



## 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

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

Office hours –  
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

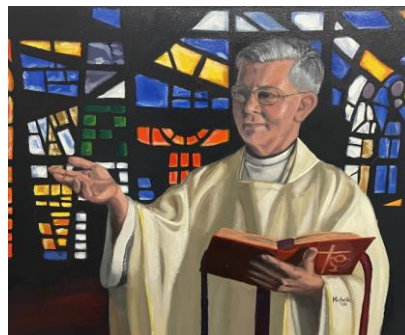
**Parish Pastoral Council:** Fr Aju Varghese, Deacon Tony Aspinall, Ben Kennedy, Brett Van Berkel, Cath Hill, Cathy McLure, Elizabeth Joseph, Jenifer Hanratty, Jodie Ware, Judi McLaughlin (chairperson), Kim Zerafa, Michael Hansen (deputy chairperson), Michelle Charlton, and Roy Varghese.

### 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



Congratulations Father Peter on the

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Of your ordination to the priesthood

This weekend we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Father Peter Bickley's ordination to the priesthood. Father Peter has worked in many parishes throughout our Diocese during his priesthood and we are looking forward to coming together from all corners to celebrate him this weekend.

He was ordained a priest in 1974 and celebrated his first mass at Sacred Heart in his home town of Morwell, surrounded by his family and friends. He began his journey of priesthood as an assistant priest here at St Michael's Traralgon until he moved to St Mary's Cathedral Sale in January 1979. There he became the Bishop's Secretary before moving to St Mary's Bairnsdale in 1984 to be their Assistant Priest. Later that year he moved to Orbost for his first placement as a Parish Priest, where he stayed until 1987, before moving to Lumen Christi Churchill where he was the Parish Priest until 1993. From there he became the Administrator at St Mary's Cathedral Sale, before moving back to St Michael's Traralgon to take on the role of Parish Priest where he stayed until 2011. From 2011-2016 he was the Parish Priest at St Mary's Bairnsdale, before returning to St Mary's Cathedral Sale as Dean of the Cathedral until his retirement in January 2022. After enjoying a full week of retirement, he was asked to look after the parishes of Leongatha and Korumburra which he quickly agreed to. It had only been a week, but he was already missing his flock.

Father Peter makes friends wherever he goes, and has been warmly welcomed throughout his parishes over the years, joining people of all ages and backgrounds together with song and faith, football and laughter.

Father Peter is well known for his pastoral care and love of the Geelong Football Club. He has always taken the time to be with his people and journey with them in good times and bad. He has celebrated many weddings, baptisms and funerals, often baptising the children of children he baptised. Even now in his 'retirement' he looks after parishes while parish priests are away, helps with funerals throughout the diocese and is often visiting parishioners at home, at hospital and in aged care. His love of his people and his dedication to his faith and his chosen vocation are an inspiration to us all and we are grateful for all he has done during his priesthood. We look forward to many more celebrations together.

Sunday Mass Times	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass
Sunday	9:30am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Weekday Mass Times	
Monday May 27	11:00am Mass
Tuesday May 28	9:30am Mass
Wednesday May 29	11:00am Reconciliation 11:00am Exposition 12:00pm Healing Mass
Thursday May 30	9:30am Mass*
Friday May 31	9:30am Mass

\*Mass this Thursday will be held at St Gabriel's Primary School. Parishioners are welcome and encouraged to join the students as they celebrate their class masses in the school chapel.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** those who have died recently including Rosaria Fede, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time including Vincent Bernard Vaz, Amanda O'Brien, Simon O'Brien, Kevin Fitzsimon, Margaret Hoggard, and Max Maloney. *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, John Waanders, Peter Dal Pra, Jane Eric, Rose Xuereb, Peter Lorinc, Don Barnes, Paul Laurie, Gus Agostino, Sharon Veleff, Jenny Hansch, Rosemarie Kays, Fr Andrew Wise, Jamie Mack 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.*

**THANK YOU:** Audrey and the Ward family would like to thank you for your kindness, by word, by deed and by presence after Roy's passing. They are very grateful for your love and support during this difficult time and would like to pass on their thanks.

**FR AJU AWAY:** Father Aju is heading off on a much deserved holiday after a busy time in our parish. He will be heading home to India to spend some time with his family and friends. While he is away, Father Peter and Deacon Tony will be taking care of us and mass times will run as normal. We wish Father Aju all the best for his holiday and look forward to hearing all about it when he returns for Mass on Saturday June 22.

