

## 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  
Telephone: 5174 9012

**St Michael's Parish Office**  
Telephone: 5174 2060  
Address: 35 Kay Street, Traralgon  
PO Box 103, Traralgon 3844

Office hours – by phone and email  
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



### 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 2:12,17-20 Ps 54:3-4,5,6 & 8 James 3:16—4:3 Mk 9:30-37

**SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Dianne Bergant CSA**

The ungodly conspire to assault the righteous. This honourable person stands in opposition to the wrongdoings of the wicked, denouncing them for their sin and accusing them of not being faithful to their upbringing. Plagued by this criticism, the wicked put the righteous one to the test to see if God will save the person of virtue from the onslaughts that are being planned. The mistreatment planned is extreme, even fatal. The righteous one, described as gentle and patient, is now an innocent victim of the evildoers' resentment. The reading ends on a note of apprehension. Will the righteous one succumb to the persecution of the wicked? Will God in fact intervene on behalf of this just person?

The psalm is a prayer to God for deliverance in time of need. The petition indicates that God's name, as part of the very essence of God, possesses divine power. The fact that 'name' in a parallel relationship with 'might', further emphasises the character of God's name. The affliction is caused by enemies described as haughty and ruthless. Regardless of how bleak the situation, the psalmist is filled with confidence. God is already present as a helper; those who rise up against the psalmist will be subdued. In the end, the psalmist promises to offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to honour the name of God.

The focus of the instruction in the Letter of James shifts from the vision of peace to the reality of conflicts within the community. There is no peace because the people do not choose the path that leads to peace and the path that they do choose leads to frustration. The community has failed to travel along the path of wisdom. James wants to know the cause of these conflicts, not so that he can reprimand them, but that he might instruct them. The frustration or pointlessness that they have chosen is laid bare. The Christians have no one to blame but themselves for the lack of harmony in their personal and communal lives.

Away from the crowds, Jesus identifies himself as the mysterious Son of Man and predicts his passion, death and resurrection. The disciples did not grasp the meaning of Jesus' words, and they engaged in a heated discussion about status within the community. Jesus had just admitted his ultimate vulnerability, and they were quarrelling about rank. Jesus seized the moment to teach an important lesson: following his own example, those who would be first must be willing to be last. In the world of Jesus' time, neither servants nor children had any legal rights or social status. Jesus turns the social ranking system upside down. Those who hold the highest positions within the community must be willing to take the lowest place and be the servants of all. He offers himself as an example of one who empties himself for the sake of others.

Sunday Mass Times		
Saturday	5:00pm	Mass
Sunday	9:30am	Mass
	5:00pm	Mass
Weekday Mass Times		
Tuesday Sep 24	9:30am	Liturgy
Wednesday Sep 25	11:00am	Exposition
	12:00pm	Liturgy
Thursday Sep 26	9:00am	Liturgy @ BUPA
	9:30am	Liturgy*
Friday Sep 27	9:30am	Liturgy

\*As the school holidays have begun, we will have a parish liturgy this Thursday at St Michael's Church, while the students and teachers enjoy their school holiday break.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** those who have died recently including John Horan, Marshall Dean, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Ray Still, Maria Marino, Tom King, Giuseppe Agostino, and Catena Ciminello. *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, Victoria Rolih, James Whitty, Peter Dal Pra, Jane Eric, Rose Xuereb, Don Barnes, Paul Laurie, Gus Agostino, Sharon Veleff, Jenny Hansch, Rosemaree Kays, Fr Andrew Wise, Jaime Mack, Greg Doyle, Eileen Rossiter 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 the parish.*

**FATHER AJU IS BACK, BUT THEN AWAY AGAIN:** Father Aju is back after his time away at the International Eucharistic Congress, we look forward to hearing all about it in the coming weeks. Special shout out and thank you to Deacon Tony and Father Peter who have stepped up to lead our masses and liturgies in his absence. Next week Father Aju and Father Peter will be attending the Clergy in-service with Bishop Greg in Carlton, however Deacon Tony will stay behind to look after us while they are away. Liturgy with communion will be held in the church during the normal mass times, however there will **no Reconciliation** on Wednesday. Thursday's service will be held at St Michael's Church as St Gabriel's Primary School will be on term break for the next two weeks.

