



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



First Sunday of Advent: Gospel Reflection
ARE WE PREPARED? By Mark Chia CSsR

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When travelling, especially overseas, many people spend a good amount of time in preparation. There may be a trip to the doctor, dentist, pharmacy, the supermarket and even the hairdresser. Calls to insurance companies regarding travel and medical cover, requests to neighbours and family members to keep an eye on the house, the dog, the cat ... the list goes on.

Much of the preparation goes into ensuring that when we do leave, there is peace of mind knowing that everything possible has been done. There could also be a last-minute momentary panic. Just as the plane is about to take off, or when the ship is about to leave port, the thought crosses your mind; have I left the kitchen light on?

We hear this in today's gospel. Mark is encouraging his faith community to continue living their lives as best they can in preparation for the second coming of Christ. When Jesus ascended into heaven after Good Friday and Easter Sunday, a lot of the early disciples and followers were left with the impression that Jesus would come back sooner rather than later to usher in a new era of God's Kingdom. Hence, there was a lot of urgency in the early writings of the early faith communities to encourage one another not to lose faith, not to fall by the wayside and to continue to live their lives in accordance with the teachings of Christ. In other words, to maintain their faith and peace of mind.

For us in the 21st century and reading the words of the gospel, the circumstances of our faith and our journey maybe somewhat different from those early communities in Mark's time. However, the overarching message of being ready and prepared remains the same.

Advent is a 'reminder' time to do our best each day to follow in the footsteps of Christ and loving God and loving our neighbour. To take the journey of the path less travelled. To go against the grain of a world that promotes greed, power, and a focus on the self over others. To have hearts that are open to the mystery of God in our lives, in the lives of others and in the wider world, despite all the uncertainties, doubts, anxieties and even fears around us.

Advent is when we begin to prepare for what is to come: When we plant our faith firmly in God's truth so we can better face up to the delays, the unexpected side trips and dark pathways that our lives can unexpectedly take.

And that truth is that God so loved the world that God gave his only Son to be born as one of us. So let us stay awake and be witnesses to the wonder of God's love that is continuously at work around us as it was then, as it is now, and as it will be for all time.

Source: www.majellan.media

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Dec 05	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Dec 06	11:00am Reconciliation 11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Mass
Thursday Dec 07	9:30am Mass*
Friday Dec 08	9:30am Mass

***This Thursday we will celebrate mass at St Michael's Church with all the children from St Gabriel's Primary School. Come and join us!**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Stan Harris, Edna Charnley, Patricia Lahore, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Veronica Barter, Agostino Damiano, John Cooney, Yetty Glaubitz, Kevin Jones, Bruce Hunter, Salvatore Agostino and Eulalia Mangura. *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, Don Barnes 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.*

NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE: The small remembrance cards with the names of our loved ones who have died will be reverently burned and the ashes spread on the parish rose garden near the Kay St entrance. The following prayer will be said at the time of their placement: God of our hearts, we recall those we love who have died: may our love for them and confidence in your promise of eternal life hasten their joyful reunion with you, their loving creator. The ashes will be spread on Tuesday morning after mass... December 5th As you pass by the garden, deliberately pause to reflect that your memory of those you love dwells there.

ST MICHAEL'S ICON WRITING GROUP: For several years now a small group of people from around The Valley have been meeting every second Wednesday of the month to 'write' icons. These are images of Jesus, Mary, the angels and the saints. Each sacred icon is a point of encounter between us and God. It is a window into heaven and reveals some of the glory that is to be. Each year we bring our finished icons to be blessed with holy oil from Bethlehem. All are most welcome to the blessing on Wednesday, December 13th at 9.30 in the church. *If you are interested in joining the group or finding out more please contact the parish office.*

This Week's Events	
Tuesday December 05	
7:30pm	RCIA Meeting, Parish Centre
Wednesday December 06	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday December 07	
9:30am	St Gabriel's Whole School Mass, St Michael's Church
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room



BAPTISMS: Our next Baptism Preparation meeting will be held on **Tuesday January 16 at 7pm** in the church. Please contact the parish office for more information and to register your interest.

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: Congratulations to our first communion candidates who received the holy eucharist for the first time last weekend. We welcome them back this weekend for their certificate mass as they join us for communion for a second time. Please keep them and their families in your prayers, may their faith be strengthened with every passing day.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE: St Michael's St Vincent de Paul Conference has again organised

the Christmas Giving Tree to be in our Church. Parishioners are asked to take a gift tag and return your gift/voucher to the tree before **December 17**. The conference would like to thank all parishioners for their support throughout the year and wish everyone a happy and Holy Christmas.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: This weekend we celebrate our wonderful Parish Pastoral Council members and thank them for all they have done for our parish. Most members of this team have been on the council longer than usual due to the disruptions of the pandemic, closure of our church and then our plans to re-open and re-build. We are very grateful for their time and talents and all they have done to support the parish over the past few years. Nominations for the new council have just closed and we hope that some of our past members may be brave enough to sign up for another term. Thanks again to our Chairperson Lia DiCorleto, Deputy Chairperson Steve Kimani, our school representatives Doug Doherty, Michelle Charlton and Jodie Ware; our Plenary Council delegate Michael Hansen; and our members Greg Imhagwe, Watson Gomez, Jenifer Hanratty, Judi McLaughlin, Thomas Mathew and Amanda Reid.





