parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** those who have died recently including Maxwell 'Max' Maloney, Maurice 'Morrie' Harrison, Therese D'Orsa, and Peter Bainbridge, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Felix Sejdkak, Noreen Waud, Kevin Fitzsimon, Debbie Fowles, Conceicao Maria de Nascimento, Kaye Nailer, John Cleaver, Amanda O'Brien and Simon O'Brien. *Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:** including 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, Sharon Veleff, George Walkan, Roy Ward, Victoria Rohli, Fr John Speekman, James Whitty, Kelly Maher, John Waanders, Peter Dal Pra, and Jane Eric and all those we hold dear in our hearts.



**PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:** We are in need of a female Safeguarding Officer for our parish. The applicant would need to be passionate about the safety and protection of children and vulnerable adults. Ongoing training and support will be offered by both the parish and the Diocese. We are also looking for new members to join our risk management team. If you are interested or knowledgeable about minimizing risks and promoting the safety of your fellow parishioners this is the team for you. Anyone who is interested in either position should contact the parish office or speak to Father Aju after Mass.

**CWL WALKING GROUP:** Parishioners and friends are invited to join the CWL ladies on a morning walk this Tuesday May 23. The group will meet in Kay St, near the Lady of our Way at 10am. All ages and fitness stages welcome.

**UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS- SAVE THE DATE:**

**Wednesday May 24-** Staff Training- Office Closed

**Sunday May 28 @ 10:30am-** Pentecost Morning Tea

**Friday June 09 after 9:30am Mass-** St Columbkille's Day morning tea, Mary MacKillop Room

**Friday June 09 @ 5:00pm-** Confirmation, Champagnat Centre

**Saturday June 17 @ 10am – 4pm-** A Day with the Spirit, Mary MacKillop Hall.

This Week's Events	
Tuesday May 23	
10:00am	CWL Walking Group, Our Lady of the Grotto
5:45pm	Finance Team Meeting, Mary MacKillop Room
Wednesday May 24- Office Closed	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday May 25	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
Friday May 26	
6:00pm	Youth Council Meeting, Mary MacKillop Room
Sunday May 28	
10:30am	Pentecost Morning Tea, Mary MacKillop Hall

**BAPTISMS:** This weekend we welcome for Baptism **Jett Hugo Mentzing Palomino**, son of Michael and Lyndha, and **Annabelle Grace Vincent**, daughter of Ben and Hannah. Congratulations and welcome to our parish!

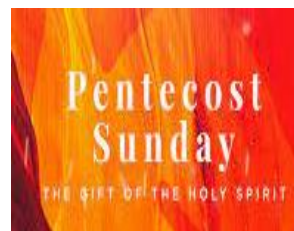


The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on **Tuesday June 13 at 7:00pm** in the Church. Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 if you are interested in attending.



**CONFIRMATION:** This weekend we welcome our confirmation candidates and their families as they join us for their Commitment Mass. Please keep our candidates, their families and our sacramental team in your prayers as they journey towards the sacrament of confirmation. Parishioners are warmly invited to attend and help them celebrate their sacrament of confirmation at the Champagnat Centre, Lavalla Catholic College on Friday June 09 with Bishop Greg Bennet.

**YOUTH MINISTRY:** We welcome all those attending and supporting our youth mass Sunday night. We are looking forward to the revival of our once thriving youth ministry, and the energy and excitement they bring to our parish. If you are interested in becoming a member of our Parish Youth Council (Year 10 and above), please contact the parish office for more information. Their next meeting will be held on Friday May 26 in the Mary MacKillop Room.



**PENTECOST Morning Tea Sunday May 28 @ 10:30am Mary MacKillop Hall**

Join us for mass next Sunday at 9:30am followed by a multi-cultural celebration in the Mary MacKillop Hall. As we celebrate

people of all nations coming together, bring along a plate to share that is special to you and your family, and wear something that celebrates your history and culture. We are looking for volunteers to represent different countries and regions and participate in the mass. Please let us know if you would like to help.

