

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 Officers Shane Reid or Sally Darby 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
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



REFLECTION ON POPE FRANCIS' 109TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES MESSAGE:

"Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay"

by Archbishop Christopher Prowse

In this year's World Day for Migrants and Refugees Message, Pope Francis focuses on the theme, "Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay." In the message he points out that for a healthy society there should always be "the freedom that should always mark the decision to leave one's native land." Migration movements throughout the world continue unabated. The Pope insists that we should always be "ensuring that that freedom is a widely shared pastoral concern."

We don't often reflect on this given our current understanding of refugees, but the Pope reminds us, once again, that there are Biblical examples of refugees. We think first of all of the experiences of the Holy Family - Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The Pope notes, "The flight of the Holy Family into Egypt was not the result of a free decision." He then insists that, "The decision to migrate should always be free, yet in many cases, even in our day, it is not." He reminds us of St John Paul II who stated that there should be a real commitment "to safeguarding first of all the right not to emigrate, that is, the right to live in peace and dignity in one's own country."

The other example given in the Pope's message is the flight of Jacob and all his offspring with him (Gen 46:6). Due to a grave famine in their land of origin, it necessitated them "to seek refuge in Egypt, where his son Joseph ensured their survival." We are all aware that "Migrants flee because of poverty, fear or desperation." The Pope makes the very important point that the country of origin must make a commitment which "begins with asking what we can do, but also what we need to stop doing." He cites the example of "the arms race, economic colonialism, the plundering of other people's resources and the devastation of our common home."

For migration to be truly a choice that is free, "efforts must be made to ensure to everyone an equal share in the common good, respect for his or her fundamental rights, and access to an integral human development." In anticipating the Jubilee Year of 2025, Pope Francis recalls the important dimension of jubilee years as "an act of collective justice." Here people are able to return to their places of origin with the intention of "the cancellation of all debts, restoration of the land, and an opportunity once more to enjoy the freedom proper to the members of the People of God." In other words the right not to be forced to immigrate is "the chance to live in peace and with dignity in one's own country." The Pope concludes his reflection by reminding us again that "the migrant is not simply a brother or sister in difficulty, but Christ himself, who knocks at our door." We are to construct "bridges and not walls, expanding channels for a safe and regular migration."

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Sep 26	9:30am Liturgy
Wednesday Sep 27	11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Liturgy
Thursday Sep 28	9:30am Liturgy
Friday Sep 29	9:30am Mass Feast of St Michael

***Liturgy this Thursday and mass next Thursday will be held here at St Michael's Church. We will return to St Gabriel's on Thursday October 12.**

CLERGY IN-SERVICE: Father Aju will be joining Bishop Greg and priests and deacons from around the Diocese of Sale for a clergy in-service this week from Tuesday September 26 – Thursday September 28. During this period we will not be having masses but parish liturgies instead. Unfortunately there will be no reconciliation this Wednesday at 11am.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Alfredo Calabro, Geoff O'Brien, Maria Marino, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Joseph Maraan, Patricia O'Hara, Margaret Cahill, Nellie Coleman, Dan De Los Angeles, Lulu Aragon, Bob Bullivant, Tom King, and Ray Still. *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, 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, Sharon Veleff, George Walkan, Roy Ward, Victoria Rohli, Fr John Speekman, James Whitty, Kelly Maher, John Waanders, Peter Dal Pra, Jane Eric, Rose Xuereb and Manuel Xuereb and all those we hold dear in our hearts. *Please let the office know if you, or anyone you know would like a visit from one of our parishioners, Fr Aju or Deacon Tony. We can also arrange for someone to take communion to those at home or hospital if required.*

CWL DEVONSHIRE MORNING TEA: Thank you so much to our wonderful Catholic Women's League for organizing and hosting our parish morning tea last Sunday. A great time was had by all with good food and good company the highlight of the day. New friendships were made and old friendships restored over a cup of tea and a scone. All funds raised will go to supporting our youth ministry, so thank you to those who went along and gave so generously.



