



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



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Dianne Bergant CSA

The word of the Lord comes to Jonah with a message for Nineveh, Israel's mortal enemy. Much to the prophet's chagrin, the people of Nineveh heeded the message, believed in God, and proclaimed a fast. The incongruities of the story are striking. First and most important, God is concerned with the salvation of a nation other than Israel. Second, the city renowned for its wickedness repented of its sins as soon as it heard the proclamation. Third, the comprehensiveness of the spirit of repentance was exceeded only by its geographic breadth. All people, great and small, put on the garments of penance. Even the worst sinners can repent and be made new.

The psalm response opens with a prayer for divine guidance in one's style of life. The psalmist first asks for insight into God's saving ways, presumably in order to sing God's praises and to offer thanks for God's goodness. Covenant language – compassion and lovingkindness – is very strong in the second stanza (vv.6-7). The psalm is speaking of God's remembrance of covenant commitment and not of the psalmist's former sins. This plea that God remember may be the psalmist's way of asking for God's forgiveness. Both sinners and the humble are taught the way of the Lord, the way that God acts toward people's loyalty and infidelity. The psalmist ends with a prayer: Teach me your ways.

Paul is teaching about the endtime. Unlike the regular unfolding of time (*chrónos*), this time is of the greatest theological significance (*kairós*). It refers to decisive moments, those that mark the inbreaking of God's action. It is frequently the time of fulfilment, of divine revelation. The normal priorities of life must give way to very different behaviour, a way of living and acting that is extraordinary. Paul suggests that the *kairós* is fast approaching, but has not yet arrived. He advises the Christians to live in the present age as though it had already come. Time is running out and the world as they know it is passing away. Paul wants them to be ready for Christ's return.

The failure of Israel's monarchy prompted the people to look to the future, to a time when a king who was totally faithful to God would establish God's kingdom. Jesus inaugurates his ministry with the bold declaration: The kingdom of God is at hand! The time (*kairós*) has arrived. After this initial announcement, Jesus issues a call for repentance. Just like the prophets of old, he calls for a change of heart, a return to God. Jesus then calls the fishermen Simon, Andrew, James and John. He summons them to follow him, to cast their nets and together gather up other followers. The abruptness with which they respond to him is an indication of the radical nature of life in the kingdom of God.

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Jan 23	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Jan 24	11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Liturgy
Thursday Jan 25	9:30am Mass*
Friday Jan 26	9:30am Mass

***This Thursday we will have mass at St Michael's Church not St Gabriel's Primary School as they are still on holidays.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Alice Otobo, mother of Father Francis Otobo, Jean Hill, Bernard Ferguson and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including John Anderson, Bronwyn Janssen, Shirley Alford, Roger Biancon, Irene Bau, Maria Nadone, Guiseppe Agostino, Angelina Agostino, Bishop Patrick Whelan, and Bishop Noel Daly. *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.



MEMORIAL MASS FOR MRS ALICE OTOBO:

A memorial mass for Father Francis Otobo's late mother, Mrs Alice Otobo who died unexpectedly in Nigeria will be held at St Mary's Cathedral Sale on **Wednesday January 24 at 11:00am.**

A warm invitation to clergy, parishioners, friends and colleagues of Father Francis to unite in prayerful remembrance of his mother, Alice. We are mindful of the tyranny of distance, so we wish to gather in union with Fr Francis and his extended family at this sad time. All are welcome.

The office will be closed on Wednesday so Father Aju and staff can attend. Deacon Tony will stay and lead the exposition and liturgy here in the parish. There will be no reconciliation on Wednesday but Father Aju will be available before Mass Saturday and Sunday from 4:30pm.

GLUTEN FREE HOSTS AVAILABLE: For those needing a gluten free host, please let Father Aju know before Mass. People taking the gluten free host will be offered first before the rest of the congregation to ensure there is no cross contamination.



This Week's Events	
Tuesday January 23	
7:30pm	RCIA Meeting, Parish Centre
Wednesday January 24- Office Closed	
11:00am	Memorial Mass for Alice Otobo, St Mary's Cathedral Sale
Friday January 26- Office Closed	
Australia Day Public Holiday- Office Closed	

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

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| Wednesday February 14 | Ash Wednesday |
| Friday March 01 | World Day of Prayer |
| Sunday March 24 | Palm Sunday |
| Friday March 29 | Good Friday |
| Sunday March 31 | Easter Sunday |
| Sunday May 19 | Pentecost |
| Friday May 24 | Confirmation |



BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for Baptism **Spencer Lewis Luckins** son of Jordan and Megan, **Jack David Clarke** son of Brendan and Alyssa, **Lylah Mae Rendell** daughter of Tyler and Abbi, **Connor Singh Jaspal** son of Jaspreet and Carlee and **Benjamin Leslie Vermaas** son of Simon and Danielle. Congratulations and welcome to our parish!

Our next Baptism Preparation meeting will be held on **Tuesday February 27 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.



Congratulations to Neil and Marie Limbom who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on Thursday. They were married on January 18, 1964 at St Joseph's Church West Brunswick, and now celebrate their 60th fruitful and happy Wedding Anniversary.

Thanks be to God and congratulations from us all.

