



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

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. George Kuruvila
 george.kuruvila@ballarat.catholic.org.au

VISITING PRIEST: Fr Jim McKay

PARISH OFFICE: P.O. Box 25 Terang 3264 VIC Ph: 5592 1195
 hampden@ballarat.catholic.org.au

St Thomas Primary School

Principal: Mr. Matthew Uzkuraitis Ph 5592 1925

St. Colman's Mortlake

Principal: Ms Janet Cain
 Ph 55992285

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 6.00pm -Terang
 Sunday: 10.30 am Terang
 Sunday: 09.00am Mortlake

Reading for next Sunday

1st Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

2nd Reading: Phil. 3:17 – 4.1
Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

Recent Death

Bernadette Payne
 (Ballarat)

Project Compassion 2025 Week 1: Unite against poverty this Lent

We have begun our annual Lenten Project Compassion journey. This year, we are going to learn about three incredible people from three different corners of the world, facing vastly different challenges.

Watch the Introduction to Project Compassion video <https://vimeo.com/1034878113>

Support Project Compassion www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Download the weekly reflection from the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/project-compassion-2025/>

Jubilee of the World of Volunteering: March 8-9, 2025

The Jubilee of the World of Volunteering is an opportunity to thank, affirm and encourage the many lay people who contribute to the world through volunteering. Further resources for the Jubilee of the World of Volunteering is available from the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgysacraments/jubilee-year-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/>



Saints and Feasts:

- Mon – St Dominic Savio
- Tues – St John Ogilvie
- Wed – Bld Angela Salawa
- Thu – St Leander of Seville
- Fri – St Maximilian
- Sat - St Louise de Marillac
- Fri – St Colette
- Sat - St Josephine Bakhita

Parish Notices:

All notices need to be delivered in writing, either emailed to Fr George

george.kuruvila@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Pray for the sick: Lyne McIntyre and Pope Francis

First Collection: Terang \$509.25 Mortlake \$148.50

Rosters for the 15th & 16th of March:

Terang:

Readers: 6pm Chris Moloney

Eucharistic Minister: 6pm Carmel Moloney 10.30am Christina Lee

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.

First Sunday of Lent Year C 2025.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy (**Deuteronomy 26:4-10**)

The confession of faith of the elect.

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the pannier from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.' This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 90:1-2. 10-15. R. v.15

(R.) Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty

says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' (R.)

2. Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell.

For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. (R.)

3. They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone.

On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. (R.)

4. His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name.

When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.'

I will save him in distress and give him glory. (R.)

Second Reading:

Romans 10:8-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture

says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation:

Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

Luke 4:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time, he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again:

They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

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

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

HOMILY by Richard Leonard

At Rome, during the 16th Century, the most famous confessor in town was St Philip Neri. Popes and paupers sought his counsel and spiritual direction.

One day a famous Duchess came to him and confessed the sin of gossip. Philip Neri told her to go home and get a feather pillow and return to the steps of the Church. Some time later

First Sunday of Lent Year C 2025.

he met her there and produced a small knife. He told the noblewoman to rip open the pillow. As she did, the swirling wind in the square picked up the loose feathers and they danced around the square and down the lanes.

St Philip and the Duchess watched in silence as the feathers went everywhere. He then turned to her and said, "Now, go and collect all the feathers." To which she protested, "They have gone everywhere, I couldn't possibly find and regather them." "So too with your tongue, Madam," St Philip scolded her, "You have no idea where you gossip goes and you can never unsay it."

In today's Gospel Jesus teaches us that our words reflect the state of our hearts.

Psychologists tell us that there are three main reasons why people habitually gossip, or 'share the news' as Australian men prefer to call it: power, envy and boredom.

To know something about someone else can put us in a more powerful position with friends or colleagues. By being able to share what we have 'just heard', we are seen to be current and interesting. But this type of power is destructive because our friends normally assume that when they are absent they are maltreated in the same way. Gossipers have more alliances than friendships.

The most malicious gossip often comes out of envy. Envious gossip often sees people make things up about others and pass it off as though it were true. The worst of tabloid newspapers, television and radio trades on this destructive vice. There is no place for the 'rumour file' in the Christian life. Sometimes, when a company or person have to deny the false accusations made about them, we get what we want – their reputations are tarnished and even their business can be in danger. No wonder medieval theologians called envy a 'deadly sin'.

Boredom, however, is a modern cause for gossip. Our relationships and the way in which we hold each other's trust and good name to be paramount, are undermined by images from the media about how exciting life should be for everyone. Scene after scene in novels, television programs and films where confidences are betrayed, and lives are raked over for comment and intrigue fill in the boredom in our lives with a distorted portrayal of human behaviour. The more we take it in, the more we mirror it in our own conduct.

Jesus does not tell us today that there is no place for criticism, challenge, confrontation and correction in the Christian life. Just that we have the responsibility to very careful about what we say about others and how we criticise and condemn them. Jesus reminds us that most of our condemnation of others, is what we now call, "projection", where we ignore similar failings in ourselves, but roundly condemn them in others.

May this Eucharist, then, help all of us let go of the need to be powerful, the deadly sin of envy and more creative with what we do when we are bored. May it help us make better choices about how we speak, to whom we speak and what we say.

St Philip Neri knew it all too well: most times we cannot know the consequences of what we say and we can never unsay it.

*"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