**CELEBRATE MARY IN MAY:** May is traditionally dedicated to honouring and seeking the intercession of Mary as the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church. Because she responded yes to the archangel Gabriel, she is our first model of discipleship and our model of grace and trust in God. You can celebrate Mary in May by joining us for the Rosary before each mass here at St Michael's. You can also pray the Rosary online via Zoom on Mondays during May at 7pm, hosted by St Mary's Parish Bairnsdale. You can also join Lumen Christi Church, Churchill to pray the rosary every Saturday at 10am.



**LAUDATO SI' WEEK 16th – 24th May:** Is a global celebration where we remember Pope Francis urging us in his encyclical Laudato Si' to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor and to humbly place ourselves in communion with our common home. As a Catholic Earthcare Parish we celebrate our part in the great progress the whole Church is making on its journey towards the seven Laudato Si' Goals set before us by Pope Francis to achieve ecological conversion.

**A Prayer for our Earth**

*All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.*

*You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.*

*Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.*

*Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.*

*O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.*

*Bring healing to our lives,*

*that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.*

*Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.*

*Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature*

*as we journey towards your infinite light.*

*We thank you for being with us each day.*

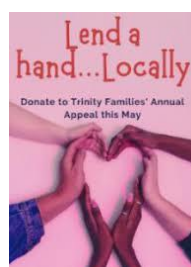
*Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. AMEN*

*Pope Francis Laudato Si'*

**MARY MACKILLOP PILGRIMAGE:** The CWL is organizing a pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Place in Sydney from the 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2023. The tour includes return travel via bus from the Latrobe Valley to Sydney, and two nights accommodation. Time is running out to book your place so please speak to Kay Radford or contact the parish office if you are interested or would like some more information.

**JESUIT AND IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY**

**AUSTRALIA: IM23- I Am a Tree of Life.** Online Daily Sunday May 21 – Wednesday May 24, two hours each day. *For your word went forth, and at once the work was done. Immediately fruit came forth in endless abundance and of varied appeal to the taste, and flowers of inimitable colour, and odours of inexpressible fragrance. 2 Esdras 6:43.* This is an International and Australian Laudato Si' Week Event, the theme of which is Hope for the Earth- Hope for Humanity. Contact the parish office for more information or visit [jisa.org.au/im23](http://jisa.org.au/im23)



**TRINITY FAMILIES APPEAL 2023:**

Trinity Families is the charitable arm of the Catholic Diocese of Sale and provides funding through grants to other charities working to provide services and programs for families throughout the Diocese. Please give generously during their annual May Appeal, and pray for those who are providing the programs and services to those in need in our communities. All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Visit [trinityfamilies.org.au](http://trinityfamilies.org.au) for more information

**WEEKLY REFLECTION:** *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. (Mt 28:19-20)*

Distinct from simply doing good works, the command to evangelise includes teaching and baptising. What do you think evangelising someone entails? Why do you think people are often reluctant to share their faith with others? Jesus has given us the immense task of evangelising the world. What does this look like in your life?

**STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:** *"I am praying for them..." In 17: 9* Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Pray in good times and in bad. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation, not just the last resort. Pray for friends and family and for those that don't treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you.

Rosters for May 27 & 28		Pentecost Sunday		
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday May 27 5:00pm	B O'Brien & A Taylor	S Grout	A Membrey	Diamente Family
Sunday May 28 9:30am	U & E Imhagwe	C McCabe	M Wilkinson & W Banks-Smith	Diamente Family
Sunday May 28 5:00pm	E Babu/ A Thomas	E Harte	T Biancon	

Church Cleaning:	June 04 & June 17- Hanratty Family Group		
Touring Statue of Our Lady:	May 21 M Ayres	May 28 C Kanara	June 04 J Kanara
<b>Mick's Kitchen:</b>	May 25 Scholtes Team	June 01 Burns Team	June 08 Van Berkel

**Entrance Antiphon** Acts 1:11

*Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?*

*This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.*

**First Reading** Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 46:2-3 6-9 Rv6

*(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

1. All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth. *(R.)*
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. *(R.)*
3. God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. *(R.)*

**Second Reading**

Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

**Gospel Acclamation** Mt 28:19-20

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Go and teach all people my gospel.*

*I am with you always, until the end of the world.*

*Alleluia!*

**Gospel**

Mt 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'



Next weeks Readings – Pentecost Sunday Year A	
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Acts 2:1-11
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13
Gospel	John 20:19-23