THANK YOU: We are so grateful for our wonderful cleaning fairy who came and cleaned our church from top to bottom on Tuesday. They saw a need and volunteered their time and expertise. Thank you for all that you do for our parish, we really appreciate it. If anyone else would like to join our cleaning roster or are even willing to just help out occasionally, please contact the parish office and let us know. There are many jobs, and I am sure we can find one that is just perfect for you.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS: This week our priests have moved to their new parishes which were announced in November. Please keep them in your prayers as they take on the challenges and joy of a brand new flock. Good luck to our parish priests Fr Brendan who has moved to Warragul and Drouin, Fr Michael to Narre Warren, Fr Joseph to Bairnsdale, Fr Hiep to Lakes Entrance and Orbost, Fr Antony to Cranbourne, Fr Confidence to Yarram and Foster, and our assistant priests Fr Jithin to Clyde North, Fr Prabju to Cranbourne and Fr Aneesh to Sale.



LENTEN DAILY REFLECTIONS: The Lenten season is quickly approaching with the official start on Ash Wednesday February 14. Our parish is looking at studying the Evangelisation Brisbane daily reflections program 'A Resurrected Life.' Written for busy individuals but easily adapted for groups, each day includes a scripture reading and a reflection upon it, some questions to aid prayer and discussion, and quotes from Pope Francis. Each booklet is available for \$6.00 however we may be able to get a group discount if we have enough interest. We are also able to provide a meeting space in the Parish Centre if you would like to organise your own prayer group. If you would like to order a copy of the booklet or join a Lenten prayer group in the parish, please contact Cath in the office for more information.

WEEKLY REFLECTION BY NICK BRODIE: According to Pope Francis, 'Jesus did not mince words'. Any way you look at it, Christ's proclamation was a turning point in history with phenomenal ramifications. The moment has arrived! The Kingdom of God is close! There is Good News to be heard! This was Jesus' message about himself. 'He was the salvation,' the Pope notes, who entered human history in a powerfully new way.

When we look at this Gospel, Jesus also had another component of his message: the way of discipleship. Its elements are straightforward: repent, believe, follow.

As the Pope elaborates, Jesus 'invites us to recognise ourselves as in need of God and his grace; to have a balanced attitude with regard to earthly goods; to be welcoming and humble toward everyone; to know and fulfil ourselves in the encounter with and service of others.' This is how we can change our lives to follow more closely the one in whom we believe.

And, as the Pope further suggests, each phase of our life 'has its own value, and can be a privileged moment of encounter with the Lord.' Therefore, we should be open to welcoming Jesus again and again in new places and situations. Whether in our parishes, homes or workplaces, our lives are full of encounters that can change us and those we meet. This is the way.

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:

*"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."
Mark 1:17*

Jesus' call to "Follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule and that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

STAY CONNECTED: Want to stay up-to-date on all things happening in our diocese? From inspiring stories, Sunday Gospel Reflections and upcoming events to news and announcements, our Facebook page is your one-stop shop for staying connected with our vibrant faith community. Like and follow our Diocese of Sale Facebook page and while you are there, like and follow our St Michael's Catholic Parish Traralgon one as well. We look forward to welcoming you to our online community.



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF SALE

RITE OF ELECTION-PARISH SINGERS AND MUSICIANS NEEDED: As in past years, we are forming a Diocesan choir for the Rite of Election at St Mary's Cathedral on **Sunday 18th February 2024, at 3.00 pm** in St. Mary's Cathedral, Sale.

- 1.30-2.30 pm Choir rehearsal
- 3.00-4.00 pm Rite of Election

To register your interest, please contact Sophy Morley on Sophymorley@gmail.com

SYNOD 2023-2024: The official English version of the Synthesis Report of the First Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, "A Synodal Church on Mission." Is now published. The 41-page report summarises the discussions from the first assembly with every item in the report being approved by at least a two-thirds majority of the voting members of the Synod. This "is not a final document but an instrument in the service of ongoing discernment." This Document can be found at <https://bit.ly/3qYiozA>

JUBILEE YEAR 2025- PILGRIMS OF HOPE:

A Jubilee is a special year of grace and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years, or during other years as called for by the Pope. Through a series of concrete rituals, acts and commitments, the goal of a Jubilee year is to inspire and encourage holiness of life among the faithful and therefore to strengthen the Church's witness to God's loving mercy in and for the world. The book of Leviticus, in the code of holiness, is the source which tells us of the significance of the jubilee year, a year of liberation "par excellence," which is at the end of seven weeks of years, the fiftieth year.

We look forward to finding ways for the Holy Year to be planned and celebrated with 'deep faith, lively hope and active charity' throughout our Parish and wider faith community. Pope Francis encourages us in this time of preparation to devote 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee event, to a great symphony of prayer. To renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and adore him. To thank God for the many gifts of his love for us and to praise his work in creation.



Rosters for January 27 & 28, 2024		4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B		
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Jan 27 5:00pm	B O'Brien	A Taylor	L Kennedy	Diamente Family
Sunday Jan 28 9:30am	C McLure & R Diaz	M Wilkinson	M Blanchard & A Sykes	Jane & Simon
Sunday Jan 28 5:00pm	B Purcell	J Fleming	B McNulty	Jane & Simon

First Reading Jona 3:1-5 10

A reading from the prophet Jona

The Ninevites renounced their evil ways.

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9 R v4

(R.) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** 1 Cor 7:29-31

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

The world as we know it is passing away.

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The kingdom of God is near:
believe the Good News!*

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:14-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Repent, and believe the Good News.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

Readings for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Deut 18:15-20

Second Reading: 1 Cor 7:32-35

Gospel: Mk 1:21-28