



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



SUNDAY REFLECTION:

How to Deal with Suffering by Timothy J Buckley CSsR

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The story of Job was a huge challenge to the accepted moral outlook of the Old Testament people: namely, that suffering was God's way of punishing the sinner. Yet, Job was convinced of his innocence and was not afraid to bemoan his lot, complaining to God, despite his friends' admonitions that he must be guilty.

I doubt whether, at times, there is anyone who is unable to identify with Job's sentiments. For example, the times when we have cried out, at least internally: *Is not ... life on earth nothing more than pressed service, ... time no better than lived drudgery?... Like the slave, sighing for the shade... months of delusion I have assigned to me... nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, "When will it be day?" Risen I think, "How slowly evening comes!"*

Job, possibly more than anyone else in the Scriptures, is the one who cries out on behalf of all those who want an explanation for the suffering of the innocent.

In every generation people yearn to be released from their pain and suffering, yearn for a messianic figure to transform their lives. The Old Testament people were convinced that when that day came, there would be an end to the suffering, which was why they did not recognise Jesus as the one. As we listen to how Jesus reached out to all those who came to him for healing or for release from the enslavement of the devil, we can glimpse how we are to deal with suffering.

Jesus entered into the pain and suffering of our world, identified himself with those who were suffering and would eventually endure his own passion and death. In entrusting his mission to the disciples, he tried to prepare them, not only for his passion and death, but also for their own. Paul, who originally thought that his mission was to persecute the early Christians, came late to discipleship, but his encounter with Jesus taught him that in fact he needed liberating from his enslavement.

Accordingly, he was able to proclaim: *So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.*

Our age is no different to any other, except perhaps that, as we discover more and more ways of alleviating the suffering that accompanies so many of our ailments, we seem less able to conquer the evil spirit that sows the seeds of discord and division, leading to ever greater violence and conflict. The call to discipleship for you and me is undoubtedly to seek every possible means to bring Christ's peace and healing to our broken world. What are we waiting for?

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Feb 06	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Feb 07	11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Liturgy
Thursday Feb 08	9:30am Mass*
Friday Feb 09	9:30am Mass

***This Thursday we will celebrate the start of the new term with a whole school mass with St Gabriel's Primary School here at St Michael's Church. All parishioners are invited and welcome to attend.**

RECONCILIATION: There will be no reconciliation this Wednesday February 07 as Father Aju is away. Liturgy with communion will be led by Deacon Tony at 12pm instead of the usual mass.

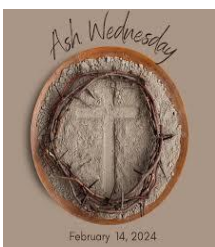
PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Huon Granville, Monica Duquemin, Manfred Buckard, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Bruce Power, Ray Smith, Peter Di Ciero, Santo Alicata, Terry Dixon, Pat Harrup, and Michael McCabe. *Lord, let your perpetual light shine 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 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 Speakman, 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.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:	
Wednesday February 14	Ash Wednesday
Friday March 01	World Day of Prayer
Thursday March 14	Fr Rob Galea
Sunday March 24	Palm Sunday
Friday March 29	Good Friday
Sunday March 31	Easter Sunday
Sunday May 19	Pentecost
Friday May 24	Confirmation



ASH WEDNESDAY MASS: You are invited and encouraged to come along to any of the following Ash Wednesday Mass times at St Michael's Church on **February 14:**
9:30am with St Gabriel's Primary School
12:00pm with St Michael's Primary School
6:00pm Evening Mass

This Week's Events	
Wednesday February 07	
5:30pm	Liturgy Team Meeting, Parish Centre
Thursday February 08- Office Closed	
9:30am	St Gabriel's Whole School Mass, St Michael's Church
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room



BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for Baptism, **Grace Amelia Abbott** daughter of Phillip and Mary and **Millah Grace Anderson** and **Lincoln Jay Anderson** children of Jack and Catherine.

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.



OFFICE CLOSED: Our office will be closed on Thursday February 08 as our staff will be attending the Diocesan Safeguarding training day in Narre Warren.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: Join our Charismatic Prayer group this Thursday at 10:30am for their first time back for 2024. All are invited for a morning of prayer and music in the Mary MacKillop Room, along with a cup of tea.

CWL COFFEE MORNINGS: Our Catholic Women's League meet for coffee on the second Tuesday of the month at Red Annexe Cafe at 10:30am. All are warmly invited to join them at their next catch up on Tuesday February 13.

