



## 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:** Fr Aju Varghese, Deacon Tony Aspinall, Ben Kennedy, Brett Van Berkel, Cath Hill, Cathy McLure, Elizabeth Joseph, Jenifer Hanratty, Jodie Ware, Judi McLaughlin, Kim Serafa, Michael Hansen, Michelle Charlton, and Roy Varghese.

### 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



## Father Rob Galea is coming to Traralgon!

Father Rob Galea is coming to Traralgon this **Thursday March 14** for two days of faith formation with our St Michael's and St Gabriel's primary school students and teachers. We are so excited to be hosting him here in the church for both days, including a special evening of music and testimony for parishioners on the Thursday evening. This is an event for everyone, for all ages and backgrounds and we encourage you all to come along and bring a friend. Doors will be open from 6:00pm with music from our J-Walkers, with Fr Rob speaking on 'Mission Possible' from 6:30pm. Join us afterwards for supper in the hall.

**Parish Event: Mission Possible:** God knows what fulfils our hearts. He has a plan and a will for our lives. What if we could discover that and find the strength to fulfil it. Fr Rob will give us practical tips and teaching on how to discover His will for your life and tips on how to step into this possible mission: to share God's love with the world. Join us this **Thursday from 6:00pm** in the church with music from our J-Walkers and Fr Rob speaking from 6:30pm. There is no cost but we ask you to register your attendance via Trybooking using the following link <https://www.trybooking.com/CPOBR> or via the QR Code below



### PARISH EVENT: MISSION POSSIBLE

St Michael's Church  
Thursday March 14 from 6:00pm

**Formation Day:** There is an opportunity for further formation on **Friday March 15** with the teachers of St Michael's and St Gabriel's Primary Schools. This is a great opportunity for our parish leaders, volunteers and all those who serve to hear Fr Rob speak about his experiences and our call to mission. For more information and to register visit <https://www.trybooking.com/CPMTH> or via the QR Code below

### FORMATION DAY

St Michael's Church  
Friday March 15



Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Mar 12	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Mar 13	11:00am Reconciliation
	11:00am Exposition
	12:00pm Mass
Thursday Mar 14	9:30am NO MASS
Friday Mar 15	9:30am Teaching Mass

**There will be no mass on Thursday at St Michael's and the church will be closed. On Friday you are invited to join us for a special teaching Mass with Father Rob Galea, all parishioners are warmly invited and encouraged to come along.**

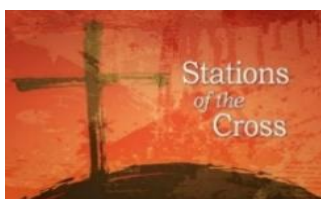
**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** those who have died recently including Aliya Paul, Mary Montague, John Teo Kok Kiong, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Rocchina Della Fortuna, Barry Bennett, Robert Crump, Frank Valencic, and Elizabeth Cross. *Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. 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, Paul Laurie 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.*

**FR ROB GALEA:** Father Rob is almost here! Join us this Thursday March 14 from 6:00pm for an evening of music and testimony followed by supper in the hall. This is a free event for ALL ages. Register at Trybooking using the following link <https://www.trybooking.com/CPOBR>

There will be no public access to the church during the day on Thursday March 14 and Friday March 15, however you are welcome to join us for Fr Rob's teaching mass on Friday at 9:30am. **The office will be closed on Friday March 15** as our team attends the formation sessions with Father Rob. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Fridays during Lent @ 7pm in the Church**

Thank you to our Syro-Malabar community for leading our Stations of the Cross this week. We look forward to our RCIA team leading next week's Indigenous inspired stations. Come and join us in the church, every **Friday at 7pm** during Lent.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Tuesday March 12	
5:30pm	Parish Pastoral Council, Mary MacKillop Room
Wednesday March 13	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday March 14	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
6:00pm	Mission Possible: Fr Rob Galea, St Michael's Church
Friday March 15	
9:30am	Teaching Mass with Fr Rob Galea, St Michael's Church
7:00pm	Stations of the Cross, St Michael's Church

**BAPTISMS:** This weekend we welcome for baptism **Hudson Shane Ware**, son of Thomas and Taylah, **Bentley Jack Casson**, son of Maddison and Jack and **Zali Florence Liddell**, son of Maddison and Jake. Congratulations and welcome to our parish!



Our next Baptism Preparation meeting will be held on **Tuesday April 09 at 7pm** in the church. Please contact the parish office for more information and to register your interest.



## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:

This year at the Easter Vigil our RCIA candidates will be initiated into the sacramental life of the Church. Jun will celebrate her first reconciliation and first communion, as well as her confirmation along with Adriana and Phillippe. Thank you to their sponsors, families and our RCIA team for their ongoing encouragement and support. Please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers as they continue their journey towards Easter and the re-affirming of their baptismal vows. You are invited to supper in the Mary MacKillop Hall after the Easter Vigil to help them celebrate. Please bring along a plate to share.

**YOUTH NEWS:** Join us for a cappuccino or hot chocolate next **Sunday March 17** after the 9:30am Mass at the J-Walkers Coffee Cart in the Mary MacKillop Hall. All money raised goes towards supporting our Youth Ministry.



Our next Youth Mass will be held on Palm Sunday, March 23 at 5:00pm. We invite you to come along and support our young ones as they learn and lead the different parts of the mass. We also encourage you to bring along your children and grandchildren to come along and join in.

