



OUR LADY OF MERCY HAMPDEN PARISH
ST THOMAS CHURCH, TERANG & ST COLMAN'S CHURCH MORTLAKE

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Jubilee Year 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope



Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025, centred on the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope." A Jubilee is a special year of grace and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years, or during other years as called for by the Pope. Through a series of concrete rituals, acts and commitments, the goal of a Jubilee year is to inspire and encourage holiness of life among the faithful and therefore to strengthen the Church's witness to God's loving mercy in and for the world.

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos

in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen. Pope Francis

First Collection: Terang \$436.60 Mortlake \$119.50

Rosters for the 29th & 30th of March:

Terang:

Readers: 29th 06.00 pm Allison Lourey and 30th 10.30 Christina Lee

Offertory: Shane and Allison Lourey & 30th 10.30 Des and Bernedette McKinnon

Eucharistic Ministers: 06.00pm: Carmel Maloney & 10.30am Annette Clifford

Anniversaries: Ernest Elliot, Mollie Forbes, Kathleen Barand, Stephen Coolahan, Ellen McGuire, Gwen Couch, Douglas Davis, Clinton Baulch, Mary O'Keefe, Coleman O'Keefe, Bill Coolahan, Vonnie Elliot and Kevin Glennen.

Mortlake:

Reader: Mick Murphy

We are a Child-safe, Welcoming and environmentally friendly Parish

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the book of Exodus (Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15)

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)

3. The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)

4. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12)

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

We, the Parish community wish to pledge ourselves for our children's safety and well-being

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 13:1-9)

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.' He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

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HOMILY by Fr Michael Tate

Politics, Economics, and the Gardener

The caste system still controls the lives of hundreds of millions of people in India. What does this fundamental aspect of Hinduism mean? What is its effect?

What it says is that there is a hierarchy of castes, and, if you are found to be living in squalor, suffering the diseases of poverty, exhausted from doing the most backbreaking and menial tasks in society, then you were fated to be born into that lower caste because of your failures in a previous existence – in our parlance, you are suffering because of your sins.

There is an iron rule at work – you are at the bottom of the social heap because of your previous wrongdoing or shortcomings. 'You suffer? You brought it on yourselves!'

How convenient for the members of the upper caste! No responsibility on their part for the wretched conditions of those suffering. That is why Mother Teresa's active compassion made a stir.

We see the vicious aspect of India's caste system so clearly – but it was also part of the religious mind of Our Lord's day.

Pilate massacred some Galileans whilst they were offering sacrifices in the Temple. And some said 'Oh, those Galileans must have been sinners!' Jesus adamantly repudiated that notion: 'No, it wasn't for anything *they* did.' It was clear to Jesus that they were the victims of an imperial power moving its occupying army to deal with the activities of a religious system they didn't begin to understand. That's where responsibility lay.

There was a terrible disaster when a building fell down killing eighteen people. And some people said, 'Oh, those killed must have been sinners, they or their parents.' Jesus

Third Sunday of Lent Year C 2025.

adamantly repudiates that notion: 'No, it wasn't for anything *they* did.' It was clear to Jesus that they were the victims of poor construction and conditions at Siloam. Look at the builder. That's where responsibility lay.

We hardly realise the revolution that Jesus' teaching makes to the functioning of society. Responsibility needs to be brought home to those who would otherwise hide behind a religious ideology, or simply the sheer self-interest of evading blame for a situation.

To identify those really responsible may well require major changes to the way society is organised. And that may include us, especially given the fact that we live in a democracy. We can try to influence international affairs where we know that the innocent are still massacred by the Pilates of this world. We can try to influence the workings of our financial system where people suffer whilst others take the profits, like the builders of the Tower of Siloam.

Does it all seem too difficult, and in any case not showing much evidence of any impact? Jesus then turns to us with a metaphor and he says to you and says to me:

You are like a fig tree. You may not be bearing much fruit just now, but, I am a terrific gardener: I will water you, and dig around you, and make sure you are well nourished and I am confident that you will bear the fruits I desire.

And, how does Our Lord do that? He waters us with the waters of baptism He digs around us by disturbing our complacency He prunes us, especially during Lent He nourishes us with the bread of life in Holy Communion.

What a gardener! The original Garden of Eden went wrong. The Book of Revelation pictures the New Jerusalem, through which flows the River of Life, on either side of which are the Trees of Life yielding twelve fruits, and the leaves of which are the healing of the nations. Let us allow Our Lord to garden us so that he may create that heavenly botanical garden of the whole of humanity.

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Mercy Regional College, Noorat

There's an open day for Mercy Regional College on the 26th March.

Two Sessions: Morning 9.15am Junior Campus Noorat.

The Senior Campus Camperdown.

Afternoon From 4.00pm Senior Campus Camperdown.

ALL PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES WELCOME ARE MOST WELCOME

Details & Registration: www.mercy.vic.edu.au

Prayer intention of Pope Francis for the Month of March

For families in crisis.

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

*"Our Parish Community wishes to respectfully acknowledge
the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which
we live, work and worship Our God."*

We, the Parish community wish to pledge ourselves for our children's safety and well-being