**HEALING MASS:** Join us this **Wednesday May 29 at 12pm** for a Healing Mass here at St Michael's Church. We will offer prayers for individual healing for those who are unwell, in mind body or spirit. Anyone who needs healing should come along or we can pray for those who can't make it, just let us know.



**BAPTISMS:** Our next Baptism Preparation meeting will be held on **Tuesday July 02 at 7pm** in the church. Please contact the parish office for more information and to register your interest.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:	
Monday May 27	
11:00am	Vocational Mass for Fr Peter, St Michael's Church
Tuesday May 28	
10:00am	Catholic Women's League Meeting, Mary MacKillop Room
Wednesday May 29	
11:00am	Reconciliation, St Michael's Church
12:00pm	Healing Mass, St Michael's Church
Thursday May 30	
10:30am	Charismatic Prayer Group, Mary MacKillop Room
Friday May 31	
9:30am	St Michael's Class Mass Gr 5/6, St Michael's Church



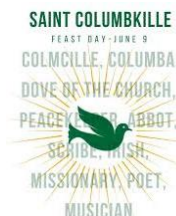
**RCIA:** Do you have a question about what Catholics believe or are you considering becoming a Catholic yourself? Come to the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) sessions where we can answer your questions and shed light on what Catholics believe. Please contact the parish office for more information or to register your interest. An information session will be held in the Parish Centre on **Tuesday July 23** from 7:30pm to 9:00pm for anyone interested in learning more about joining the Catholic faith.

**CONFIRMATION:** Congratulations to our confirmation candidates who received the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on Friday May 24. We were blessed to have Bishop Greg Bennet and many of our parishioners join our celebration and support our young people on the next step of their faith journey. May the power of the Holy Spirit guide them as they become strong disciples of Christ.



**YOUTH NEWS:** Our J-Walkers met on Friday night for an evening of fun, faith and formation. Congratulations to the winners of the Amazing Race, Connie, Etse, Kevin, Anet and Zahra while the losing team must now organise next month's activities. Teams had to complete ten tasks including parables, Holy Spirit, tithing, scripture, testimony and saints before sorting the books of the bible. A fun time was had by all and we are very grateful to Jen and Steve for all the time and effort they put into organizing and running these events for our young parishioners. This Sunday we celebrate the Church's first World Children's Day with our Jr J-Walkers meeting from 3pm, followed by Youth Mass at 5pm and then supper in the hall. All are welcome.

**ST COLUMBKILLE'S DAY:** Parishioners are invited to celebrate the Feast of Saint Columbkille on **Sunday June 09** with Mass at 9:30am, followed by morning tea in the Mary MacKillop Hall. We would really like as many of our Glengarry parishioners to join us on this day as possible, so please come along and spread the word to others who attended mass at St Columbkille's.

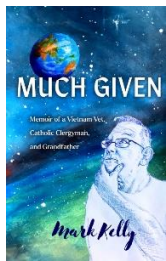


**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:** The next meeting of the Traralgon Catholic Women's League will be held **on Tuesday May 28 at 10:00am** in the Mary MacKillop Room.



**PENTECOST SUNDAY:** Thank you to all those who attended our Pentecost celebrations last Sunday. Our church was alive with the Holy Spirit as people from all nations came together to celebrate their faith and their culture. It was wonderful to

see the national flags of our heritage on the sanctuary, highlighting the multicultural makeup of our parish. Thank you to our wonderful readers who translated the prayers of the faithful into Portuguese, Filipino, Malayalam, Shona, Maltese, and Dutch. Thank you to those who joined us afterwards for morning tea in the Mary MacKillop Hall where we were treated to special dishes from all around the world. Thank you to all the parishioners who came along and supported our morning tea, bringing food, stories and items to celebrate and share their culture and traditions with each other. Congratulations to our Parish Pastoral Council for organizing such a wonderful event for our parish, our team leaders for organizing their groups and their tables, and all those who worked behind the scenes in the lead up and on the day to make sure all was well organized and ran smoothly. To everyone who cooked and baked, who helped set up and who stayed behind to clean afterwards, thank you! It was a team effort and a lot of time was put in by many parishioners across the board. It was a great reflection of the spirit of Pentecost, particularly the rich diversity of our parish. It was a really special day and we look forward to doing it again next year.



**MUCH GIVEN BY DEACON MARK KELLY:**

Finally, Deacon Mark's long-awaited book, Much Given, is available! All profits will go to the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project (BASP). Deacon Mark has previously been a parishioner here at St Michael's and is now the chaplain at Marist Sion Warragul. He hopes you will relate to much of what he has written as he

reflects on his life as a Vietnam Veteran, Catholic Clergyman and Grandfather, while wondering about the meaning of life. Deacon Mark's book is available to purchase from him directly for the amount of \$28.95 (plus \$9 postage if required). It is also available from Booktopia however it is better to order it directly from Deacon Mark to maximise the donation for BASP. We will also be taking orders on his behalf through the parish office, so please contact Cath to place your order.

