



First Sunday of Advent, Year C

December 01, 2024

## 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



St Michael's Catholic Parish Traralgon

# PRAISE & WORSHIP NIGHT

## "AWAKEN"

7th | Dec 2024  
5pm - 8pm

5PM  
**Parish Mass in Church**  
Music by AWAKEN MINISTRY

6PM  
**Praise & Worship in Church**  
Enjoy a night with AWAKEN MINISTRY from Melbourne

7.30PM  
**Supper in the Hall**

**Contact:**

Jen Hanratty 5174 2060

**Address:**

Cnr Kay St & Church St, Traralgon

Donations appreciated to cover catering costs

Awaken Ministry will be coming to St Michael's on **Saturday December 07** for mass at 5pm followed by an evening of music, praise and worship for all. You are then invited to join us for supper in the Mary MacKillop Hall. This is an **all-ages** event and all are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to prepare ourselves for Advent in a joyful and prayerful way.

Sunday Mass Times		
Saturday	5:00pm	Mass
Sunday	9:30am	Mass
	5:00pm	Mass
Weekday Mass Times		
Tuesday Dec 03	9:30am	Mass
Wednesday Dec 04	11:00am	Exposition
	12:00pm	Mass
Thursday Dec 05	9:30am	Mass*
	11:00am	Mass @ Dalkeith
Friday Dec 06	9:30am	Mass

**\*This Thursday we will celebrate mass at St Michael's Church with all the children from St Gabriel's Primary School. Come and join us!**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** those who have died recently including Noel Jeffery, Dustin Daly, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Stan Harris, Edna Charnley, Patricia Lahore, Agostino Damiano, Veronica Barter, Trish Hannon, John Cooney, Joseph Bonello, and Grace Bonello. *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 Mc Kerchar, 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, Valerie Joy Cahill, Nola Fitzsimon, Kelly Maher, 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.*



**ADVENT WREATH PRAYER:** Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath, our symbol of waiting and preparation, "The Prophet's Candle" or "The Candle of Hope". Advent is a time of waiting hope and joyful expectation as we journey together looking forward to the birth of

Christ. As we celebrate this season of Advent, we think again of the love of God for us, endless as ever new, as symbolized in our Advent Wreath, which will be blessed today.

After the lighting of the first candle, and the scripture reading, please join together to say:

***Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.***

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS:** At the recent Catholic Women's League AGM, new leaders were voted in for 2025. Congratulations to Kay Radford who will take on the role of President, Maree Blanchard Secretary and Marie Moulton who will stay on as Treasurer. Special thanks to Ansje Sykes, Marie Moulton and Rosanna Della Fortuna for their time and expertise in leading the team well throughout 2024. Thank you for your dedication to the Catholic Women's League and our wider parish community, it is very much appreciated.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Wednesday December 04	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday December 05	
9:30am	St Gabriel's PS Whole School Mass, St Michael's Church
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, St Michael's Church
11:00am	Mass @ Dalkeith, Dalkeith Gardens
Friday December 06	
9:30am	St Michael's PS Whole School Mass St Michael's Church
Saturday December 07	
6:00pm	Awaken Ministry Praise & Worship, St Michael's Church
Tuesday December 10	
7:30pm	Advent Liturgy- Maranatha: Come Lord, St Michael's Church

**BAPTISMS:** If you would like to arrange a time for your child's baptism, please contact the parish office for more information and to register your interest. Our final Baptism Preparation Meeting for 2024 will be held on **Tuesday December 17** at 7pm in the church.



**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.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** Congratulations to all our children who celebrated their First Holy Communion at our parish masses last weekend. We congratulate them and thank their families, teachers and parishioners for their help and support. Please continue to keep them and their families in your prayers.



**YOUTH NEWS:** We will be having our final J-Walkers gathering for 2024 in the Mary MacKillop Hall from 2pm - 5pm next **Saturday December 07**. This is an event for Grade 6 and above and will include games, prayer, and adoration. Afterwards join us for Mass at 5pm followed by an evening of Praise and Worship hosted by Awaken Ministry. All are welcome, even if you haven't been to J-Walkers events before. Please scan the QR code to register your child and pay the \$10 registration fee.



**MISSIONARY YEAR:** Zahra is very grateful for all your support, your prayers and your kind words as she prepares for her year of mission with NET Ministries in 2025. Your generous donations will enable Zahra to receive ongoing pastoral care, ministry training, and faith formation as she answers the call to live out the Church's mission by serving with NET Ministries. Thank you for being a part of our mission, and supporting Zahra to help young people know and love Jesus.

**PIETY STALL:** 2025 Columban Calendars are now available from the Piety Stall for \$10.50 each. The Piety Stall is open for 15 minutes after each of our weekend masses.



**MASS FOR CHILDREN GONE TOO SOON:** This **Saturday November 30 at 5pm** we join together to pray for children who have gone too soon. A chance to remember in prayer babies and children who have died much, much too soon. Through a gentle flower ritual we dedicate their absent presence to Mary the Mother of God... for she too lost a son too soon. This is a time for placing our children safely into God's hands, for families to come together in a safe place to express our loss, and a chance to support our friends who grieve.



**MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS:** You are invited to join special guest Fr Peter Ferwarda, from the Marian Movement of Priests Victoria, at St Brigid's Church Cowwarr on **Monday December 02**. The day begins with mass at 10:30am, followed by Rosary and Cenacle of Prayer led by Carol Kelly and Grace Mizzi (MMP Melbourne), BYO Lunch and finishing with words from Fr Ferwarda on our Blessed Mother. All are welcome!

**FAREWELL FROM ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL:** The staff and students of St Michael's Primary school invite past and present students, parents and staff to join us as we farewell staff who will be leaving our school community at the end of 2024. Our retiring staff: Mrs Sue Hill who commenced her career at St Michael's in 1981, Mrs Debbie Gilmour who began in 2000 and Mrs Catherine Taylor who joined us in 2017. We will also farewell Mrs Jodie Ware, Mrs Louise Clarke, Mrs Sharon Dortmans, and Mrs Katie Calabrese who are moving on to new opportunities. We will gather for our end of year school mass on **Friday 6th December at 9.30am**, followed by morning tea in the hall where our leaving staff will be the guests of honour. At the end of recess, all current staff and students will gather in the hall for a special assembly. We hope many of our current and past school community will join us for this occasion.

**ADVENT LITURGY:** As we enter into a time of preparation for Christmas we call on the God of Hope to be with us and with all those who bear ongoing heartache, pain and deep anxiety, especially in the Ukraine and the Holy Land. Join us for an evening of prayer as we gather together at St Michael's to prepare for the coming of the Christ child.

**Maranatha: Come Lord- Tuesday December 10 @ 730pm**



**Christmas Mass Times 2024:**  
**RECONCILIATION: Thursday December 19 6:00pm**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE: Tuesday December 24**  
 7:00 pm Family Mass, with Carols from 6:30pm  
 11:00pm Mass, with Carols from 10:30pm  
**CHRISTMAS DAY: Wednesday December 25**  
 9:30am Mass (No evening Mass Christmas Day)

**CHRISTMAS PARADE:** The Traralgon Community Christmas Parade will be held this Sunday December 01 at 11am. **Church Street will be closed from 10:30am**, so you are encouraged to park elsewhere. The North side of Kay Street will also be closed from 9am. You are also invited to stay and enjoy the Christmas Parade and Market which will be held in the Kay Street Gardens.

**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE:** St Michael's St Vincent de Paul Conference has again organised the Christmas Giving Tree to be in our Church. Parishioners are asked to take a gift tag and return your gift/voucher to the tree before December 15. The conference would like to thank you for your support throughout the year and wish everyone a happy and Holy Christmas.

**PARISH PICNIC:** Join us on **Sunday December 15** to celebrate the season of Advent together as a parish. We will begin with a family mass on Sunday at 9:30am followed by a picnic in the St Michael's Primary School grounds. Tea and Coffee will be provided, along with a free BBQ, Fairy Floss, Popcorn and Slushies for the kids. Make something special for our Christmas themed 'Bake Off' and join us as we celebrate Father Aju's birthday and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. All are warmly invited, bring along your friends and family, as well as your own picnic and chairs. Come dressed in your favourite Christmas outfit and bring your Christmas cheer. We look forward to seeing you all there!

**ALCOHOL FREE EVENT!**  
**ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CHRISTMAS PICNIC**  
 CELEBRATING FR AJU 20TH ANNIVERSARY TO PRIESTHOOD  
 Sunday Dec 15th  
 Mass 9.30am  
 followed by picnic in the St Michaels School grounds  
 BYO morning tea and Christmas cheer  
 Contact Parish Office for more details : 5174 2060 sec@smpl.org.au

**STEWARDSHIP MATTERS**

*"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand."*

LUKE 21:28

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation of the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await his second coming. In this Advent season, use the sacrament of Reconciliation to strengthen your relationship with Jesus. It's never too late.

Rosters for December 07 & 08, 2024			Second Sunday of Advent, Year C		
	Lector	Commentator	Welcomers	Eucharistic Ministers	Musicians
<b>Saturday Dec 07 5:00pm</b>	Youth Mass	Youth Mass	Youth Mass	C Hill & J Hanratty	Awaken Ministry
<b>Sunday Dec 08 9:30am</b>	Volunteer	M Wilkinson	W Banks-Smith & D Bau	M Hansen & P Abilash	Diamente Family
<b>Sunday Dec 08 5:00pm</b>	J Panozzo-Tile	S Luscombe	T Biancon	2 x Volunteers	Jane & Simon
Church Cleaning	December	Volunteers			
Mick's Kitchen	December 05	Burns Team			

**First Reading**

Jer 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

*I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.*

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time,  
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.  
In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1

**(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

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. 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.)**
3. His ways are faithfulness and love  
for those who keep his covenant and will.  
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere  
him;  
to them he reveals his covenant. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

1 Thes 3:12 - 4:2

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

*When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.*

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus., who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Luke 21:36

*Alleluia, alleluia!**Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.**Alleluia!***Gospel**

Luke 21:25-28 34-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Your redemption is near at hand.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

## Next week's Readings

## Second Sunday of Advent Year C

First Reading:	Bartholomew 5:1-9
Second Reading:	Philippians 1:3-6 8-11
Gospel:	Luke 3:1-6