



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 (chairperson), Kim Zerafa, Michael Hansen (deputy chairperson), 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



Easter Message 2024 Bishop Greg Bennet Catholic Bishop of Sale

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace of the Risen Lord be with you as we celebrate the feast of Easter.

As we celebrate Easter this year, I am conscious that many people are really struggling with having to deal with the higher cost of living, making repayments on mortgages, or finding an affordable house to rent, falling agricultural prices, or managing health and well-being issues. On the international front, we are confronted with the sight of women, children and families being displaced from their homes and livelihoods by war, natural disasters or economic disadvantage.

Into all of this dark reality, we again hear the story of the faithful women, Mary of Magdala and Mary the mother of James and Salome (Mk 16:1) as they go to the tomb early in the morning after Jesus is crucified and buried. They carry with them the spices to anoint the body of Jesus. We can imagine their grief, sadness, and distress as, walking together at sunrise, they prepare for their arrival at the tomb where the body of Jesus lay. We can almost hear their whispers amidst their tears and grief in readiness for what they imagine they would find. We can hear them pondering who will roll away the stone so that, as bearers of mercy and tenderness, they can minister to their deceased friend.

On arrival, they discover not only the heavy burial stone had been rolled away but are met by the young man in a white robe (Mk 16:5) with the words "There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here" (Mk 16:7). How shocked and bewildered they must have been. There is an urgency as they must go to the disciples and Peter! They set off on another journey with hearts renewed for the empty tomb was no longer a sign of death but the fulfilment of all that he had taught them. These faithful women are the first bearers of the unending story of the Risen Lord. Their story is also our story. The story of the brothers and sisters of the Risen Lord experienced in our daily lives through the gift of his Holy Spirit who, "goes before us."

We are people of the story. Each of us has our own story to tell of the wonder of our personal faith in the Risen Lord. Each of us at different moments, fleeting as they may be, experience the presence of Jesus within us, among us. He is always with us: but how often do we fail to hear him, and to feel him close?

He is Risen. He is with us. We see him in our communities of faith across the Diocese of Sale. We witness his healing touch in the humble lives of those who follow him. We see him in the gentle care of couples and families as they walk with one another in the good times and bad, in sickness and health, unto death.

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Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	7:30pm Easter Vigil Mass
Sunday	9:30am Easter Sunday Mass <i>No 5pm Mass this week</i>
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Apr 02	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Apr 03	11:00am Reconciliation
	11:00am Exposition
	12:00pm Mass
Thursday Apr 04	9:30am Mass
	11:00am Mass @ Dalkeith
Friday Apr 05	9:30am Mass

***Thursday morning mass will be at St Michael's Church for the next two weeks during the school holidays.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Evan Bain, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Eileen Langmaid, Bill McMahon, Peter Cunico, Daniel Fleming, Helen Rijs and Arch Graham. *Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*



WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: including Bernadette Formaran, Fr Frank Freeman, Carolyn Gleeson, Jacqui Granville, Barbara Greaves, Ellen Hammond, Robert Hazelman, Imogen Hillier, Joyce Martin, Ivy May, Deborah Mckerchar, Ben Melenhorst, Maree Morris, Henry Polo, Joan Riggall, Theresa Rosello, Jerry Templer, Damiano Tripodi, George Walkan, Roy Ward, Victoria Rolih, John Waanders, Peter Dal Pra, Jane Eric, Rose Xuereb, Manuel Xuereb, Peter Lorinc, Don Barnes, Paul Laurie, Gus Agostino, Sharon Veleff, Jenny Hansch, Rosemarie Kays 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.*

THANK YOU: to all our wonderful parishioners who have stepped up to help organise our Holy Week services. Thank you to the readers and commentators, to the special ministers, to our welcomers and to those who got their feet washed. Thank you to our altar servers, our musicians, our singers our florists, and those who have come to clean and prepare our church. Thank you to all those working behind the scenes to organise liturgies, music, candles, palms, banners, statue covers, chairs and incense. We are very blessed to have such a talented and giving parish and are grateful for all that you do to support our St Michael's community.

