

## 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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
and select either Terang or Mortlake Parish.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

5th & 6th September 2020

**RECENT DEATHS:** Fr John Naughton (Shepparton)

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Jenny Harris, Mary Meade

#### **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.

	2017-2020 Pledge per week	2017-2020 Given per week	2020-2023 Pledge per week New program began 1 <sup>st</sup> August
St Colman's	304.75	297.62	300.81
St Thomas'	1,624.34	1,583.06	1,596.62

### CDF pay for Parishes is now live for all parishes in the diocese.

Parishioners are able to make payments to parishes as one off payments or set up their own monthly auto payments for planned giving. We have expanded the donation options to also include: Priest Support (Presbytery) & Parish (Giving)

Whilst the following link takes you to the page where you select your parish, if you click on a parish you can then use your specific URL to add to your website and/or parish notice sheet. <https://ballarat.cdfpay.org.au/>

More information is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-and-agencies/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=300>

### 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:

12th & 13th September 2020

1st read: Sirach 27: 30 - 28:7

2nd read: Rom 14: 7-9

Gospel: Mt 18: 21-35

## St Thomas' School

Our School Principal Ben van de Camp will take up a new role as Principal of St John's Dennington at the beginning of 2021.

We wish Ben all the best in his new role and at the same time we are saddened by Ben leaving our Community, as he has contributed so much to us. The process has begun to appoint a new principal for our school.

St Thomas' Primary School ~ Major Fund Raising Raffle

1st Prize: \$5,000 Voucher Winner: Bernard Conheady

## Sunday Mass

Unfortunately we are 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.

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

Happy Father's Day



## **Reflection on the Gospel–23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Matthew 18:15-20)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

As we celebrate this first Sunday of the Season of Creation, we are conscious of the need for the human community to be reconciled with Earth and with all that inhabits our common home. The theme for the 2020 Season of Creation is “Jubilee for the Earth”. The Earth needs a rest from the effects of so much industrial activity, from the proliferation of single use plastic, from reliance on fossil fuels, from mindless consumption. The planet needs a “Rest” of biblical proportions, a Jubilee. Ironically, Covid-19 has given the planet a rest in some respects. Should those who refuse to listen to the science on the climate crisis be shamed? Should the few who flaunt the restrictions necessitated by pandemic be shamed? Should they be deterred by heavy penalties? Or should we appeal to their better selves? Most agree that, while it is imperative that bad behaviour at every level be challenged, there is little to recommend the shaming of offenders. So, what does a just society do with its persistent offenders, with those whose behaviour continually disrupts the unity of a group on the one hand and the very future of life on the other? There is no easy answer.

What does the gospel tradition say to this? Today’s gospel indicates that the power to deal with transgression is firmly in the hands of the community. All care must be taken to allow offenders to recognise and acknowledge their offences without being publically shamed. If that fails, the matter is referred to a group of witnesses, in line with Israel’s ancient legal practice (Deut 19:15). The next step is referral to the assembled community. Those who refuse to listen are to be treated as “Gentiles” or “tax-collectors”. Some scholars suggest that the Matthean Jesus is proposing expulsion of those who refuse to listen. Others consider that he is advocating the sort of compassionate approach he has personally shown to outsiders, to those in need of conversion. Since every one of us is in need of conversion in relation to planetary health, compassionate persistence is an attractive option.

We do well to seek the wisdom of others. We have the assurance that Jesus, God-with-us, is present in the assembly. We also have the assurance that our failure to deal with transgression can leave perpetrators unreconciled and susceptible to reoffending. We need to “loose” the sins of those who acknowledge their offences. In other words, we are called to forgive them and thus set them free from the burden of their sins. While the gospel passage focusses on forgiveness, our first concern must be with those who suffer at the hands of offenders, including the Earth itself. We must “surrender to the sky [our] heart of anger” (James K. Baxter) and, at the same time, work actively to provide our planetary home and all of its inhabitants with the Jubilee it surely needs.