FEAST OF SAINT MICHAEL: This **Friday September 29** we celebrate the feast of St Michael. To commemorate this special day, join us for mass at 9:30am followed by morning tea in the Mary MacKillop Room. Please bring along a plate to share if you can.

This Week's Events	
Tuesday September 26	
10:00am	Catholic Women's League, Mary MacKillop Room
Thursday September 28	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
Friday September 29	
10:30am	Feast of St Michael Morning Tea, Mary MacKillop Room

BAPTISM: This weekend we welcome for Baptism, **Thomas Gregory Wall**, son of Ryan and Micha and **Amelia Van Berkel** and **Charlie Van Berkel**, children of Luke and Sybil. Congratulations and welcome to our parish!



Our next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on Tuesday **October 17 at 7:00pm** in the church. Please contact the parish office on 51742060 if you are interested in attending or would like some more information.



RCIA- RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF

ADULTS: St Michael's Parish warmly invites anyone interested in discovering more about the Catholic faith to join our

Tuesday night RCIA group. If you, or anyone you know may be interested in attending or learning more, please register your details with the parish office.

FIRST COMMUNION: A parent information night will be held in the St Michael's Church on **Wednesday October 25 at 6pm** for all parents whose children have been enrolled in the sacrament of first communion. First Communion will be celebrated at parish masses on the weekend of November 25/26.



YOUTH MINISTRY: Our J-Walkers will enjoy a two week break over the school holidays and will not be running their coffee cart for the next two weekends. We are grateful for their hard work during the term and for providing a much appreciated service to our parish community. They in turn are thankful for the support of parishioners who have been attending their coffee mornings and donating so generously to our youth ministry.

IGNITE CONFERENCE 2023:

"Therefore I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder..." Isaiah 29:14.

This Thursday nine of our J-Walkers will be heading to the



Ignite Conference in Sydney, ably led by Steve and Jen. Ignite is a gathering of Catholics for four days of real-world formation, renewal of faith, great people and powerful worship. Over 2000 high schoolers, young adults, leaders, teachers, priests and religious from all around Australia will gather. It is an important opportunity for our young parishioners to meet Catholics of all ages from around the country, to pray and learn together. They will experience music, guest speakers, dance, media, sacraments, workshops and worship. We look forward to them bringing all they learn and experience back to our parish to share with us. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for their departure and continue walking with Jesus.

WHAT WILL OUR PARISH LOOK LIKE IN 5 YEARS TIME: Where are we headed? Who will lead us there? How? What can we do better? What are we doing well? What sort of ministries will we have? What do our weekend masses look like? What is our dream for our parish?

We have placed vision boards in the Church Street entrance and in the Mary MacKillop Room for you to add your ideas. We would love to hear what you have to say and look forward to your responses.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER VIGIL: Catholic communities around the world have been invited to host an ecumenical prayer vigil on the weekend of September 30-October 1 in solidarity with a major international gathering in Rome ahead of the first session of the Synod on Synodality. Fifteen people from Australia will be participating in the Synod, and they have asked for the Catholic community's prayers as they prepare for their important task. A prayer vigil would be a great way to respond to their request, and to gather with Christian sisters and brothers in our shared faith. Find out more and register your vigil at: <https://together2023.net/>



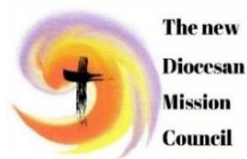
“Without prayer there will be no Synod”

Pope Francis

In a letter addressed to bishops and eparchs around the world, Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the General Secretariat of the Synod, invites the faithful

around the world to participate through prayer to the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops that will open in the Vatican on October 04. With this letter, the Secretary General wants to remember that the Synod Assembly is above all a spiritual event, of prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit, the true protagonist of the event.

