



## 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



Gospel Reflection - Mark 12:28-34

### GOD'S LOVE IS WRITTEN ON OUR HEARTS

By Timothy J Buckley CSsR

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From the moment in Chapter 12 of the Book of Genesis when God promises salvation to Abraham, the story of the Old Testament people is one of them repeatedly being called to faithfulness. In the Book of Deuteronomy, we listen to Moses, who having just received the Ten Commandments, now tells the people not to regard these Commandments as a list of instructions to be obeyed, but words to be written on their hearts.

When Jesus is questioned by the scribe about which is the first of the commandments, without hesitation, Jesus sums it all up by reminding him that everything begins and ends with the love of God and our neighbour. Happily, and for once with one of the scribes, the conversation ends in agreement and Jesus is able to assure him that he is "not far from the Kingdom of God." Notably the scribe has recognised that love is more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.

I suggest that here we have a fruitful focus for our meditation. The Law of God is not there to make life difficult for us or to catch us out, but when it is written on our hearts, it enables us to live a life of love: to live life to the full. When Jesus came into our world he presented us with a wholly new vision of God. He reveals that God is a Father who has created us for love and in sending his Son has shown us the ultimate meaning of sacrifice, for we now know that we have a God who *literally* loves us to death.

Accordingly, in the letter to the Hebrews the nature of priesthood and sacrifice is explored. Christ has made the ultimate sacrifice "once and for all." Now it is up to us to imitate his sacrificial form of loving by recognising that love is the emptying of ourselves so that we can give ourselves completely to God and our neighbour. That is precisely why we gather each Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist: the memorial of Christ's sacrifice and the means whereby he fulfils his promise to be with us always; the means whereby he unites us with himself and one another by feeding us with himself.

Jesus assured us the Holy Spirit would lead us to all truth: the truth about God, about ourselves and about the world around us. At each Eucharist we invoke the Holy Spirit to make Christ present so that we can indeed be transformed into his Body and be able to proclaim a message of love, hope, compassion and reconciliation to a world which so desperately needs more people to have God's word written on their hearts.

When we are sent forth from the Eucharist this weekend, may it be with renewed confidence that God's word is written large on our hearts.

Sourced from www.majellan.media

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Tuesday Nov 05	9:30am Mass
Wednesday Nov 06	11:00am Reconciliation 11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Mass
Thursday Nov 07	9:30am Mass* 11:00am Mass @ Dalkeith
Friday Nov 08	9:30am Mass

\*This Thursday's mass will be held at St Michael's Church NOT at St Gabriel's Primary School.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** those who have died recently including Noel O'Hara (Ireland), Giuseppe Comosso, Colm Donaghy, John Demicoli, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Mary Gilmour, Alex Abela, Pat Hanrahan, Nick Dalton, Frank Pezzuto, Michael Flynn, Sheila Rouse, Antony Urmis, and Antoinette Gordyn. *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, Valerie Joy Cahill, Nola Fitzsimon 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.*

**NOVEMBER PRAYERS:** It is our tradition to pray for those who have died and gone before us, especially in the month of November. Envelopes for November Prayer Offerings are available in both foyers and can be placed in the collection bowl or given to Father Aju directly.

You are also invited to write the name of the ones you wish to remember in prayer on the separate cards you will find in the church and place them in the large bowl, near the cross. At the beginning of each mass that you attend, take any card from the bowl and pray for the person named. At the end of mass, return the card to the bowl so that others may eventually pray for this person too.

**EXPLORING THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE:** You are invited to an online evening with Fr. Francis Otober as he guides us through the Gospel of Luke in preparation for Year C.

**Venue:** Online via Zoom

**Date:** Thursday November 07

**RSVP:** <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1312452>

### 2024 CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Christmas Eve Family Mass- 7pm with carols from 6:30pm

Christmas Eve 'Midnight' Mass- 11pm with carols from 10:30pm

Christmas Day Mass- 9:30am

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Tuesday November 05- Office Closed	
Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	
Wednesday November 06	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
Thursday November 07	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, St Michael's Church
11:00am	Mass @ Dalkeith, Dalkeith Gardens
Sunday November 10	
6:00pm	Syro-Malabar Mass in Malayalam, St Michael's Church

### UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS:

**-Friday November 15:** Come and listen to the J-Walkers as they share their experiences of the Ignite Youth Conference.

**-Sunday November 17:** Join us for coffee and cake in the Mary MacKillop Room after the 9:30am Mass to celebrate Deacon Tony's Birthday.

**-Tuesday November 26:** Catholic Women's League AGM

**-Saturday December 07:** 'Awaken' Youth Mass and Praise and Worship night, all are welcome.

**-Sunday December 15:** Join us for the annual parish picnic in the St Michael's school ground. This is a chance for the parish to get together and celebrate Advent and reflect on the past year.

**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:** Next weekend we welcome our First Holy Communion Candidates and their families for their Prayer Letter Mass. We look forward to journeying with them in the coming weeks as they prepare for the sacrament of First Holy Communion which will be celebrated at our Parish Masses November 23/24.

**YOUTH NEWS:** Last Sunday our Jr J-Walkers met before mass to learn more about this week's gospel and to share their faith. Afterwards, they did a wonderful job of leading and organizing our Youth Mass. Thank you to our readers, musicians, welcomers, money collectors, altar servers and everyone else who helped out on the day. Thank you to our Youth Leaders who helped support them, lead them and feed them afterwards. We are also grateful for the patience and support of all our parishioners as they help guide and support our next generation as they learn and grow in their faith. Please continue to keep our young ones in your prayers, especially those who are preparing for their upcoming Year 12 exams. May they be blessed with calm hearts, focused minds and good outcomes.



