



Our Lady of Mercy Hampden Parish

St Thomas Church, Terang & St Colman'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

Child Safety Officer: Mr. Matthew Uzkuraitis

St Thomas Primary School: Principal: Mr. Matthew Uzkuraitis Ph 5592 1925

St. Colman's Mortlake: Principal: Ms Janet Cain Ph 55992285

Easter Liturgies in the Hampden Parish 2025

Palm Sunday Mass: Terang: 06:00 pm (vigil)

Mortlake 09.00am

Terang; 10.30am

Holy Thursday Mass: Mortlake 05.00pm

Terang; 07.00pm

Good Friday Liturgy: 10.30am Ecumenical stations of the Cross beginning at the Uniting Church and finishing at St Thomas Church

Terang; 03.00am

Mortlake 05.00pm

Easter Vigil Mass: Mortlake 06.00pm

Terang 8.00pm

Easter Sunday Mass: Terang 9.00am

First Collection: Terang \$492.95 and Mortlake \$162.30

Recent Death: Michael Lourey, Sr. Pauline Currie (former Sister of Mercy at St. Thomas') and Maree Fenton.

Anniversaries: Mary Ryan Elizabeth Walsh, Terry Johnstone, Lyla Brumm, Nora Heffernan, Margaret Meade, Stella Kenna, Brian Moloney, Betty Mahony, Thomas Ahearn, Mary Irving, Elizabeth Brophy, Eileen Kavanagh, Nora Heffernan, Lawrence Winsall and Patrick Harney

Pray for the sick: Lyne McIntyre

Rosters for the: 12th & 13th April

Terang:

Readers: 6pm Cate Watt and 10.30am Des Mckinnon

Eucharistic Minister: 6pm Clare Banks 10.30am Kathleen O'Sullivan

Lap top: 6pm Kellie Lee 10.30am Khloe Meade

Rosters: For the next 7 weeks are on the table in the foyer. Please collect.

We are looking for anyone that would be interested in doing readings & Eucharist ministry to give their name to Fr. George please.

Finance & Pastoral Care: Meeting on the 8th of April at 7pm Terang.

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C 2025.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 43:16-21)

I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters, who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

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

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad. **(R.)**

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **(R.)**

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing:

they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians (Philippians 3:8-14)

Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

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

Gospel Acclamation Joel 2:12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

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Gospel John 8:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.' This is the Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate *The Gaze of Jesus*

The accusers of this woman make her 'stand there in *full view* of everybody.' She is surrounded by the hostile glare of *eyes* filled with blood lust. It is only when the accusers have left in embarrassment that Jesus, who has been bent to the ground, looks up at her. He adopts the posture of a slave, seeing her as she could be if she gives up her current pattern of behaviour. Up till now, *no-one* has spoken to this woman. Now Jesus treats her as a human being worth speaking to. And what does she hear? That he does not condemn her but points her to a new sort of life in the future. We could pause for a moment to allow Jesus the time to look at us, talk to us, in that way. Do you have the courage to 'lock eyes' with Jesus and live out the consequences? 'The eyes have it.'

Holy Land Collection – Good Friday, April 18, 2025

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 18. Over the last five years the people of the Holy Land have had so much turmoil in their lives. We pray that the ceasefire in Palestine, Gaza and Israel will be honoured by all the leaders. Already the Christian church leaders are encouraging people to come back on pilgrimage. Pilgrims are vital because they generate income that allows care for the Holy Places (which also gives work to the local people), as well as running parishes, schools and caring for orphans, refugees, the homeless and more. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection will continue to support the works of the Holy Land through the generosity of the Australian Church. Your donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus, often in the face of great odds.

Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy: March 28-30,2025

The National Centre for Evangelisation have provided a resource for the Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy available from <https://nce.catholic.org.au/events/jubilee-2025-pilgrims-of-hope>. A bulletin notice is included below.

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C 2025.

St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat - A Place of Pilgrimage

Bishop Paul has designated St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat as a place of pilgrimage for this Jubilee Year. Pilgrims are invited to take a self-guided tour of the Cathedral. A booklet is available for pilgrims to follow. This includes suggestions on how to be a pilgrim, a brief history of St Patrick's Cathedral and information about the beautiful stained-glass windows. As well as visiting the Cathedral for the self-guided tour, pilgrims are welcome to spend some time in the Cathedral in prayer. This could include joining in the celebration of Mass. Masses are held on weekdays at 12.05pm and on Saturday mornings at 10.00am. Sunday Masses are celebrated on Saturday evenings at 5.30pm and on Sundays at 8.00am, 10.30am and 5.00pm. There are also opportunities for daily adoration and devotions. Please check the Cathedral bulletin for information <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parish/ballar-at-cathedral>. A self-guided tour is best done in quiet times, when there is no Mass or other event happening. Pilgrims are welcome to come as individuals or you could arrange for members of your parish to come as a group.

Project Compassion 2025 Week 4: Unite against poverty this Lent

In the fourth week of Lent, we meet Irene. Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family. *Photo credit: Arlette Bashizi/Caritas Australia.* **Please donate today:** You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes and envelopes, or by scanning or clicking on the QR code, or online at caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling. 1800 024 413.

Australian Pilgrims of Hope website

The ACBC Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry have launched a website for the 2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope. This site provides details of cathedrals, shrines, churches and pilgrimages identified by local churches across Australia as fulfilling the requirement for obtaining a plenary indulgence <https://pilgrimsofhope.catholic.org.au/>

Pope Francis Prayer intention for April

For the use of the new technologies

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

Mass of the Oils 2025

All are welcome to attend the Mass of the Oils this year on Monday, April 14, 2025 at Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 1.00pm. Afternoon tea will follow in the Hall. The Mass will also be livestreamed at <https://youtube.com/live/qUVA70FoZ9c?feature=share>

Anointing Mass and Reconciliation

Anointing Mass and Lenten Reconciliation will be celebrated on Monday 7th at 10.00am in St Thomas Church Terang. Make use of the opportunity.

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

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