A copy of the letter and more information on the synod can be accessed through the diocesan website at www.cdsale.org.au/synod-of-bishops



The new Diocesan Mission Council

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP: Members of the Council will have demonstrated their commitment to their faith and leadership in ministry and mission. Members will have an active and living faith, participate in parish life, respect

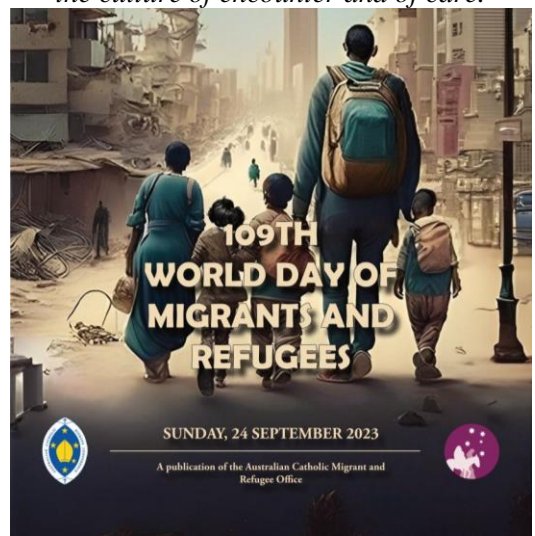
other points of view, exercise deep listening, have a sense of the mission of the Catholic Church, demonstrate inclusiveness, and be committed to working collaboratively and with synodal processes. The minimum age for membership is 18 years of age.

FREE TO CHOOSE WHETHER TO MIGRATE OR STAY

*God, Father Almighty,
grant us the grace to work tirelessly
for justice, solidarity and peace,
so that all your children may enjoy
the freedom to choose whether to migrate or to stay.*

*Grant us the courage to denounce
all the horrors of our world,
and to combat every injustice
that mars the beauty of your children
and the harmony of our common home.*

*Sustain us by the power of your Spirit,
so that we can reflect your tender love
to every migrant whom you place in our path,
and to spread in hearts and in every situation
the culture of encounter and of care.*



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday October 01, make sure you turn your clocks forward one hour!!

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:

“Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last” Mt 20:16 You’ve heard the saying “it’s not where you start, but how you finish.” This certainly applies to this Bible passage. We have a responsibility not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. We are called to generously share our gifts with others, not hoard them for our own use. Our sincere gratitude and cheerful generosity will help us live “God-centered” lives and not “self-centered” lives.

Rosters for September 30 & October 01, 2023		26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A		
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Sep 30 5:00pm	W & J Gomez	Volunteer	C Payne	Jane & Simon
Sunday Oct 01 9:30am	Volunteers	M Tainsh	D Bau & A Sykes	Filipino Choir
Sunday Oct 01 5:00pm	M & J Hanratty	S Grout	J McLaughlin	Jane & Simon
Church Cleaning:	September 27	Volunteers		
Touring Statue of Our Lady:	September 24	J Scholtes	October 01	J Mitchell
Mick's Kitchen:	September 28	Cartledge Team	October 05	St Michael's Staff

First Reading

Isaiah 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on
him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Philippians 1:20-24. 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life
or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but
then death would bring me something more; but then
again, if living in this body means doing work which is
having good results – I do not know what I should
choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be
gone and be with Christ, which would be very much
the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a
more urgent need for your sake.
Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be
unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation See Acts of the Apostles 16:14

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!*

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is
like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers
for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the
workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his
vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw
others standing idle in the market place and said to
them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you
a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour
and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and
did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he
went out and found more men standing round, and he
said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle
all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they
answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard
too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said
to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their
wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with
the first." So those who were hired at about the
eleventh hour came forward and received one
denarius each. When the first came, they expected to
get more, but they too received one denarius each.
They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The
men who came last" they said "have done only one
hour, and you have treated them the same as us,
though we have done a heavy day's work in all the
heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend,
I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one
denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay
the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right
to do what I like with my own? Why be envious
because I am generous?"

Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'



Next week's Readings:

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading:	Ezek 18:25-28
Second Reading:	Phil 2:1-11
Gospel:	Mt 21:28-32