

## 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:

3rd & 4th October 2020

1st read: Is 5: 1-7

2nd read: Phil 4: 6-9

Gospel: Mt 21: 33-43

### 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

## 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.

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

26th & 27th September 2020

**RECENT DEATHS:** Dean Jones

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Margaret Ryan, Margaret Heffernan, Norm Pasque & Jim Collard

**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 ongoing support.



### 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees Sunday, September 27, 2020

Catholic Social Services Victoria would like to draw particular focus, especially in the light of COVID-19, to remember, pray for and commit to working to change the horrible reality of many migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum 'in our own backyard':

Remembering, working and praying for migrants and refugees: On this 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, we remember, pray for, and commit to working to change the horrible reality of many in 'our own backyard'. We acknowledge and give thanks for the many parish communities across the state, along with those working within our Catholic social services and other organisations and community groups, who are making considerable efforts to assist people seeking asylum, refugees, and other migrants who hold temporary visas - many remain in harsh circumstances in detention centres, and the majority of the 115,000 living in the Australian community have been deemed ineligible for any federal government support payments during COVID-19, making many at risk of homelessness and despair. In his message for World Day for Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis tells us, "You have to know in order to understand" and, "It is necessary to be close, in order to serve". Only when different elements of the community work together — individuals, parishes, schools, universities and organisations — can we effectively advocate for systemic change and provide for people's immediate necessities and other spiritual and social needs. We encourage you to read more at <http://www.css.org.au/Article-View/Article/23727/Remembering-working-and-praying-for-migrants-and-refugees#.X2qkIGgzaCh>

### 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.**

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.

## Reflection on the Gospel-26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Matthew 21:28-32)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

As we celebrate the fourth week in the Season of Creation, we might ponder again the ways in which Earth cares for us. Vineyards have provided nourishment for countless families in the ancient Mediterranean world since about 10,000 BCE. It is not surprising then that the biblical record frequently references vines and vineyards and that the vineyard becomes a metaphor for God's "workplace". In today's gospel, Jesus tells the story of a father who sends his sons to work in the vineyard. One refuses and then reconsiders: he has the courage to change his mind and engage in life. The second son agrees then fails to do as his father requests: he is not prepared to make his contribution to family life and wellbeing. These siblings find their counterparts in every age. There are those who make an art form of saying yes and failing to follow through with action: such people can seriously undermine the most worthy of projects or plans. And then there are the slow starters, those who take time but eventually come on board.

Jesus' parable is a response to the Temple authorities who are angered by the "amazing things" he does and by the public recognition he receives from the children in the temple. Like the second son, the chief priests and elders profess to do the will of God, but their actions belie their words. Jesus spells out the meaning of the parable as it relates to the disjunction between what they say and what they do. They have rejected the prophet John who came to them "in the way of righteousness". The tax collectors and prostitutes, "sinners" from the perspective of the authorities, accepted John's message, albeit belatedly like the first son, and are making their way into God's empire ahead of the guardians of the religious institutions.

Changing one's mind is seen as a sign of weakness in our society. For evidence of this, one has only to listen to the taunts in parliament when a political leader changes course in the light of new information. Changing one's mind or one's course of action can be an act of great courage and humility, even heroism. This is particularly so if it involves abandoning a self-serving direction for the sake of justice or compassion or the "common good". We have the example of those who refused to politicize the pandemic and chose rather to work for the common good across political affiliations: some have paid a heavy price. Voluntary changes in behaviour come from a change of heart, from what the gospel calls "*metanoia*". There is always a cost in the pursuit of justice, generally less dramatic than the cost to some in public office who challenge the refusal to act on the climate crisis. Today's parable invites us to bring our actions into line with what we profess, no matter the cost. That is what it means to take up the challenge of working in the vineyard.