**DAILY REFLECTIONS:** For those who have ordered St Paul's "God's Word" daily reflections for Year C, your books have now arrived. If you missed out and would like to purchase one, we still have some extras available for \$20 each (which is less than the RRP). It contains the Bible readings set down for each day of the liturgical year with reflections by eminent spiritual writers. A life-changing companion to nourish you, help make God's Word the foundation of your life, and empower you to pray, to live and to share your faith with others. Please contact Cath in the parish office to arrange collection and payment.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Tuesday September 24	
10:00am	Catholic Women's League Meeting, St Vincent de Paul Centre
7:00pm	Baptism Preparation Meeting, St Michael's Church
Thursday September 26	
9:00am	Liturgy with Communion, BUPA Aged Care, Park Lane
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, St Michael's Church
Sunday September 29	
Feast of St Michael	
World Day of Migrants and Refugees	



**BAPTISMS:** This weekend, we welcome for baptism Oliver Andrew Batt, son of Emily and Andrew. Congratulations and welcome to our parish!

Our next Baptism Preparation meeting will be held on **Tuesday September 24 at 7pm** in the church. Please contact the parish office for more information and to register your interest.

**RCIA:** Are you, or someone you know interested in becoming a Catholic? Or learning more about the Catholic Faith? Join us on Tuesday nights at 7:30pm, where we can answer your questions and shed light on what Catholics believe. For more information or to register your interest please contact the parish office.



**SACRAMENTS NEWS:** The sacrament of First Holy Communion will be celebrated next term and enrolments are closing soon. Please contact the parish office if your child is in Grade 4 or above and you would like some more information.

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS:** The school term comes to an end this Friday September 20. It has been a busy term at both St Michael's, St Gabriel's and Lavalla and we thank all school staff and families for their support of the parish during this time. We wish our teachers and families a safe and peaceful holiday break and hope they all come back renewed and ready for Term 4.



**YOUTH NEWS:** After a wonderful parish blessing last Sunday and a fond farewell from our parishioners, our Ignite team are heading to St Mary's Cathedral Sale to be commissioned by Bishop Greg this Sunday September 22 at their 9:30am Mass. St Michael's Parishioners are warmly invited and encouraged to join them. Following mass there will be morning tea followed by a workshop for our young ones heading to Sydney so they can get to know each other better. Please keep us in your prayers as we journey to the Ignite Youth Conference Sydney next weekend, September 26 -30. We are truly grateful for your support of our youth ministry and we look forward to sharing our Ignite adventures with you all upon our return.

**OFFICE CLOSED:** Our office will be closed this Thursday September 26 and Friday September 27 while Cath is in Sydney at the Ignite Conference with our Youth Ministry. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and will be back in the St Vincent de Paul Centre on Tuesday October 01 from 9am – 4pm.

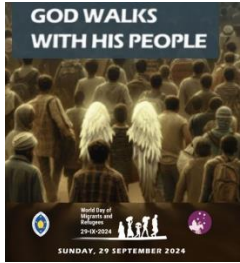
**DIOCESAN CONSULTATION PHASE TWO:** Our parish will be holding two workshops in October to discuss phase two of the Diocesan Consultation Process- Looking Forward. You are invited to join us on Friday **October 11 from 7:30pm – 9:00pm** OR **Sunday October 20 from 10:30am – 12:30pm** in the Mary MacKillop Hall to share our hopes and dreams for our parish, our Diocese and our Church in the coming years. All are welcome and we strongly encourage you to come along and share your thoughts.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**“FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”**  
**A DAY IN THE SPIRIT**  
**ST MARY’S PARISH YARRAM**

**Saturday October 26, 10am – 4pm**

This is a first for Yarram, so please mark your calendars. For further information contact Jan Allgood on 0408 842 568



**MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY:** “*God walks with His people*”, is the title chosen by Pope Francis for his Message for the upcoming World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The Holy Father reminds us that all of us, God’s people, are migrants on this earth, on our way to the “true homeland”, the Kingdom of Heaven.

St Michael’s, Berwick will host this wonderful occasion for all our different cultures to come together and celebrate the diversity within our Diocese. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Greg Bennet, together with Fr Jeff, Fr Paul and priests and deacons from our Diocese, followed by a sit-down function in the St Michael’s School Stadium. We would like to have as many countries as possible represented: in food preparation, cultural dancing and singing and general help on the day. Please contact Dorota Shields at the Parish Support Centre on 9707 1355 or [secretary@stmichaelsparish.org.au](mailto:secretary@stmichaelsparish.org.au) if you can assist in any way. Everyone welcome!!

**Migrant & Refugee Mass**

**Sunday September 29, 3pm @ St Michael’s Church Berwick**

**ALPHA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE- MELBOURNE NOVEMBER 8-9:** 'Every Generation' is a two day national Catholic Conference that seeks to equip and empower intergenerational renewal within our church. It is a great opportunity for those in our community to meet others from around Australia who are on the mission of parish renewal. The conference will be informative, interactive and of course there will be food, fun and friendship. There will be opportunities for prayer, workshops, Mass and Adoration, everything that shapes a good gathering into a great conference.

