

## 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 Wuorong 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:

26th & 27th September 2020

1st read: Ezek 18: 25-28

2nd read: Phil 2: 1-11

Gospel: Mt 21: 28-32



## 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.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

19th & 20th September 2020

**RECENT DEATHS:** Sr Catherine Finn

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Basil Lee, Murray Flynn, Patrick Fitzgibbon

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Marie Glennen

*(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.



### Message from Bishop Paul Bird

Together with the other bishops of Victoria, I have been making representations to government for an easing of the restrictions in relation to places of worship. I have proposed that places of worship should at least be treated in the same way as other places where people can gather socially. In the coming week, bishops and other religious leaders will have further meetings with government. I hope these meetings will bear fruit so that we will be able to gather again in our churches. We do need to safeguard the community's health. Yet we have shown that we can observe the necessary precautions for physical health at the same time as we celebrate the liturgy, which contributes so much to the spiritual and mental health of the community. I pray particularly that we will soon be able to share the Eucharist, source and summit of the Christian life.

Peace be with you. God bless you all.

*Bishop Paul*

### Churches Open for Prayer

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.

Please be guided by the usual on-going requirements. Social distancing, hand sanitiser & sign in. Hand sanitiser will be available with the sign in book on the table in the foyer.

### Unfortunately we are still unable to have any weekend or weekday masses at this time.

There are opportunities to participate in Sunday Mass online through YouTube [www.tiny.cc/joe3280](http://www.tiny.cc/joe3280) and facebook eg: St Joseph's Warrnambool, along with Mass for you at home on Channel 10 ~ Sunday at 6am, and repeated on Foxtel Ch 17 AURURA through the day and week.

### Mercy Regional College Annual Car Raffle ~ Tickets only \$10

Due to COVID-19, there will be no paper tickets available this year. All tickets are to be purchased online.

If you would like a ticket & do not have access to the internet, please contact Clare or Fr Gerry or phone the Parish Office on 5592 1195 & we will happily purchase your ticket/s for you

Drawn on 30th November

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

## **Reflection on the Gospel-25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Matthew 20:1-16)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

From 1973 to 1975, East Jerusalem was my home. Early each morning, I crossed the road from the Chaldean Patriarchate to the Ecole Biblique Archéologique Française. I would greet the Palestinian day labourers lined up beside their vehicles, waiting for employment in the vacant lot that divided Israeli from occupied Palestinian territory. In the wake of the Yom Kippur War, these workers were living through hard times. In the morning, they were chatty and cheerful. Those who found work no doubt remained cheerful: they had the means to support their families and could find some meaning in their lives. Those still waiting for work at midday or later were dejected and shamed, not least by the prospect of returning home without their daily bread. Those who were hired found honour in the society and the means to sustain themselves and their families. Those who missed out on work suffered hunger, indignity and a sense of powerlessness. Confronted by this spectacle day after day, I began to understand the parable of the labourers in the vineyard.

In Matthew's parable, those who have worked all day grumble because the underemployed are made "equal" to them. Jesus makes it clear that people's worth is not to be measured in terms of their capacity for economic production. They are all equal as persons. Pope Leo XIII, writing back in 1891 about the condition of the working class, echoes this aspect of the parable. Those who cannot find work and those who cannot work on account of pandemic or disability or visa restrictions know something of the experience of the Palestinian workers. Their needs are no less urgent than the needs of those who have productive and well paid employment. Minimal social security benefits might address their basic material needs but are less than effective in addressing the underlying issues of human dignity.

Parables yield meaning differently in different contexts. We may want to consider the corrosive effects of "envy". Faced with the growing disparity between rich and poor in our world, we may wish to raise questions about the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of the landowner. Those who are conscious of the plight of asylum seekers and refugees, as well as those ineligible for Job Seeker or Job Keeper or any other benefit, may come with questions about "generosity" offered from a base of power over against equal access to the world's resources. In the face of pandemic and of climate crisis, many of those who used to be safe in economic terms now find themselves with huge debts and diminishing security. Many in our world are every bit as desperate as the Palestinian day labourers, waiting in line as never before. As we celebrate this third Sunday of the Season of Creation, we might accept the invitation of today's gospel story to live in ways that promote quality of life for every one of Earth's inhabitants.