**LENTEN LITURGY:** On Thursday night we joined together to pray for the community of the cross during this season of lent. Thank you to Mike and Jane and our Liturgy team for leading a beautiful evening of prayer and reflection as we journey towards Easter, the journey towards death and resurrection.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Parishioners who would like to help organise or take part in our Holy Week Masses should contact the parish office. We would love to have more people involved as there are many tasks and roles to share and we all have different talents.

**Memory** is 26 years old and lives in rural Malawi. As the eldest child in a low-income farming family, Memory had to take on many household chores and farming activities to support her parents. They struggled to pay for Memory's school fees and school supplies, and Memory often had to walk to school barefooted.

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt technical skills in carpentry. She undertook a three-year carpentry course, with CADECOM supporting part of her tuition and boarding fees. Memory became the first female carpenter from her village. Today, she works as a carpenter at one of Malawi's largest hydroelectric power stations. With the income from her job, she can provide financial support to her family and inspire other young women in her community so that they may have the opportunity to succeed in a male-dominated industry.

**Please donate to Project Compassion.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, **for all future generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from the parish office or the church foyers, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.



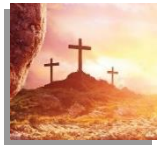
Photo: Tim Lam  
Caritas Australia

**Project Compassion Prayer 2024**

*God of all hope,  
we pray for our world with all its beauty and need.  
We thank you for the love in our lives that is  
a mirror of your unending love.  
May all creation know your compassion this Lent  
and may we take courage to share it, especially with  
those who don't have what they need.  
In our time, we hear the same words you spoke to Moses:  
'I will be with you,' when you ask us to do courageous  
things. Through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving,  
move us to act in the company of your Spirit,  
showing compassion and acting for justice  
to renew the face of the Earth,  
now and for all future generations.  
We ask this in the name of Christ.  
Amen*



*Holy Week 2024*



- PALM SUNDAY **Sunday March 24**  
(Procession 9:30am & 5pm)
- PARISH RECONCILIATION **Tuesday March 26 - 6pm**
- TENEBRAE SERVICE **Wednesday March 27 - 7:30pm**
- HOLY THURSDAY **Thursday March 28 - 7:30pm**
- GOOD FRIDAY **Friday March 29 - 3pm**  
(Stations of the Cross @ 9:30am)
- EASTER VIGIL **Saturday March 30 - 7:30pm**
- EASTER SUNDAY **Sunday March 31 - 9:30am**  
(no evening mass)

**DIOCESAN MISSION COUNCIL FORMATION**



**DAY REPORT:** On Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> February, the members of the new Diocesan Mission Council met at the St Mary's Cathedral Chapter House, Sale. The intention of this first gathering was for members to get to know each other, to be aware of what is happening in the Diocese, and to begin working towards developing a common vision of the role and key functions of the Council. At the end of the day, members expressed feeling privileged, excited, hopeful, and energised to participate in the mandate of the DMC. Some spoke of the honour and trust they felt in being representative of, and connected to, all the people of the Diocese. They acknowledged the importance of listening to the Holy Spirit and grasping the call to co-responsibility for mission. Appreciation was also expressed for the new initiatives developing in the Diocese.

**NEW PASTORAL LIFE & MISSION TEAM:** Bishop Greg Bennet has established a new Pastoral Life & Mission Team, appointing Tara Bau, Anne Taylor, Siji Dominic, and Br. Tony Clark as team members. The team will coordinate the support people in the Diocese who hold key pastoral leadership roles (priests and lay leaders) through consultation, providing formation opportunities, and building strong networks.

**STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:**

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..."*  
- John 3:16

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and develop our gifts, and in gratitude, generously give back with increase our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to support the mission and ministry of our parish and greater Church.

**OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY MARCH 15**

**Rosters for March 16 & 17, 2024**

**5th Sunday of Lent, Year B**

	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
<b>Saturday Mar 16 5:00pm</b>	R Foote & T Larkin	T Denny	C Payne	Jane & Simon
<b>Sunday Mar 17 9:30am</b>	E Babu & C Mavhundu	Volunteer	J & P Dal Pra	Charismatic Choir
<b>Sunday Mar 17 5:00pm</b>	K & L Roy	S Darby	M Noone & B McNulty	Jane & Simon
Church Cleaning	March	St Gabriel's School		
Mick's Kitchen	March 14	Cartledge Team	March 21	Hemming Team
Touring Statue of Our Lady	March 10	M Munari	March 17	W & P Watson



**First Reading**

2 Chron 36:14-16 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

*The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 136 R v6.

**(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!**

By the rivers of Babylon  
there we sat and wept,  
remembering Zion;  
on the poplars that grew there  
we hung our harps. **(R.)**

For it was there that they asked us,  
our captors, for songs,  
our oppressors, for joy.  
'Sing to us,' they said,  
'one of Zion's songs.' **(R.)**

O how could we sing  
the song of the Lord  
on alien soil?  
If I forget you, Jerusalem,  
let my right hand wither! **(R.)**

O let my tongue  
cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not,  
if I prize not Jerusalem  
above all my joys! **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

Eph 2:4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.*

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Jn 3:16

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only  
Son,  
that all who believe in hi might have eternal life.  
Glory and praise to you, lord Jesus Christ!*

**Gospel**

Jn 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
*God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

Next Week's Readings: Fifth Sunday of Lent	
First Reading:	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Second Reading:	Hebrews 5:7-9
Gospel:	John 11:1-45