**When: Friday November 8 – Saturday November 9 2024**

**Where: Australian Catholic University, Melbourne**

**Who: All generations of Catholic Leaders**

For more information and to register visit [www.everygenerationconference.com.au](http://www.everygenerationconference.com.au)

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WORKSHOP:** Every married couple deserves this very special weekend. Time-out to nurture your relationship away from daily distractions, reconnect and discover new tools to support your relationship. While the weekend is based around Catholic values, couples of all faiths are welcome. No group sharing is required.

Where: St Joseph’s Primary School, Trafalgar

When: Saturday 16th Nov – Sunday 17th Nov 2024 (Saturday lunch and dinner & Sunday lunch is provided)

On your weekend, a team of 2 or 3 married couples and a priest will share their personal stories, their ups and downs, in ways that are very relatable. You are drawn to reflecting on your own relationship and will learn new ways of deeply communicating with each other. For further details visit [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.au) or contact Mercy & James Bvirakare on 0409 183 676 or via email [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au)



**Mick’s Kitchen: AM-PM Coffee** in

Franklin Street Traralgon will be donating \$1 from every sale on Fridays to our very own Mick’s Kitchen, so head on down and buy a coffee to show your support! Mick’s Kitchen is the social outreach program of our parish and we really appreciate the financial support from the team at AM-PM Coffee. Thank you!

**STEWARDSHIP MATTERS**

*“If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.” MARK 9:35*

Jesus teaches us that we are called to love one another. Love involves sacrifice. Sacrifice is a word that many of us don’t like to hear. We think it means that we must give up something that we want. However, the literal meaning of sacrifice is “to make holy,” from the words “sacer” = sacred and “facere” = to make. In other words, we make our lives holy by sharing our gifts in the service of God.

Rosters for September 28 & 29, 2024			26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B		
	Lector	Commentator	Welcomer	Eucharistic Minister	Musicians
Saturday Sep 28 5:00pm	B O’Brien & A Taylor	B Purcell	M Giddens & Volunteer	A Meredith & B Purcell	
Sunday Sep 29 9:30am	C McLure & R Diaz	M Noone	P & J Dal Pra	M Hansen & W Banks-Smith	
Sunday Sep 29 5:00pm	Volunteer	Volunteer	2 x Volunteers	2 x Volunteers	
Church Cleaning	September	Volunteers			
Mick’s Kitchen	September 26	Scholtes Team		October 03	Hemming Team
Touring Statue of our Lady	September 22	J Scholtes		September 29	J Mitchell

**First Reading**

Wis 2:12, 17-20

A reading from the book of Wisdom

*Let us condemn him to a most shameful death.*

The godless say to themselves,  
 'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he  
 annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us  
 for our breaches of the law

and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.

Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what  
 kind of end he himself will have.

If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part  
 and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.

Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus  
 explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance  
 to the proof.

Let us condemn him to a shameful death  
 since he will be looked after – we have his word for  
 it.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 53:3-6 8 Rv6

**(R.) The Lord upholds my life.**

O God, save me by your name;  
 by your power, uphold my cause.  
 O God, hear my prayers;  
 listen to the words of my mouth. **(R.)**

For proud men have risen against me,  
 ruthless men seek my life.  
 They have no regard for God. **(R.)**

But I have God for my help.  
 The Lord upholds my life.  
 I will sacrifice to you with willing heart  
 and praise your name for it is good. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

James 3:16 - 4:3

A reading from the letter of St James

*Justice is the harvest of peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace.*

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find  
 disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being  
 done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from  
 above is essentially something pure; it also makes for  
 peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of  
 compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is  
 there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it.  
 Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the  
 seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves  
 first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting  
 inside your own selves? You want something and you  
 haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have  
 an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to  
 get your way by force. Why you don't have what you  
 want is because you don't pray for it; when you do  
 pray and don't get it, it is because you have not  
 prayed properly, you have prayed for something to  
 indulge your own desires.'

**Gospel Acclamation**

see Thes 2:1

**Alleluia, alleluia!****God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.****Alleluia!****Gospel**

Mark 9:30-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of humanity ... All who wish to be first must make themselves the servants of all.*

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples  
 made their way through Galilee; and he did not want  
 anyone to know, because he was instructing his  
 disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will  
 be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him  
 to death; and three days after he has been put to  
 death he will rise again.' But they did not understand  
 what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the  
 house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about  
 on the road?' They said nothing because they had  
 been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he  
 sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If  
 anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last  
 of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child,  
 set him in front of them, put his arms round him,  
 and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these  
 little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone  
 who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who  
 sent me.'

Next week's Readings: 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Numbers 11:25-29

Second Reading: James 5:1-6

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43 45 47-48