

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.

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.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

25th & 26th July 2020

RECENT DEATHS: Rob Gaylard

ANNIVERSARIES: Bernie Kelly, Jim McAloon

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

(Names placed on the sick list will remain for 3 weeks unless otherwise notified)

SUPPORTING OUR PARISHES:

Thank you for your pledge payments & your ongoing support of our Parishes. Please return relevant (any changes, new pledges & all credit card) planned giving forms by next weekend.

A copy of the Parish profit & loss (2019/2020) is on the Church notice board.



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

Friday in Terang at 10.00am

We of course need to practice social distancing, use hand sanitiser and sign the attendance register for tracing purposes. Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions

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)

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:

1st & 2nd August 2020

1st read: Is 55: 1-3

2nd read: Rom 8: 35, 37-39

Gospel: Mt 14: 13-21

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

Copies of the latest edition are available in the foyer of the Church, along with Australian Catholics

St Thomas' Primary School ~ Major Fund Raising Raffle

Only 500

Tickets @

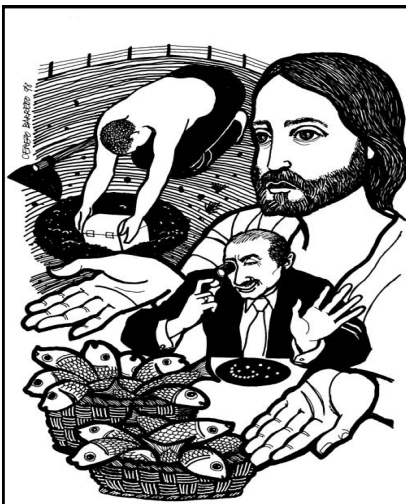
\$50 each

1st Prize: \$5,000 Voucher

(for goods/services of your choice)

Drawn on Friday 28th August at St Thomas' School

Please contact Anna Kenna on 0408 518 632 or the School 5592 1925 or the Parish Office 5592 1195



Plenary Council Update

Discernment Papers: The six discernment papers have been released and are available to be read. The National Plenary Facilitation Team will soon release resources to assist parishes and communities to explore each of the papers.

Here in the diocese, we will endeavour to look at one paper for a month.

For the month of July we will look at **HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS Missionary & Evangelising?** Have a read of the discernment paper, think about your parish and the diocese in general. We welcome any comments. Please send through to jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au. Read the discernment paper Visit the Missionary and Evangelising theme's page <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au>

**Reflection on the Gospel-17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
(Matthew 13:44-52)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

The three parables and the summary statement in today's gospel conclude Matthew's parable chapter. In the first parable, the Matthean Jesus likens the kin-dom of the heavens, not just to "treasure", but rather to treasure hidden in a field that someone, possibly a slave or day labourer, finds and hides before going joyfully to sell everything in order to buy the field and acquire the treasure. The parabolic image here comprises the whole complex of actor, objects and actions (the finder; the finding, selling and buying; the joy; the treasure and the field). The details pose endless questions. Who had right to ownership of the treasure? Is this a case of theft? Whatever the answer to these questions, this parable invites us to pause and consider what constitutes the real "treasure" in our lives and ask to what lengths we would go in order to secure that treasure.

The second parable tells of a merchant who seeks fine pearls, finds one of great value, then goes and sells all his possessions in order to acquire that one pearl. Again, that is what the kin-dom of the heavens is about. What is of such value to us that we would give up everything else in order to have that one thing, that one relationship? That is the question.

Jesus proceeds to liken the kin-dom of the heavens, not just to a dragnet, but to a dragnet thrown into the sea that catches fish of every kind and is drawn to shore by fisher-folk who sit down and sort it, putting the good into baskets and throwing away the bad. To what might this parable invite us? As we confine ourselves to essential shopping during the pandemic, many are asking what is good and what is not so good, what sort of future do we really want. Do we want to perpetuate a consumerist life-style that appropriates far more than our share of the world's resources and leaves little time or energy for considering either the plight of our endangered planet or the needs and aspirations of those on the edge? There is a new realisation that standard of living and quality of life are far from synonymous.

The summary statement tells us that, like Matthew's community, we need to be "scribes" educated in the ways of God. We need to bring out of the treasury of our traditions "what is new and what is old", wisely discerning what to keep and what to relinquish. Parables help to subvert our presuppositions. They disturb our complacency if we allow them to do so. The parables of the buried treasure, the priceless pearl and the dragnet remind us that gospel discipleship demands an all-embracing investment of heart and spirit. We search our hearts to know where our treasure lies and join with others who show us how we might claim it for the common good of the entire Earth community.