OFFICE CLOSED: Fr Aju and the parish office team will be taking some time off after Easter. The Parish Office will be closed Tuesday April 02 and Wednesday April 03, and will reopen on Thursday April 04 at 9am. Fr Peter will be here to celebrate mass during the week, and Father Aju will return for the weekend masses.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR: Join us for praise and worship, guest speakers and testimonies, prayer and sharing.

St Michael's Church, 10:30am Thursdays, April 04 - May 09. We begin with the theme of 'God's Promise & Unconditional Love' this Thursday April 04 and welcome our guest speaker Peter Morris. All are welcome! Contact the parish office for more information or to register your interest.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Tuesday April 02 – Wednesday April 03	
Office Closed	
Thursday April 04	
10:30am	Life in the Spirit Seminar St Michael's Church
11:00am	Mass @ Dalkeith, Dalkeith Gardens
Saturday April 06	
10am – 4pm	A Day with the Spirit, Mary MacKillop Hall

BAPTISMS: 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:

Congratulations to Jun who will officially join our parish at the Easter Vigil this weekend, and to Adriana and Philippe who will celebrate the sacrament of confirmation. It's the end of quite a journey of preparation and the beginning of their journey of faith as adult Catholics. Please keep Jun, Adriana, Phillippe and all those who joined our faith at Easter in your prayers. Congratulations and thank you to their families, sponsors and the RCIA team for their support and encouragement along the way.

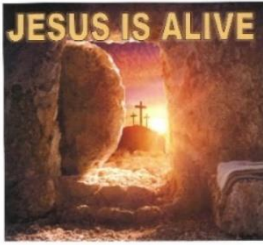
Please join us for supper in the Mary MacKillop Hall after the Vigil Mass to officially welcome them to our parish. Please bring along a plate to share.

SACRAMENTS NEWS: The sacrament of confirmation will be celebrated on Friday May 24 with Bishop Greg Bennet here at St Michael's Church. Families of children in Grade 6 and above who are interested and not yet enrolled should contact the parish office as soon as possible as enrolments are now due.

YOUTH NEWS: Wow! It was a great weekend for our young people at St Michael's last weekend. Our Junior J-Walkers gathered in the Mary MacKillop Hall from 3pm to learn about the Last Supper, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. Afterwards they joined our senior J-Walkers and other young people from our parish for the Palm Sunday Procession and Mass. Thank you to our kind and patient parishioners for supporting our young people, to our parents for leading and teaching them and to our fearless young people who read, sang, served at the altar, collected money and welcomed people at the door. Special shout out to our Youth Ministry leaders who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make it such a successful weekend. It was wonderful to see so many people at Sunday night's mass followed by supper in the hall.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS: A busy term has now come to a close for our school families and communities. We wish them all a safe and restful Easter break and look forward to our schools reopening for Term 2. Due to the school holidays, Thursday morning mass will be held at St Michael's church for the next two weeks not at St Gabriel's Primary School. We are very blessed to have such wonderful teachers and staff at St Michael's, St Gabriel's and Lavalla, and wish them well for a much deserved break.



A DAY WITH THE SPIRIT
Saturday April 06, 10am – 4pm
Mary MacKillop Hall,
St Michael’s Traralgon

Including talks and Mass with Fr Francis Otobo and Fr Mark Hughes. Invite your friends to a wonderful day of worship, teaching and fellowship. All welcome, BYO Lunch.

HOLY LAND GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION: The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on **Good Friday, March 29**. All money placed in the collection bowl will be used to promote the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing. Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Due to the ongoing war, the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world. The reality for the Holy Land mission is that they will continue to face challenges financial and spiritual and so we again ask Catholics around the world to be as generous as possible, with their financial support as well as the spiritual support. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday. Envelopes are available from both church foyers and can be returned via the collection bowl or to the parish office.



PROJECT COMPASSION: Thank you for your continued support through Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, **for all future generations**. Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion 2024 Lenten appeal. You can still donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from the parish office or the church foyers, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413. Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia.

