

PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Gerard Prunty

PARISH OFFICES

St. Thomas' Terang

P.O. Box 25 Terang. 3264
Ph: 5592 1195 Fax: 5592 2308
terang@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Clare Neal

"We are a Child Safe Parish"

St. Colman's Mortlake

St Joseph's Caramut

P.O. Box 25 Terang 3264
Ph: 5592 1195
terang@ballarat.catholic.org.au

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

St. Thomas' Terang

Mr. Ben van de Camp
Ph 5592 1925

St. Colman's Mortlake

Mr. Tim Bourke
Ph 5599 2285

Mercy Regional College

Ms Sharon Gillett
Ph 5593 2011

St. Thomas the Apostle
and St. Colman's Parishes
acknowledge and respect the
traditional custodians of this
land the Kirrae Wuurong people.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

ST THOMAS' TERANG

Saturday 6.00 pm
Sunday 10.30 am

ST COLMAN'S MORTLAKE

Sunday 9.00 am

Next Weeks Readings:

23rd & 24th May 2020

1st read: Acts 1: 1-11

2nd read: Eph 1: 17-23

Gospel: Mt 28: 16-20



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE TERANG and ST. COLMAN'S MORTLAKE PARISH BULLETIN

To access this bulletin online go to www.ballarat.catholic.org.au
and select either Terang or Mortlake Parish.

6th Sunday of Easter

16th & 17th May 2020

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES: Marie Milroy

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Graham Pearson
(Names placed on the sick list will remain for 3 weeks unless otherwise notified)

SUPPORTING OUR PARISHES:

Thank you for your ongoing support of our Parishes



Sunday Mass

There are opportunities to participate in Sunday Mass online through youtube and facebook eg: St Joseph's Warrnambool, along with Mass for you at home on Channel 10 ~ Sunday at 10am, and repeated on Foxtel Ch 17 AURURA through the day and week.

Our Churches Open

With the lifting of some restrictions St Thomas' and St Colman's Churches will be open for private prayer from 9.00am to 5pm daily.

You are asked to **sign your name and phone number** on entering the Church (every time you enter) - for the purpose of contact-tracing if it becomes necessary. Please be guided by the usual on-going hygiene requirements. Social distancing of at least 1.5 metres & hand sanitising. Sanitiser will be available with the sign in book on the table in the foyer.

Opening Prayer - 6th Sunday of Easter

Faithful God

Who loves us in Christ Jesus

Send your spirit of truth to dwell within us

That we may always reject what is false

Live by commands of Christ

And be true to the love you have shown us

Grant this through Christ our Lord

Notices need to be at St. Thomas' Parish Office by 10.00 am next Friday

Reflection on the Gospel - Easter 6A

(John 14:15-21)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Those who defend themselves in court run the risk of being outsmarted by clever and sometimes unscrupulous adversaries. It is never a good idea to be too self-reliant even in a country with a basically sound legal system such as ours. Today's gospel implies that the disciples need a defense attorney or lawyer. Jesus has acted in that capacity for them in their struggles with the anti-gospel forces arrayed against them.

Now he is close to death and he gives them instructions that begin and end with reference to loving him and keeping his commandments. Jesus has given them a new commandment, namely that they love one another: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (13:34). Later in this discourse (15:12-14) the reader of the gospel learns what the actors in the drama already know about Jesus' commandments. "This is my commandment," says Jesus, "that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." This is no small demand, to be prepared to die for one another.

Given the opposition they are likely to face, the disciples cannot live out such a commitment on their own. Neither is Jesus leaving them "orphans" who have to fend for themselves. He will ask his "Father" to provide "another" defender or advocate who will act on their behalf, an advocate who will always be there. This new advocate is the "Spirit of truth". As we approach the end of the Easter season, the liturgy thus points us towards Pentecost and the gift of God's Spirit.

It is good to know we are never on our own. It is also good to reflect on the capacity we have for love. Many of us will never find ourselves in a situation where our love is tested to the point that we have to die for another. Since the outbreak of the present pandemic, however, we do not have the look far to find countless people doing just that.

Health professionals, cleaners, truck drivers, flight attendants, shop assistants, school teachers, lecturers, ordinary people everywhere are laying down their lives for the sake of others. They are truly our friends. The gospel calls us to put the well-being of others, even their survival, before our own comfort. With the life-style changes that will inevitably come sooner rather than later, we may all find ourselves "laying down our lives" in various ways for the sake of our friends, humankind and other-kind, across the planet. We can, despite opposition, continue to advocate for climate action, for the rights of detainees and prisoners and for those displaced by war or persecution. With the help of the Spirit, our Advocate, we can surely rise to the challenge.