You are also invited to join our J-Walkers on Friday November 15 as they share their personal experiences of the recent Ignite conference. It has been great hearing a bit about it at our recent masses and we encourage you to come along and hear more.



**ALL SAINTS EVE:** The children of our parish celebrated the eve of All Saint's Day by dressing up as their favourite saints on Thursday night. Thank you to all those who helped organise and support the event, we look forward to doing it again next year.



**SHINING A LIGHT:** In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that the greatest commandment is to love God and our neighbour as ourselves. Domestic violence violates this commandment by harming those we are called to love and protect. For the next 2 weeks, parishes across the Diocese of Sale will unite in Shining the Light on Domestic Violence, praying for its end. We are called to stand together to create a safer, more compassionate community.



**OUR STORIES - OUR CHURCH - OUR MISSION**

**DIOCESAN CONSULTATION- PHASE 2- LOOKING FORWARD:**

Our parish has now finished phase two of the consultation process where we looked forward in preparation for our Diocesan Assembly which will be held on February 14-15 2025. For those unable to join our parish workshops, you can submit your response online at <https://www.cdsale.org.au/assembly24-25>.

**DIOCESAN MISSION COUNCIL- October meeting:** The Diocese of Sale Mission Council held its October meeting at St Jarlath's Church Hall, Yarragon. The theme of the opening prayer focussed on Pope Francis's latest encyclical 'He Loved Us – On the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ'. Bishop Greg gave his report on recent developments and activities in the Diocese. A report on the Synod on Synodality in Rome was submitted and discussed. Some time was spent discussing the experience of the Diocesan Consultation process and planning for the February 2025 Diocesan Assembly. Council members also explored the focus of their work in 2025, as well as determining next year's meeting dates and times. The Council was very appreciative of the hospitality provided by the ladies of the St Jarlath's community.

**DIOCESE OF SALE- POSITION VACANT: Diocesan Safeguarding Officer-** Permanent part-time role at 2.5 FTE based in Sion House in Warragul, a short walk from the Warragul Railway Station and a commutable distance from Melbourne. As the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, you will contribute to the development and continual improvement of our safeguarding procedures and policies in relation to the Diocese and its parishes. Applications Including a cover letter and copy of your current Resume addressing the selection criteria and how your qualifications and skills align to the requirements of the Position Description, should be forwarded to Mary Winter (Business Manager) by email [maryw@sale.catholic.org.au](mailto:maryw@sale.catholic.org.au) by 4pm 8 November 2024. For further information and a copy of the Position Description relating to this position, contact Mary Winter by email [maryw@sale.catholic.org.au](mailto:maryw@sale.catholic.org.au) or by phone (03) 5622 6600.

**INVITATION TO AN ECUMENICAL ADVENT CONVERSATION:**

Bishop Richard Treloar, Anglican Bishop of Gippsland and Bishop Greg Bennet, Catholic Bishop of Sale invite clergy and lay people from both Dioceses to join them for an Advent Conversation. A seasonal study of Old and New Testament passages drawn from our common lectionary alongside some of the great Advent Themes. This will be held from **10am - 3.30pm on Friday 29 November** at The Abbey, Raymond Island. The Cost is \$25 per person which includes morning tea and lunch. For more information and to book your place, please RSVP by November 22 to [info@theabbey.org.au](mailto:info@theabbey.org.au)



**OFFICE CLOSED:** The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday November 05 due to the Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday.

**STEWARDSHIP MATTERS**

*"And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself' is worth more than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices." (Mark 12:33)*

Of all the gifts that God gives us, the one He wants the most is our heart. He wants us to share out of our love for Him, not out of obligation. Using our talent in parish ministry and contributing money to support our parish mission is important, but it's more important to spend time in prayer with God daily and discern how He is calling us to be generous with all of our gifts. Not just the visible ones, but the invisible ones like love, mercy and forgiveness.

Rosters for November 09 & 10, 2024			32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B		
	Lector	Commentator	Welcomer	Eucharistic Minister	Musicians
<b>Saturday Nov 09 5:00pm</b>	R Webber	A Taylor	A Membrey & Volunteer	C Payne & Volunteer	Jane & Simon
<b>Sunday Nov 10 9:30am</b>	M Hansen & C Muvhundu	M Tainsh	W Banks-Smith & D Bau	M Hansen, P Abilash & Volunteer	Diamente Family
<b>Sunday Nov 10 5:00pm</b>	Volunteer	S Darby	T Biancon & Volunteer	2 x volunteers	Jane & Simon
Church Cleaning	November 04	Collis Team			
Mick's Kitchen	November 07	Cartledge Team		November 14	St Michael's Staff
Touring Statue of our Lady	November 04	St Michael's School		November 11	St Gabriel's School

**First Reading**

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

*Hear Israel, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.*

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R.v.2

**(R.) I love you Lord, my strength.**

I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.  
The Lord is worthy of all praise:  
when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R)**

Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
Praised be to the God that saves me.  
He has given great victories to his king  
and shown love for his anointed. **(R)**

**Second Reading**

Hebrews 7:23-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*This one, because he remains for ever, has an eternal priesthood.*

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

**Gospel Acclamation**

John 14:23

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them,  
and we will come to them.  
Alleluia!*

**Gospel**

Mk 12:28-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.*

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

Next week's Readings  
32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading:	1 Kings 17:10-16
Second Reading:	Hebrews 9:24-28
Gospel:	Mark 12:38-44