COME AND SEE: Bishop Greg has called for the young men of our Parishes of the Diocese to come to St Agatha’s Parish, 129 Sladen St, Cranbourne VIC 3977 on Sunday, 7th April 2024 at 2:00pm particularly those who sense a call from God to life as a priest. Or, who simply want to come and enquire. It will be an opportunity to meet and greet those living the life, to pray with them and have all your questions answered. And, remember, "the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it" Mt13:45

EASTER MESSAGE FROM BISHOP GREG BENNET (cont): We see him in the powerful witness of single people, who by choice or circumstance, are enabled to be loving friends of prayer and service. We see his healing work in the feeding of the hungry, in the sharing with those who struggle financially and socially. We see his grace in the lives of the sick, the aged and frail, the confused of mind and the lives of those who require the gentle assistance of others. We see him in the sacramental care of our clergy bringing his sacramental presence to nourish, to reconcile, to bless and to strengthen God’s holy people with God’s holy gifts. We see him in the gift of religious life immersed in solidarity with others and in daring to live a life of simplicity. We see him everywhere.

In so many ways the Risen Lord comes to us and lifts our hearts to see the dignity of life, mission, service, mercy, and compassion as our daily mission too, not as burden, but as our gift for others. Our anointing in his life, death and resurrection calls us to lead lives of co-responsibility in his mission to bring Good News to the world.

At times our hearts will be weary, as we feel burdened by the apparent darkness of the world, as we witness acts of violence inflicted upon innocent children, families and individuals caught up in wars they did not choose. We may feel as though the weight of these stones of darkness will never be rolled away. But the story of Easter reveals to us the essential message of the resurrection: that the power of God’s love can roll away any stone. When the time is right, the gift of peace for troubled lands will rise, and for those whose lives are beset by turmoil, violence, and the terror of war, new life will emerge. May we, for whom the stone has been rolled away, be bearers of true peace, hope, mercy, compassion, and justice, born from the wounds of the Risen Jesus.

May the dawn of the Easter sunrise remind us that Jesus Christ is the true Light of the world, in him there is no darkness. He is not found in an empty tomb! He “goes before us” rolling away the stones calling us to new life! Alleluia

*Bishop Greg Bennet
 Easter 2024*

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:
“Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.”
 COLOSSIANS 3:2
 On this day we thank God for His Son, Jesus, who died, rose and opened the gates of heaven for us. We celebrate and sing “Alleluia.” Let’s try to keep the joy of this Easter season in our hearts throughout the year! Pray daily and listen for how God is calling each of us to joyfully use our gifts to fulfill His salvation plan.

Rosters for April 06 & 07, 2024			2 nd Sunday of Easter, Year B	
	Lector	Commentator	Usher/Welcomer	Musicians
Saturday Apr 06 5:00pm	S & S Reid	T Denny	A Membrey	Jane & Simon
Sunday Apr 07 9:30am	J Dal Pra	C McCabe	W Banks-Smith & D Bau	Diamente Family
Sunday Apr 07 5:00pm	V Vaz & S Harikrishna	C Hill	T Biancon	Jane & Simon
Church Cleaning	April	Collis Family Group		
Mick’s Kitchen	April 04	Burns Team	April 11	Van Berkel Team
Touring Statue of Our Lady	March 31	G & U Imhagwe	April 07	A & G Symonds

First Reading

Acts 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

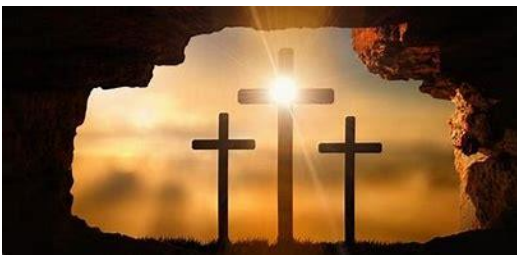
We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

**(R.) This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.**

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.' **(R.)**
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. **(R.)**
3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**



"At Easter, God finally reveals His glory: He takes away the last veil and astonishes us as never before. We discover in fact, that God's glory is all love: pure love, mad and unthinkable, beyond every limit and measure...True glory is the glory of love, because it is the only one that gives life to the world."

Pope Francis

Second Reading

1 Col 3:1-4

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

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let our thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Gospel Acclamation

1 Cor 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;

Let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 20:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb; she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciples who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Next week's Readings 2nd Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel: John 20:19-31