



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



Love Your Neighbour

Weekly Reflection By Anne Hunt

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The rabbis in Jesus' time identified 613 commands (248 positive [you shall] and 365 negative [you shall not]) that were prescribed in the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament. Given the impossible burden this posed, this prompted much argument as to which were the most important.

When, in the gospel today, the Pharisees, through a lawyer, ask Jesus which is the greatest commandment, they do it to trick him, knowing that he is unschooled in the intricacies of Jewish Law.

Jesus' reply is disarmingly simple and straightforward. Jesus is in no doubt about the first and greatest commandment. It is to love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. But Jesus immediately goes on to state that the second commandment is to love your neighbour. Notice that he distinguishes these two commands, but he does not separate them.

Indeed, he indicates that, in a sense, they constitute a single command. His point is very clear: love of God and love of neighbour go hand in hand and, together, encapsulate what God requires of us.

But Jesus then adds a punch line that is a real challenge to his interlocutors: "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." In other words, these two commandments are not simply the greatest or the most important. But all other laws (those 613 or any others that might be promulgated) fall under these two. Those two commandments are the core. They are like the pillars from which all else hangs and to which all others must adhere.

Here then we come to the very heart of Jesus' teaching about how we are to live our lives and express our discipleship. It is love that is commanded of us as his followers. This love is to be expressed in mercy, compassion and forgiveness, in generosity of heart and magnanimity of spirit, in our individual lives and in our life together as a community.

The reading from the Book of Exodus puts before us some very concrete demands of love of neighbour: we are not to wrong or oppress a resident alien. This surely prompts us to reflect in particular on our response, individually and collectively, to refugees and asylum seekers.

We are also urged not to abuse any widow or orphan, nor the defenceless or the vulnerable, the poor or oppressed. To meet these very practical and concrete demands of love of neighbour is an essential aspect of our Christian lives.

Jesus' teaching is so very simple and yet so profoundly challenging. Just as he challenged his listeners then, he challenges us today to reflect on our behavior in terms of our love of neighbour, and how we might do better, and on our love of God and how we might grow in loving God with all our heart, soul and mind.

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Oct 31	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Nov 01	11:00am Reconciliation 11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Mass
Thursday Nov 02	9:30am Mass @ St Gabriel's PS 11:00am Mass for departed souls, Rose Chapel
Friday Nov 03	9:30am Mass with St Michael's PS

***Mass this Thursday will be held at St Gabriel's Primary School with their Grade 6 Students. All parishioners are warmly invited and encouraged to join them. We also welcome our Grade 3 & 4 students from St Michael's Primary School this Friday.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Nick Dalton, Frank Pezzutto and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Michael Flynn, Sheila Rouse, Antony Urmis, and Antoinette Gordyn. *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, Bernadette Formaran, Fr Frank Freeman, 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, Sharon Veleff, George Walkan, Roy Ward, Victoria Rohli, Fr John Speekman, James Whitty, John Waanders, Peter Dal Pra, Jane Eric, Rose Xuereb, Manuel Xuereb, Peter Lorinc 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.*



ALL SOULS DAY MASS
Thursday November 02 @ 11am
Rose Chapel, Traralgon Cemetery

Join us for a special mass as we pray together for the souls of the departed.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND: On Thursday evening we gathered at St Michael's with people from all different churches and backgrounds, together as a community united by our desire for peace in the holy land and our concern for the safety of all those who live there. We are grateful to Mike and Jane for organizing and leading the Liturgy, and for the support from our parishioners, other church leaders and all those who came along on the night. Let us continue to pray for a time when the guns will fall silent, the soldiers will lay down their arms, the children will play again, the displaced will return and families will begin to rebuild...a time when peace will break out instead of the time for war.



This Week's Events	
Tuesday October 31	
10:00am	CWL Meeting, Mary MacKillop Room
5:45pm	Finance Committee Meeting, Mary MacKillop Room
7:30pm	RCIA Meeting, Parish Centre
Wednesday November 01- All Saints Day	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday November 02- All Souls Day	
9:30am	St Gabriel's Grade 6 Mass, St Gabriel's PS
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
11:00am	Mass for Departed Souls, Rose Chapel, Traralgon Cemetery
2:30pm	Blessing of St Gabriel's Hall, St Gabriel's Primary School
Friday November 03	
9:30am	St Michael's Grade 3 & 4 Mass, St Michael's Church

BAPTISM: This weekend, we welcome for Baptism, **Declan James Furlong, Alexandra Anne Furlong and Jordan Reiss Furlong**, children of Reiss and Karina, and **Brodhi John Townsin** son of John and Sharnee. Congratulations and welcome to our parish!



WEDDINGS: Next Saturday November 04 at 12pm we will celebrate the wedding of **Alyssa-Jane Bell and Mitchell Morelli**. We wish them all the best for their special day and their future together. Please keep them both in your prayers.



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 HOLY COMMUNION: This weekend we welcome our First Holy Communion Candidates and their families for their Commitment Mass. We look forward to journeying with them in the coming weeks as they prepare for the sacrament of first holy communion which will be celebrated at Parish Masses on the weekend of 25 and 26 November.



