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Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

November 17, 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.

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



**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Weekly Reflection by Greg Sunter**

Gospel Reflection: The whole of chapter 13 in the Gospel of Mark is devoted to a discourse about the future. In the section preceding this week's passage, Jesus has foretold the destruction of the Temple and the fall of Jerusalem. He has also predicted war on a massive scale and the persecution of his followers. Now, in this passage, Jesus predicts the return of the Son of Man and the fulfilment of the kingdom of God. Why does the gospel include such an extended description of the collapse of the world as it was? Because that's exactly what was going on around the community of this gospel writer! This gospel is understood to have been written somewhere in the period 70-75 CE. In the year 70 CE the city of Jerusalem was besieged by Roman troops who stormed the city and destroyed it. As a sign of complete disdain for the people of Jerusalem and a mark of overwhelming victory, the Romans burnt and completely destroyed the Temple in the heart of Jerusalem. For the entire Jewish community, this was absolute devastation. The destruction of the Temple surely marked the coming of the end times – the day of judgment and completion of this world. The community gathered around this gospel writer were no less affected. On top of this, the Roman Emperors were reaching new heights (or depths) in their persecution of the followers of Jesus.

In the midst of this despair and fear, the followers of Jesus are challenged to remember the teachings of the one they follow. This passage is written for them as an encouragement to not give up in the face of what appears to be overwhelming odds. It is a call to hope. Although we can understand the context in which it was originally written, we are also challenged to apply its message of hope and perseverance to our own lives.

Historical Context – 70 CE: In 66 CE a Jewish revolt against Roman occupation began in Caesarea and soon spread to most of the country. By the year 68 the sheer weight of Roman numbers had stamped out a lot of the rebellion. The leaders of the revolt rallied again in Jerusalem and in the year 70 the Roman armies laid siege to the city for several months. Finally, Titus, the emperor Vespasian's son, led an assault on the city and the Romans ransacked and burnt the entire city. The treasures of the Temple were looted and the Temple itself – the very centre of Jewish religion – was destroyed.

Living the Gospel – People of Hope: Whilst the community who were the intended audience of the Gospel of Mark were expecting the return of Jesus and the end times to occur during their lifetimes, nearly two thousand years later we realise that wasn't the case. Today, as in Mark's time, many people approach the future and change with fear and apprehension. As Christian people we are called to be optimistic and hopeful as we approach the future. We know that God is good, that God loves us unconditionally and that God has a dream for us. That is the simple basis of Christian hope.

Sunday Mass Times		
Saturday	5:00pm	Mass
Sunday	9:30am	Mass
	5:00pm	Mass
Weekday Mass Times		
Tuesday Nov 19	9:30am	Mass
	10:45am	Mass at Margery Cole
Wednesday Nov 20	11:00am	Exposition
	12:00pm	Liturgy
Thursday Nov 21	9:30am	Mass*
Friday Nov 22	9:30am	Mass

*This Thursday's parish mass will be held at St Gabriel's Primary School with their Year 3 students. All are welcome.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: those who have died recently including Anne-Maree Kelly, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Giovanni Di Sisto, Kevin Jones, Yetty Glaubitz, Greg Penny, Nellise Crowe. *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.*

NO RECONCILIATION THIS WEEK: Father Aju will be away on Wednesday therefore Reconciliation will not be available. Exposition will begin at 11am and Deacon Tony will lead Liturgy with Communion at 12pm during the usual mass time.

MISSIONARY YEAR: We are very proud and excited to announce that one of our original J-Walker's, Zahra Hanratty has been accepted into the Net AUS & NZ missionary Team in 2025! Congratulations Zahra! Zahra has been an active parishioner at St Michael's for most of her life and during that time has participated in many different ministries. In 2023 our parish supported her journey to Portugal for World Youth Day and she has felt God calling her to mission ever since. In January she will travel to Brisbane for a 6 week training period and after that will find out where in Australia or New Zealand she will settle for the remainder of the year. She will live with 5 other young people aged 18-30 and will spend her days supporting other young people in their faith journey in Secondary Schools, Parishes, Youth Groups and Universities. She needs to fundraise \$6,900 to cover her travel to and from the place she will serve in, food, accommodation, insurance, and any other costs involved in her year of mission. If you would like to sponsor or donate to her year of mission, please contact the Parish office or speak to Zahra directly. All proceeds from this Sunday's J-Walkers Coffee cart will go towards Zahra's mission year. Our Parish is producing fruit and we are excited to continue supporting our young people discover the love of Jesus.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Tuesday November 19	
10:45am	Mass @ Margery Cole, Yallambee Assisted Living, Traralgon
Thursday November 21	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, St Michael's Church
Saturday November 23 - Sunday November 24	
First Holy Communion Celebrations at each of our parish masses	

Save the Date! Upcoming Parish Events!

-Sunday November 17: Parish Morning Tea after the 9:30am Mass to celebrate Deacon Tony's Birthday.

-Tuesday November 26: Catholic Women's League AGM

-Saturday November 30: Mass for Children who have gone too soon.

-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.

BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome for baptism **Vada Jane Stute**, daughter of Eythan and Mikayla. Congratulations and welcome to our parish!



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.

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: This weekend we welcome our First Holy Communion Candidates and their families for their Presentation Pin Mass. We look forward to celebrating their First Holy Communion with them at our Parish Masses next weekend.



YOUTH NEWS: You are invited to join us for coffee and cake in the Mary MacKillop Hall this Sunday November 17 after the 9:30am Mass.

The Coffee Cart will be open with all funds raised going to Zahra's Missionary Year with NET Ministries.

CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY PROCESSION: A meeting will be held after the 9:30am mass this Sunday in the Mary MacKillop Hall for all families who would like to take part in the nativity procession at this year's Christmas Eve Mass. All children are welcome and encouraged to take part, there is role for everyone! Please contact the parish office on 5174 2060 or via email sec@smpt.org.au to register your interest.



MORNING TEA: Happy Birthday Deacon Tony! Join us in the Mary MacKillop Hall after the 9:30am mass for birthday cake to celebrate his special day! It is also a great opportunity to farewell our longtime parishioners Martin and Judi McLaughlin who will be leaving our parish next week to be closer to family in Adelaide. You will be dearly missed and we are grateful for all your support over many years as parishioners of St Michael's.

NEWS FROM OUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC): Our PPC met on Tuesday evening for the last time for 2024. They farewelled the current chairperson Judi McLaughlin who is leaving our parish, along with our school representatives Brett Van Berkel, and Jodie Ware who are taking on appointments at other schools next year. We are grateful for their contributions to the PPC and the wider parish and wish them all the best for their future endeavours. We now have a position open on the PPC for next year and are taking nominations. Nominees should be passionate parishioners who are committed to their faith and their church, who work well with others, have a positive and hopeful outlook, have time and energy, and are reliable and trustworthy. Nomination forms are available in both church foyers and can then be placed in the weekly collection bowls once completed, or handed to Fr Aju directly.

PARISH CENSUS: Thank you to all those who took part in our recent parish census. It is important to know and understand our parish dynamic so we can make sure that everyone is known and has a voice. We received 428 responses from parishioners aged 15 and above, of which 60% were female and 40% were male. We had a fairly even spread of ages across the board with 7% of our parishioners aged 15-20, 20% aged 21-40, 25% were between 41-60 and 14% are older than 80. Our largest group were aged 61-80 years old and made up 34% of our respondents. We look forward to sharing more details with you in the coming weeks.

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 Mass Offerings are available in both foyers and can be placed in the collection bowl during mass 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 cards at the cross and place them in the bowl. At the beginning of each mass, 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 pray for this person too.

MASS FOR CHILDREN GONE TOO SOON: Join us for a special mass on **Saturday November 30 at 5pm** 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.



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 all parishioners for their support throughout the year and wish everyone a happy and Holy Christmas.

SHINING A LIGHT: In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the dark times to come and the hope of His return in glory. Domestic violence brings its own darkness into our world, but we are called to work toward healing and peace in our communities. Parishes across the Diocese of Sale are uniting in Shining a Light on Domestic Violence, praying for its end. Let us stand together to create a safer, more compassionate community.

DIOCESE OF SALE- POSITION VACANT: Operations Accountant
The Diocese of Sale is seeking a qualified Accountant to assist the Diocesan Business Manager in the day-to-day financial operations of the Diocese and its associated entities. This is a permanent part time role of 30 hours per week with flexible days to be negotiated. Applications will be open until 5pm Monday 25 November. For further information please see the Positions Vacant section of our website <https://www.cdsale.org.au/job-vacancies> or contact Mary Winter by email at maryw@sale.catholic.org.au

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

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory." (Mark 13:26)

We will all have that day when we are standing before God and our life is played out like a movie. When this happens and God asks each of us, "What have you done with the gifts that I have given you?" How will you respond? The good news – it's never too late to live and grateful and generous lifestyle.

Rosters for November 23 & 24, 2024			Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year B		
	Lector	Commentator	Welcomers	Eucharistic Ministers	Musicians
Saturday Nov 23 5:00pm	R Foote & T Larkin	S Grout	C Payne & Volunteer	A Reid & C Payne	Diamente Family
Sunday Nov 24 9:30am	C McLure & R Diaz	T Denny	M Blanchard & A Sykes	P Abilash, W Banks-Smith & R Varghese	Jane & Simon
Sunday Nov 24 5:00pm	Youth Mass	Youth Mass	Youth Mass	Youth Mass	Zahra & Josh
Church Cleaning	November 19	Collis Team			
Mick's Kitchen	November 21	Hemming Team		November 28	Scholtes Team
Touring Statue of our Lady	November 18	J Scholtes			

First Reading

Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the prophet Daniel

When that time comes your own people will be spared.

'At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.'

Responsorial Psalm

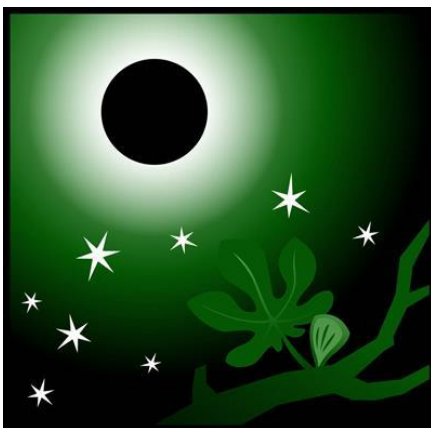
Ps 15:5. 8-11. R.v.1

(R.) *Keep me safe, O God:
you are my hope.*

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.
(R.)

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. **(R.)**

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness forever. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**

Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

By a single offering he has achieved the eternal perfection of those who are sanctified.

All the priests stand at their duties every day, offering over and over again the same sacrifices which are quite incapable of taking sins away. Christ, on the other hand, has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place for ever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying. When all sins have been forgiven, there can be no more sin offerings.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 21:36

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Be watchful, and pray constantly,
that you may be worthy to stand before
the Son of Man.*

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 13:24-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He shall gather his elect from the four winds.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you, when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

Next week's Readings: Feast of Christ the King	
First Reading:	Daniel 7:13-14
Second Reading:	Apocalypse 1:5-8
Gospel:	John 18:33-37