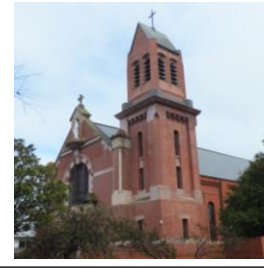




St Michael's Parish, Traralgon
in partnership with
St Mary's Parish, Yarram
and including
St Columbkille's, Glengarry
St Gerard's Woodside



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.

St Mary's Vision Statement: The Council aims to foster and encourage all baptized Catholics to grow in their love of Jesus, their fidelity to the Catholic Church and to reach out to all members of our worldwide community.

St Mary's Mission Statement: To foster and co-ordinate activities that encourage all baptized Catholics to take responsibility for the life and mission of their Church.

Statement of Commitment to the Safety of Children and Vulnerable Adults: Central to the mission of St Michael's and St Mary's Parishes is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children, young people and vulnerable adults and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

St Michael's Parish Information

web: www.smpt.org.au

Fr Bernard Buckley Parish Priest

Fr Prasanna Costa Assistant Priest

Parish Centre 5174 2060

Priests' Residence: 5174 6765

56 Loch Park Road, Traralgon

Sr Doreen Dagge RSJ 5174 9997

Monsignor John Allman

O'Mara House 5174 9674

St Michael's Parish Office 5174 2060

33 Kay Street, Traralgon Fax 5174 2981

Parish Secretary: Mrs Bev O'Brien

Email: sec@smpt.org.au

Office hours –

Tuesday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm

Sacraments Admin: Mrs Jenifer Hanratty

Baptisms: Four weeks notice required

Weddings: Six months notice required

Parish Pastoral Council

Susan Grout Chairperson, Fr Bernard, Fr Prasanna, Sr Doreen, Greg Imhagwe, Rose Pearson, Kevin Taylor, Ray Moretti, Rob Tarraran, Jan Fitzpatrick, Ros Joyner, Doug Doherty and Chris DiCorleto.

Our Schools:

St Gabriel's School 5174 5515

Principal: Mrs Roslyn Joyner

St Michael's School 5174 3295

Acting Principal: Miss Jan Fitzpatrick

Lavalla Catholic College 5174 5272

Principal: Mr John Freeman

Kildare Campus 5174 8111

Director: Mr Doug Doherty

St Paul's Campus 5174 7355

Director: Ms Lee McKenzie

GETTING A HANDLE ON ADVENT:

Advent is in many ways difficult to come to grips with. This is especially so in Australia where it comes at the beginning of summer, as the school and working years conclude and beaches and barbeques beckon. There is a tendency for the busy-ness of shopping, parties and planning for Christmas Day to overtake the rhythm of the church year.

What then do we make of Advent? It is, of course, the curtain raiser and very much part of the Christmas season which continues through the feasts of the Mother of God, the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord. In the background is always Mary's 'Yes', which grounds these marvelous events and shows us how to respond.

The special focus of Advent, as the word's origins indicate, can be summed up in the phrase *Here he comes*. As we enter its meaning, we look back in time, look forward in time and open our eyes fully to the present.

'Nation will not lift up sword against nation, there will be no more training for war!' announced the prophet Isaiah on the first Sunday of Advent. We can connect with the longing of the Chosen People for peace as they waited for God to intervene and bring justice on earth.

We prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus as the beginning of the decisive answer to those prayers. As we look back in time and identify with our ancestors in faith, we marvel at how God's answer went beyond anything they had dreamt. *Here he comes*.

A Saviour has been born for us, has died and risen for us. We look for him to come again, because we do not yet see the fullness of his Kingdom. This looking forward in time is the second meaning of *Here he comes*. In the epistle readings of Advent, Paul and James urge their communities – and us – to wait patiently for the completion of our salvation.

And *here he comes* right now. Christ is present today in his Church in word, sacrament and community. We can see him in the faces of the poor, the suffering and the powerless.

Advent is a time to let the Holy Spirit open our eyes to the presence of Jesus Christ alive today, even within ourselves. Every Christian in some way conceives and gives birth to the Word of God. In the faith, we bring Christ to a world that is waiting.

The period of Advent and Christmas is a time for us to ponder more deeply and proclaim to the world the Word of God made flesh. In this season, every Christian is called to share, through whatever opportunities the Lord provides, the good news that God has entered our human condition to unite us to him.

Maranatha. Come Lord Jesus!



SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Saturday	6:00pm	St Michael's Traralgon
Sunday	9:30am	St Michael's Traralgon
	10:00am	St Mary's Yarram
	10:00am	St Columbkille's Glengarry
	6:00 pm	St Michael's Traralgon

WEEKDAY LITURGY TIMES

12th December to 17th December

Mon 12	9:30am	Community Liturgy of the Word, St Michael's Mass, Crossley House, Yarram
	6:00pm	St Michael's PS Graduation Mass
	7:00pm	Prayers at the Crib, St Mary's Mass,
Wed 14	10:00am	St Mary's Mass, St Michael's
	12:00pm	St Michael's
	5:30pm	St Gabriel's PS Graduation Mass, St Michael's
Thu 15	9:30am	Mass, St Michael's
Fri 16	9:30am	Mass, St Michael's
	7:00pm	Prayers at the Crib, St Michael's
Sat 17	9:30am	Mass, St Michael's

Rosary: Tuesday to Sunday 30 minutes before Mass.

Reconciliation: Saturdays 10:15am & 5:30pm or any time by arrangement with Father.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We remember those who have died recently including Olga O'Brien, Eileen Orr, Margaret Caffry and Ailsa Hall and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Fr David Cagney, Danny, Bridget and Eamonn Hiney, Nell and Alf Hammond, Salvatore Agostino, and Giovanni and Caterina Lombardo.

Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

including Adrian Stasinowsky, Pat O'Mara, Robert Hazelman, Alan Douche, Pearce Morgan, Veronica Barter, Tony Tactor, Fr Frank Freeman, Jan Gilmour, Mary O'Brien, Carolyn Gleeson, Barry Felmingham, Gary Donchi, Anna Lapuh, Fergus Darmody, Louis Janssen, Rita Sweeney, Peter Heron, Mia Coulthard, Father Frank Young, Sarah Parker **and all who seek our prayers.**



PRAYERS AT THE CRIB:

On Friday December 16th, a service of Carols and Scripture will be held at the Crib. We will begin this lovely service at 7:00pm. All are welcome.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF

ADULTS (RCIA): Are you interested in becoming a Catholic? Is someone you know interested?



Come and see. The RCIA programme is being held on Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9:00pm in the Parish Centre – all welcome. If you are interested in finding out more, please don't hesitate to contact Susan Grout on 0412 671308.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEWS: Thanks to Susan Luscombe and Julie Fleming for organizing the two formation sessions held last week. Thanks too, to the six 'new' people who are willing to help us celebrate the Eucharist by serving as Eucharistic Ministers.

Further formation sessions will be held in the new year. It would be nice to be able take "Volunteer" off this roster. Copies of the information given to Eucharist Ministers can be found in a folder at the back of the Church. All Eucharistic Ministers are invited to take a copy to read, so you can be up to date with everything

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: At our meeting on Wednesday evening the PPC were fortunate to have four students from Lavalla Catholic College bring their youthfully enthusiastic views about the place of youth in the Church. Their presentation was well thought out and they've certainly given us plenty to address in the future. Our thanks to Doug Doherty for his encouragement and guidance of these youngsters.

The meeting also discussed the Child Safety Code of Conduct which has now been adopted by our Parish. All staff, contract workers and visitors to our Parish are required to sign this statement. All on the PPC would like to extend warm Christmas wishes to Fr Bernard, Fr Prasanna, Sr Doreen and all our parishioners.



BAPTISMS: This week, we welcome for baptism Honor Haven MacGregor and Henley Cove Thomas MacGregor children of Jason and Lisa Marie; and Stevie-Marie Marino, daughter of Daniel and Renee. Our congratulations to the families, from us all.



The next meeting for those preparing for Baptism is on **Wednesday 14th December at 7:00pm in the Parish Centre.** Please contact the Parish Office on 5174 2060 for further information.



CHRISTMAS MASSES AROUND THE

DIOCESE: Christmas Mass times in the Diocese of Sale are now available on the Diocesan Website. The link to find out about Christmas Mass times is - <http://www.sale.catholic.org.au/parishes/christmas-masses.html>.

GIFTING TREE: Thanks to all parishioners who so generously gave gifts to be distributed by the St Vincent de Paul Society this year.

Your generosity will help make a difference for a number of families. Thanks, and God bless!



Mick's Kitchen News:

Adrienne Lloyd from Bullet Proof Bodies has generously offered to run a Bootcamp from 9am to 10am on Saturday December 17th at Harold Preston Reserve, Davidson Street, Traralgon for \$15.00 per person. Adrienne will donate the proceeds of the Bootcamp to Mick's Kitchen. Adrienne, a huge thanks from us all here at St Michael's, and at Mick's Kitchen. So, let's see as many parishioners there as possible!

Mick's Kitchen will close on Friday December 16 and re-open on Thursday January 05, 2017. With huge thanks to our Team members and the Team Leaders in particular.

