

## 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 Kirra Wurrung 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:

11th & 12th July 2020

**1st read:** Is 55: 10-11

**2nd read:** Rom 8: 18-23

**Gospel:** Mt 13: 1-23



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

To access this bulletin online go to [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
and select either Terang or Mortlake Parish.

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4th & 5th July 2020

**RECENT DEATHS:** Valda McKenzie

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Monica Lourey, Mary Sadler

**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



### 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.

### Weekday Masses Terang & Mortlake

We are allowed **20 people** to attend services. We will have two weekday Masses this week in Terang & one in Mortlake

**Wednesday in Mortlake at 10.00am**

**Thursday in Terang at 10.00am** (Patricia Meade)

**Friday in Terang at 10.00am**

We of course need to practice social distancing and sign the attendance register for tracing purposes.

Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions

### Plenary Council

The new dates for the Plenary Council of Australia are October 3rd - 10th 2021 in Adelaide & July 4th - 9th 2022 in Sydney  
There are six discernment papers being released following the input of recent times. Resources will be available soon to help with discussions of these papers.

"Do not worry, for Jesus is gentle and humble and will give you rest"

### 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.

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

## Reflection on the Gospel-14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Matthew 11:25-30)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Today's gospel begins with Jesus' prayer of thanksgiving to God. The verb "to thank" in this instance has connotations of blessing. In this prayer of blessing or thanksgiving, Jesus contrasts those who consider themselves wise and intelligent with the truly wise ones, the "little ones" who know the daily struggle to survive, those to whom the secrets of God's empire have been revealed. The prosperity gospel that affirms the acquisition of wealth is far removed from the gospel preached by Jesus of Nazareth and proclaimed in Matthew's gospel. God's ways turn human expectations upside down.

The final verses of today's gospel are among the best known and best loved in all of the gospel tradition. "Come to me...and I will give you rest" is a lovely invitation. It is issued to those who are weary and burdened, and that includes most of us at some time or another. We might hear it spoken to all who are working tirelessly to address the effects of Covid-19. We might equally hear it as addressed to African Americans and First Peoples of Australia who are weary and burdened by waiting for justice. The "rest" that Jesus offers is God's rest. It is not just relief from drudgery and hard work. In the biblical tradition, rest is *shabbat*. It is freedom from any sort of enslavement. It is freedom to remember God's goodness in creation. Rest time or *shabbat* is about making a space to contemplate the wonder of the galaxies, the wonder of life in all its forms and all its potentialities. God's rest restores life to our wearied spirits. It frees us to open ourselves to ever new possibilities and to be there for others. Spending a little time each day with a poem or a beautiful painting can be an experience of entering into God's rest.

"Take my yoke upon you..." is Jesus' further invitation. Later in this gospel, the same verb will be used when Jesus tells his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them ... take up their cross and follow me." The "yoke" of Jesus, the cross that he will take up, and the cross that his disciples are invited to bear are all of a piece. A yoke is a cross-beam or cross-bar. Jesus will carry his cross-beam to execution. Disciples, in their turn, will carry their cross-beams, figuratively if not literally. They will not be weighed down or burdened by this prospect for the "yoke" of which Jesus speaks is easy and the burden is light. How can this be? The answer lies in the final invitation: "Learn of me, for I am gentle and humble of heart..." In Matthew, the gentle are said to be blessed. There is nothing weak about the gentle ("meek" is not a helpful translation). The non-violent methods of the gentle are infinitely more effective in restoring creation than the violence of so many who present themselves as "wise and intelligent". God's "rest" is the source of their power-and of ours.