**THE DIOCESE OF SALE CONTINUES ITS SYNODAL JOURNEY:**

On Pentecost Sunday, May 19th, the Diocese of Sale launched, in each of the Parish communities, the Diocesan Consultation Process that will take place from June to October 2024. In a video produced for the launch, Bishop Greg Bennet referred to the journey the people of the Diocese have been engaged in over many years. He specifically mentioned the engagement of people in the 2019 Diocesan Assembly, the Australian Plenary Council preparations, and contributions to the present Synod on Synodality in Rome. To read the media release visit: [cdsale.org.au/news](https://cdsale.org.au/news)



**TRINITY FAMILIES APPEAL:** Bishop Greg Bennet has urged the members of the diocese to generously support the annual appeal for Trinity Families, in our parishes this year.



He said "As good stewards of the gifts that God has given us, we must always find a necessary place for those who need our help. To achieve this, Trinity Families Fund needs to continue to grow its funds so that this mission of service can be more effective. It is important to keep at the forefront of our minds that this is our own charity arm specifically set up to serve and support the needs of families in the Greater Gippsland area. While there are many calls upon our donations at this time, what is both worthwhile and unique about Trinity Families is that it is locally based and supports the particular needs of our area."

Bishop Greg urges everyone to give generously to the May 2024 Appeal. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible, please contact the parish office if you require a receipt. To donate online, visit <https://sale.cdfpay.org.au/details/?id=622462>

We will also have a leaving collection this weekend or you can drop your donation into the parish office during the week. Please give generously and pray for those who are providing the programs and services to those in need in our communities.

**STEWARDSHIP MATTERS:**

*"The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ..." - ROMANS 8:16-17*

If we are heirs to the kingdom of God, shouldn't we work to build up His kingdom? Shouldn't we be good stewards of our inheritance, using our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to care for the Church that God has left to us? Our Church is a treasured heirloom from God. Do we treat it that way?

Rosters for June 01 & 02, 2024		The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)			
	Lector	Commentator	Welcomer	Eucharistic Minister	Musicians
<b>Saturday Jun 01 5:00pm</b>	J Panozzo-Tile & C Di Corleto	M Noone	A Membrey & Volunteer	C Payne & A Reid	
<b>Sunday Jun 02 9:30am</b>	U & E Imhagwe	C McCabe	A Sykes & D Bau	E Ryan & W Banks-Smith	Filipino Choir
<b>Sunday Jun 03 5:00pm</b>	E Joseph & M Alex	C Hill	T Biancon & Volunteer	2 x Volunteers	Jane & Simon
Church Cleaning	June	Hanratty Family Group			
Mick's Kitchen	May 30	Van Berkel Team		Jun 06	McLaughlin Team
Touring Statue of Our Lady	May 26	Lavalla St Paul's Campus		Jun 02	C Kanara

**First Reading**

Dt 4:32-34. 39-40

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

*The Lord himself is God in heaven above and on earth below: there is no other.*

Moses said to the people: 'Put this question to the ages that are past, that went before you, from the time God created man on earth: Was there ever a word so majestic, from one end of heaven to the other? Was anything ever heard? Did ever a people hear the voice of the living God speaking from the heart of the fire, as you heard it, and remain alive? Has any god ventured to take to himself one nation from the midst of another by ordeals, signs, wonders, war with mighty hand and outstretched arm, by fearsome terrors – all this that the Lord your God did for you before your eyes in Egypt?

'Understand this today, therefore, and take it to heart: The Lord is God indeed, in heaven above as on earth beneath, he and no other. Keep his laws and commandments as I give them to you today so that you and your children may prosper and live long in the land that the Lord your God gives you for ever.'

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 32:4-6. 9. 18-20. 22. R. v.12

**(R.) Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**

With his word the heavens were made, by the breath of his mouth all the stars. He spoke; and they came to be. He commanded; they sprang into being. **(R.)**

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

**Next weeks Readings: Corpus Christi Sunday**

First Reading:	Exodus 24:3-8
Second Reading:	Hebrews 9:11-15
Gospel:	Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

**Second Reading**

Rom 8:14-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*You have received the Spirit that makes you God's own children, and in that Spirit we call God: Father, our Father!*

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

**Gospel Acclamation** See Rv 1:8

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: to God who is, who was, and who is to come Alleluia!*

**Gospel**

Mt 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