ADVENT LITURGY
Maranatha: Come Lord
Thursday December 14 730pm,
St Michael's Church

As we enter into a time of preparation for Christmas we call on the God of Hope to be with us and with all those who bear ongoing heartache, pain and deep anxiety, especially in the Ukraine and the Holy Land.

Join us for an evening of prayer as we gather together to prepare for the coming of the Christ child. Supper will be provided afterwards in the Mary MacKillop Room, all are welcome.



Christmas Mass Times 2023:
RECONCILIATION: Tuesday December 19
6:00pm – 7:30pm
CHRISTMAS EVE: Sunday December 24
7:00 pm Family Mass,
with Carols from 6:30pm
11:00pm Mass
CHRISTMAS DAY: Monday December 25
9:30am Mass (No evening Mass Christmas Day)

CHRISTMAS TREE BLESSING: A Christmas tree blessing helps us focus again on the true meaning of this busy season, which is especially important as we draw nearer to Christmas and worrying about things like purchasing more gifts or getting ready for guests. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis said: 'The Christmas tree is a symbol of rebirth, God's gift by which He is united forever to humanity. Christmas symbols, especially the crib and the trimmed Christmas tree, bring us back to the certainty that fills the heart with peace, with joy for the Incarnation. God becomes familiar: He dwells with us and fills our days with the rhythm of hope.'

Dear God, you sent Jesus into this world to show us how much you love us. As we look at this tree, we think about Jesus's birth and the eternal life he gives us. Bless this tree and help it serve as a reminder of your Son's birth. May the gifts we place under this tree, remind us of the many gifts you have given us. We ask you to bless our home and watch over us during this holy season. Amen

PIETY STALL: 2024 Columban Calendars are now available from the Piety Stall for \$10.00 each.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:
 'We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.'

MARY'S ADVENT JOURNEY: Journey with Mary in her response to God's call. Become aware of God's presence this Advent by joining a spiritual reflection led by Theresa Denny and Geraldine Naismith from Emmaus Spirituality Ministry. This Advent Reflection will be held over four Thursdays during Advent, Nov 30, Dec 07, Dec 14 and Dec 21 at either 10:30am or 7pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Narre Warren. For bookings and more information, contact 03 9704 7935 or olhc@olhc.org.au



VIRTUAL ADVENT SERIES: A perfect opportunity to enrich your Advent journey: a series of virtual Advent talks at no cost, by four Australian biblical scholars, Prof Mary Coloe PBVM, Dr Mary Reaburn NDS, Dr Chris Monaghan CP, Dr Janina Hiebel from Yarra Theological Union, a College of the University of Divinity. Each week this group of accomplished guides will work together to explore the readings for the week. Tuesdays 28 November and 5, 12, 19 December 2023, from 7.00pm – 8.00pm Via Zoom. For more information and registration please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2pkez5pp>

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS

CONFERENCE: A letter to the People of God in Australia has been prepared to provide an update on the Church's progress beyond the conclusion of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. While formal *recognitio* from the Holy See has not yet been received for the Council's acts and decrees, dioceses, religious institutes and other Catholic communities are embracing various outcomes of the Plenary Council, including through synods, assemblies and focused events. The letter also outlines key milestones since the conclusion of the Plenary Council in July last year, and examines the complementary nature of the Plenary Council and the ongoing Synod of Bishops for a Synodal Church. to read the letter check out our website at <https://tinyurl.com/5naxtkc7>



STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:
"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come." - Mark 13:33
 We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our time, our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

Rosters for December 09 & 10		2 nd Sunday of Advent Year B		
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Dec 09 5:00pm	R Webber	B Purcell	A Membrey	Jane & Simon
Sunday Dec 10 9:30am	J Dal Pra & A Thomas	M Tainsh	M Wilkinson & D Bau	Filipino Choir
Sunday Dec 10 5:00pm	E Joseph & M Alex	Volunteer	M Noone	Jane & Simon
Church Cleaning:	December 06	Catholic Women's League		
Mick's Kitchen:	December 07	Scholtes Team		
		December 14	Burns Team	

First Reading

Is 63:16-17 64:1 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps79:2-3 15-16 18-19 R v4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.
(R.)

**Second Reading**

1 Cor 15:20-26 28

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

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.*

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake.

So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Next Week's Readings:2nd Sunday of Advent Year B

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5 9-11

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8