

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.

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:

27th & 28th June 2020

1st read: 2 Kg 4: 8-11

2nd read: Rom 6: 3-4, 8-11

Gospel: Mt 10: 37-42



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE TERANG and ST. COLMAN'S MORTLAKE PARISH BULLETIN

To access this bulletin online go to www.ballarat.catholic.org.au
and select either Terang or Mortlake Parish.

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

20th & 21st June 2020

RECENT DEATHS: George Moloney

ANNIVERSARIES: Patricia Meade, Margaret Riordon,
Noel Riordon, Gladys Riordon



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Marie Glennen, Leanne Batten, Graham Pearson
(Names placed on the sick list will remain for 3 weeks unless otherwise notified)

SUPPORTING OUR PARISHES:

Thank you for your ongoing support of our Parishes

WEEKEND MASSES RESUME

Next weekend we will resume our weekend
Masses at St Thomas & St Colman's
with a limit of 50 people allowed to attend.

You must fill out the attendance sheet in the foyer with your name, phone number & signature before entering the Church on each occasion you attend Mass - for the purpose of contact-tracing if it becomes necessary.

Please be guided by the usual on-going hygiene requirements. Social distancing of at least 1.5 metres & hand sanitising. Sanitiser will be available with the sign in book on the table in the foyer.

St Thomas' ~ Sat 6pm & Sun 10.30am

St Colman's ~ Sun 9am

Weekday Masses Terang & Mortlake

All regulations are the same as weekend Masses.

Sign In

Social distancing

Hand sanitising

Wednesday in Mortlake at 10.00am

Thursday in Terang at 10.00am

Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus tells us that we don't need to be afraid because God is always watching over us. God cares for us through the people who love us the most and who help us to overcome our fears and anxieties.

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

**Reflection on the Gospel-12th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
(Matthew 10:26-33)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Many of those who once looked through the barbed-wire fences of Australia's detention centres carry personal stories of fear of persecution. One such story, the story of Najaf Mazari, is beautifully narrated by Najaf and Robert Hillman in their joint work, *The Rugmaker of Mazar-e-Sharif*. Najaf is an Afghani Hazara who suffered persecution and torture at the hands of the Taliban. He escaped to Australia via Indonesia in 2002. After some time in detention, he established a rug making business in suburban Melbourne. He was reunited with his wife Hakeema and daughter Maria in 2008 and became an Australian citizen in June 2014.

Some first century Christian groups, including Matthew's community, were a bit like the Afghani Hazaras and Syrian or Iraqi Christians in that they are persecuted simply on account of who they are vis-à-vis those who seek exclusive political and cultural power. They have every reason to fear bodily harm and even death, as suffered by Jesus and his followers. Jesus himself experienced fear in the face of his impending suffering and political execution. Yet Jesus tells his disciples, not once but three times, not to fear those who kill the body.

How are these words to be understood? To return to the story of Najif: the Taliban had power to destroy his body, but no power over his spirit. A man of deep faith, supported by a family who sacrificed their own comfort and placed their trust in God (Allah), he survived against the most incredible odds. Even if he had died in the effort to find freedom, his faith in the fullness of life with God would remain, in contrast with the bullying power of the Taliban who could kill the body but not an indomitable spirit.

Trust in God is at the heart of Jesus' response to suffering. The disciples are sent to proclaim in the marketplace or from the "housetops" the gospel they have received in the security of the household. If they proclaim the gospel and acknowledge Jesus, he will in turn "acknowledge" them before God "in heaven". They can expect rejection and humiliation. This is not to deter them from their mission. They are not to give up the struggle or capitulate in the face of persecution. Like all of God's creatures, including the sparrows, they are precious in God's eyes and will not be abandoned. On the contrary, even the hairs on their heads are numbered by God.

Trust in God is the appropriate response to suffering endured for the sake of God's empire as opposed to the empire of Rome. Trust in God does not take away the pain. As we move into this most extraordinary of Ordinary Times, we join with asylum seekers, refugees, the unemployed and the underemployed, with African American communities and especially, in this context, with the First Peoples of this country, for the justice that is their right. They are precious in God's eyes. They are precious in our eyes and must not be abandoned.