YOUTH MINISTRY: Join our J-Walkers for Coffee and Hot Chocolate from the Mary MacKillop Hall after the 9:30am Mass on Sundays. All funds raised go to the Youth Ministry. It has been wonderful to see so many parishioners supporting our young ones and making the most of the opportunity to catch up with other parishioners after Mass. Come and Join Us!

VCE EXAMS: Please keep our Year 12 students and all those undertaking VCE exams in the next few weeks in your prayers. May they be blessed with calm hearts, focused minds and good outcomes.



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: Thank you for your ongoing support of Catholic Mission and World Mission Sunday. Our leaving collections raised \$922.00 which will go directly to communities in need. If you missed out on the chance to donate, it is not too late. You can place your donation in one of the Mission Sunday envelopes in the foyers and then put in the collection plate or drop to the parish office during the week.

NOVEMBER PRAYERS: It is our tradition to pray for those who have died and gone before us, especially in the month of November. Envelopes for November Prayer Offerings are available in both foyers and can be placed in the collection bowl, dropped to the office or given to Father Aju directly.

You are also invited to write the name of the ones you wish to remember in prayer on the separate cards you will find in the church and place them in the large bowl, near the cross. At the beginning of each mass that you attend, take any card from the bowl and pray for the person named. At the end of mass, return the card to the bowl so that others may eventually pray for this person too.



SHINE THE LIGHT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

Loving one's neighbour means respecting and protecting them from harm, including domestic violence. Over the weekend of **November 17-19**, parishes of the Diocese of Sale will be shining a light on domestic violence and praying for its end. Everyone is encouraged to wear white to Mass that weekend and all are invited to a special liturgy which will be held on **Thursday November 16 at 7:00pm** at St Michael's Church, which is open to all. We encourage everyone to join together and make a stand. St Michael's Parish along with the Diocese of Sale is firmly committed to preventing domestic and family violence while simultaneously fostering a safe and supportive environment for all.

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CHRISTMAS PICNIC

Join us on Sunday December 03 for a parish picnic in the St Michael's school ground. Popcorn, Fairy Floss, Face Painting and Slushies will be available. We will also be holding a bake off with Father Aju as the judge, so bring along your best Christmas themed cake or dessert. This is a free event and a chance for the parish to get together and celebrate the beginning of Advent and reflect on the year that has passed.

All are welcome and we hope you can make it. Wear your favourite Christmas T-Shirt or Christmas colours!

**St Michael's Primary School
Sunday December 03 after 9:30am Mass**

ST MICHAELS PARISH TRARALGON
Art competition
The Holy Family

You are invited to create an artwork that represents: **THE HOLY FAMILY.**

All artwork will be judged and displayed in the Church.

Winners will be presented prizes at 9.30am Mass on Dec 3rd.

Please write name, grade, and school on the back.

Hand in to Parish Office, St Gabriel's or St Michaels by Nov 20th.

Luke 2:16
"They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the manger"

EXPLORING THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK: You are invited to an evening over Zoom with Fr Francis Otobo, while he takes us through the Gospel of Mark on **Tuesday November 21 from 730pm – 9:00pm.** Register to receive the Zoom link at www.trybooking.com/CMOVR or contact Siji in the Diocesan Office at sijid@sale.catholic.org.au or 03 5614 5163

FR TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE'S MEDITATIVE SESSIONS: During the Synod on Synodality, attendees devoted three days to a retreat near Rome, readying themselves for the Synod. Each day, Father Timothy Radcliff, a knowledgeable English Dominican, delivered two presentations on synodality-related themes. Access these insightful meditations on our diocesan website (<https://www.cdsale.org.au/srm>) for spiritual enrichment and a deeper understanding of the synodal church's call.

The Parish Office will be closed Tuesday November 07 and Wednesday November 08. Mass will run at the usual times both days.



STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind."

Matthew 22:37

Do you put other "gods" before God? Is your love of money, power, status, comfort or some personal possession greater than your love for God? Do you really recognize that everything you have and that everything you are is a gift from God? The good news – it's not too late to put God first in all things in your life.

Rosters for November 04 & 05, 2023		31 st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A		
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Nov 04 5:00pm	J Panozzo-Tile	B Purcell	L Kennedy	Jane & Simon
Sunday Nov 05 9:30am	C McLure & R Diaz	M Wilkinson	M Blanchard & A Sykes	Filipino Choir
Sunday Nov 05 5:00pm	V Vaz & S Harikrishna	C Hill	B McNulty	Jane & Simon
Church Cleaning:	November	Collis Team		
Touring Statue of Our Lady:	October 29	M Tainsh	November 05	St Michael's School
<i>Mick's Kitchen:</i>	November 02	Van Berkel Team	November 09	McLaughlin Team

First Reading Ex 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

Responsorial Psalm Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v.2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** 1 Thes 1:5-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel Acclamation See Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

*All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them*

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

Next week's Readings:
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Mal 1:14-2: 2, 8-10

Second Reading: 1 Thess 2:7-9, 13

Gospel: Mt 23:1-12