Christmas Mass Time 2016



Christmas Eve

6:00pm Mass, St Gerard's, Woodside

7:00pm Family Mass, St Michael's

All children of the parish and their families are warmly invited to attend our Christmas Eve Family Mass dressed in shepherd, wise men and angels costumes.

7:30pm Carols singing, Glengarry

8:00pm Mass, St Columbkille's

8:00pm Family Mass, St Mary's

10:30pm Carols singing, St Michael's

11:00pm Mass, St Michael's



Christmas Day

9:30am Mass, St Michael's

10:00am Mass, St Mary's

FAMILY CHRISTMAS MASS: Children who would like to represent Mary and Joseph, three kings and three shepherds, and the angel Gabriel at this Mass, please contact Carol on 5174 7712. Could all those interested, please meet in the St Mary MacKillop Room after 9:30am Mass on Sunday December 18. Thank you.

SACRAMENTAL JOURNEYS: Many of you would have been at Mass last Saturday and have seen a number of our young children receive their Certificates for First Reconciliation. It is marvellous that fifty-two children of our parish have started to make their own steps in their sacramental journeys. After Mass, the children and their families shared pizza in the Mary MacKillop Hall. Congratulations to the children, and to their families. May their family life be enriched greatly by this new level of faith understanding.

A huge thanks to Mrs Jenifer Hanratty and to all the members of the Sacramental Team for all their work throughout the year.

It's been a busy time in the office for Jen H, as enrolments for the Sacraments in 2017 have come in. Currently, we have 43 students enrolled for Reconciliation; 32 students enrolled for First Communion, and 38 students enrolled for Confirmation. If you know of anyone who hasn't yet enrolled for next year, could you please gently remind them? Please drop any enrolments into the Parish Office.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: The CPG will meet for the last time in 2016 this coming Thursday evening at 7:30pm in the Mary MacKillop Hall. All are welcome to come and join in! Enquiries to Cathy on 5174 3001.

FINANCE MATTERS:

"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." JAMES 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

Weekend December 03 & 04

First Collection \$1194.00

Planned Giving Envelopes \$2640.00

Electronic Giving

November \$8978.40

Thank you for your generosity. If you wish to have further information about our Planned Giving programme please contact the Parish Office.

Counters:

Dec 11 Morris Team

Dec 18 Mitchell Team



Rosters for December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

Mass	Lector	Commentator	Eucharistic Ministers	Welcomers	Music	Sacristan
Saturday 6:00pm	Sr Doreen	C Livesey	C DiCorleto, B Power, M Giddens, D Buckland	H Luque	Diamante family	P & S Armstrong
Sunday 9:30 am	S Grout N Georgeson	C McCabe	P Carlin, T Denny, J & W Waanders, T&L Panozzo-Tilé	R Benbow, M Blanchard	Charismatic choir	P & L Van der Velden
Sunday 6:00pm	C Blackford	J Hayes	J Reid, Rob Tarraran, D Locke, Volunteer	D Buckland	Rod Hayes & Co.	A O'Neill

- **Altar Cleaning:** December 12 J Scholtes December 19 Sheila Edgar
- **Church Cleaning:** December Van Berkel Team
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word:** December 18 Team 4 C McCabe, S & A Reid
- **Mick's Kitchen:** December 15 Keppitipola Team January 05 May Team
- **Touring Statue of Our Lady:** December 18 Mr & Mrs E Kanara December 25 J & L Zalesiak

Please contact the family before you leave the statue to make sure they are home. Thank you.

For further information regarding roster please contact: Marie Moulton 5174 0938 Email: memou_38@bigpond.com

**Lighting the Advent Candle
for the Third Sunday of Advent
"Christ our Light brings about change in us"**

On this third Sunday of Advent, as we light the candles, we are called to look for the presence of the Lord, for He is near to us. The candles are now lit.

Penitential Rite:**Celebrant:** Lord Jesus, you bless us with every good gift.**Response: Come be with me.****Celebrant:** Lord Jesus, you baptize us with water and the Holy Spirit**Response: Come be with me****Celebrant:** Lord Jesus, you are the bearer of Good News**Response: Come be with me.****Celebrant:** Let us pray,

that we recognize the Lord when He is with us.

Opening Prayer: All powerful God, set your words in our hearts so we can come to know your joy and peace. May we recognize you in each person and walk in your ways, always doing what is right and good. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.**Entrance Antiphon** Phil 4:4-5

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.*

First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy in their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:6-10 R see Is 35:4**(R.) Lord, come and save us.**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading Jas 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

*Alleluia, alleluia!**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;**he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.**Alleluia!***Gospel**

Mt 3:1-12

Mt 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

**Next weeks Readings****4th Sunday of Advent Year A**

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24