BACK TO SCHOOL: On Monday we celebrated Mass with the teachers and leaders of our Latrobe Valley Catholic schools and by Wednesday all our children had returned to school. It is wonderful to see and hear the excitement of the children and their families as they begin the new school year. We ask you to be careful around the church and parish centre during school drop off and pick up times.

LENTEN DAILY REFLECTIONS: Thank you to those who have placed their orders for Evangelisation Brisbane's 'A Resurrected Life'. We will contact you once they have arrived and organise a time to collect them from the parish office. We look forward to holding an evening of reflection during the Lenten season to get together and discuss our thoughts on the program. Space can also be provided in the parish centre if you would like to organise a group catch up before then to work together through the daily reflections and ideas from the booklet.



ST MARY'S MAFFRA CENTENARY: Join us in celebrating the St Mary's Maffra Church Centenary on Sunday, April 28 with Mass celebrated by Bishop Greg at 11am followed by lunch at the Parish Hall. Kindly RSVP to 5147 1921 for catering purposes.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024:

'I beg you...bear with one another in love'

Join us to celebrate the World Day of Prayer here at St Michael's Church on **Friday March 01 at 10:30am**. The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian day of prayer celebrated each year in over 170 countries on the first Friday of March. An ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women have prayed and reflected together over the past several years to respond to the invitation to write the 2024 program. Their program calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression.

RITE OF ELECTION 2024: The rite of election for catechumens and the formal recognition of baptised candidates will be celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent. This is a significant step on the journey towards full initiation into the Catholic Church and is an integral part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. All catechumens and candidates are expected to attend this celebration, however it would be wonderful for our parishioners to go along and support them and participate in the liturgy as well.

Sunday February 18 @ 3:00pm
St Mary's Cathedral 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

WORD OF GOD SUNDAY: This Sunday February 04, the Church in Australia celebrates the Word of God Sunday. Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to "the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God." Visit www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodssunday for suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY:

'We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.'



Fr Rob Galea is an ordained Catholic Priest, currently serving in Sandhurst Diocese, after moving to Australia from Malta.

Fr Rob is an internationally acclaimed author, singer, and songwriter.

Fr Rob has a significant evangelistic and outreach ministry as a speaker to students and teaching staff, as well as speaking and singing at conferences and churches around Australia and the world.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025- PILGRIMS OF HOME: Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be a year of prayer in preparation for next year's Jubilee. 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. Our priests are currently working on a Diocesan prayer to be shared with us all, what can you do to prepare for the Jubilee?

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:

"Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed...He told them, 'Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.'" - Mark 1:35, 38

In today's Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to do all that God wishes - healing the sick and preaching. But before He begins, Jesus takes time to be alone with God in prayer. It is through prayer, spending time with God, that we are given the graces needed to do what He wishes us to do. Praying before acting is a great habit to develop.

Rosters for February 10 & 11, 2024			6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B	
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Feb 10 5:00pm	R Webber	J Fleming	M Giddens	Jane & Simon
Sunday Feb 11 9:30am	J Dal Pra	M Tainsh	M Wilkinson	Diamente Family
Sunday Feb 11 5:00pm	E Joseph & M Alex	Volunteer	T Biancon	
Church Cleaning February	St Michael's School			
Mick's Kitchen February 08	Van Berkel Team	February 15	Scholtes Team	

First Reading

Job 7:1-4 6-7

A reading from the book of Job

I am filled with sorrow all day long.

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than
pressed service,

his time no better than hired drudgery?

Like the slave, sighing for the shade,

or the workman with no thought but his wages,

months of delusion I have assigned to me,

nothing for my own but nights of grief.

Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'

Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'

Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.

Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have
passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind.

Remember that my life is but a breath,

and that my eyes will never again see joy.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9

(R.) Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving;
to him our praise is due. **(R.)**
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name. **(R.)**
3. Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

1 Cor 9:16-19 22-23

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

Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a
duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished
if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself,
I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is
a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do
you know what my reward is? It is this: in my
preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and
not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made
myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as
I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made
myself all things to all men in order to save some at
any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel,
to have a share in its blessings.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 4:8:17

*He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!*

Gospel

Mk 1:29-39

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or
another.*

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and
John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now
Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever,
and they told him about her straightaway. He went to
her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the
fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all
who were sick and those who were possessed by
devils. The whole town came crowding round the
door, and he cured many who were suffering from
diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many
devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because
they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left
the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed
there. Simon and his companions set out in search of
him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody
is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere,
to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can
preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he
went all through Galilee, preaching in their
synagogues and casting out devils.

Readings for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading:	Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
Second Reading:	1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1
Gospel:	Mark 1:40-45