

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
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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:

30th & 31st May 2020

1st read: Gen 11: 1-9

2nd read: Rom 8: 22-27

Gospel: Jn 7: 37-39



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.

The Ascension of the Lord

23rd & 24th May 2020

RECENT DEATHS: John Carlin, Kevin Kavanagh

ANNIVERSARIES: Glenda Carlin, Des Kenna, Kath O'Sullivan,
Mick Delaney, Brian Murray, Jack Murphy



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Marie Glennen, Leanne Batten, 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.

Our Lady Help of Christians Feast May 24th

This weekend, along with the feast of the Ascension, we celebrate Our Lady Help of Christians. Since 1844, Mary under this title has been Patroness of Australia. From the days of the fledging colonies, the need for Mary's help has been called upon as the nation does today. We are helped through Mary's powerful intercession for us and through the example of her life we find in the Gospels.

JOHN CARLIN: We pray for John, who died this week and farewelled with his funeral on Friday at St Thomas'. We give thanks for John's life, a gift to his family, our Parish and wider community. May God bless and strengthen his family and friends at this difficult time.

"Reunited with Glenda in heaven"

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

Reflection on the Gospel- Feast of the Ascension Year A
(Acts 1:1-11; Matthew 28:16-20)

Veronica Lawson RSM

Loss is part of the human experience and death is generally the most painful experience of loss. As the death toll from Covid-19 approaches 300,000, we become more and more conscious of loss as a global reality. This loss of human life takes place against the backdrop of a catastrophic loss of species and of eco-systems, exacerbated in our part of the planet by the recent bushfires. Today's Feast of the Ascension invites us to face the experience of loss in a transformative way. In Ordinary Time, we celebrate the life and ministry of Jesus. Over the period of Lent and Easter, we have been remembering his death and resurrection. As we come towards the end of the Easter season, the liturgy draws us into another aspect of the Mystery, that of the presence of the Risen One even in his absence.

While today's gospel recounts Matthew's story of Jesus' final encounter with his disciples, it does not provide an account of Jesus' "ascension" or return to God. For that, we must turn to the first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles. The story presupposes a pre-scientific, three-tiered understanding of the structure of the world. In this ancient view, God is in the heavens above and the prophet Jesus, like the prophet Elijah of old, is caught up into God's presence. The Holy Spirit will "descend" upon God's people and "clothe" them with power to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth. The vertical (up and down) movement is balanced by a horizontal movement: Jesus' family and followers who grieve the loss of their loved one are told not to keep looking up to the heavens. They have work to do: strengthened by his blessing, they are to stay in the city for the present and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the prophetic ministry of Jesus, to be witnesses to his death and resurrection. They have to face the fact that the physical loss of Jesus means a new and different sort of presence and that they have a role to play in making him present in their world.

The gospel reading has Jesus on a mountain top where he commissions his male disciples to make disciples of all nations, literally "to disciple all peoples". He has already commissioned the women on the open road to announce the good news of the resurrection (Matt 28:10). They are to be fearless in their mission. In Matthew's final chapter, then, both men and women are commissioned to proclaim the gospel. There are other dimensions to their mission, namely to baptize in the name of the Triune God and to teach what Jesus has taught or "commanded" them. The confidence that they need and that we need to engage in this mission is the assurance that the risen Christ is with us to the end of time. The gospel has come full circle. In the first chapter of Matthew, an angel announces that the child to be born will be called Emmanuel, God-with-us. The last verse of the gospel invites us once more to ponder that mystery and to commit ourselves to a life-giving gospel mission. Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* shows us the way in the face of planetary distress.