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:

16th & 17th January 2021

1st read: 1 Sam 3: 3-10, 19 **2nd read:** 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20

Gospel: Jn 1: 35-42



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.

Baptism of the Lord

9th & 10th January 2021

RECENT DEATHS: Chris Sheedy, Maria Clarke

ANNIVERSARIES: Bernie Gleeson, Evie Moloney,

Tony Shanahan, Pat Kelly

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Nell O'Sullivan

(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 26th/27th Dec & 2nd/3rd	Jan TERANG	MORTLAKE
1st Collection	\$ 1,204.75	\$ 270.60
Planned Giving Program Week 22		
2nd Collection	\$ 2,146.00	\$ 135.00
Average given	\$ 2,040.61	\$ 298.70
Amount promised per week	\$ 1,696.46	\$ 300.81

Masses are allowed with a gathering up to 250(T)/125(M) people. All attending must sign in, wear a mask, hand sanitise & social distance

TERANG & MORTLAKE ROSTERS:

LINEN: January Terang: Margaret Irving

Mortlake: Claire Adams

FLOWERS: 16th/17th January

Terang: Maureen Kenna & Aileen O'Connor

Mortlake: Fay Murray (& 24th Jan)

Mortlake Set Up: January - Carmel Orford

COUNTERS: Not required due to COVID

Liturgy Rosters: Weekend ~ 16th & 17th January 2021

READERS: 1st & 2nd reading & Prayers of the Faithful

Terang Saturday 6.00 pm: Allison Lourey

Sunday 10.30 am: Des McKinnon

Mortlake Sunday 9.00 am: Mick Murphy

(Copies of next weeks readings will be emailed to you)

Procession of Gifts & Eucharistic Ministers

Due to COVID19 we will not require anyone for the Offertory or to administer Communion ~ Fr Gerry will do this

Music Mortlake Sun 9.00 am: Volunteer

Lap Top Terang: Sat 6.00 pm: Khloe Meade

Sun 10.30 am: Max & Greta Neal

We welcome into God's Family and our Parish Community

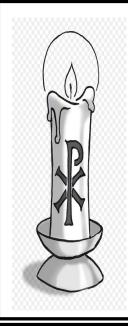
Mia Elizabeth O'Connor

daughter of

Stephen & Hannah

who will be baptised at St. Thomas' Church this weekend.





There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.

Edith Wharton

Reflection on the Gospel-Feast of the Baptism of Jesus Year B (Mark 1:7-11) -Veronica M. Lawson RSM

The Baptism of Jesus marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. Many of us have been fortunate enough to get some time after Christmas to reflect on the past year with all its challenges and to set goals for the year ahead so that we might move into Ordinary Time with renewed life and vigour. As Covid-19 vaccines offer hope of a return to more familiar ways of being, we acknowledge the need to explore new ways of living the faith we profess.

Mark's story of the baptism forms part of the prologue to the gospel. It provides the reader with insights that the characters in the story are invited to learn along the way. It is succinct and at the same time replete with evocative imagery. At one level, the imagery leads us back into Israel's faith traditions and forward into the unfolding mystery of God's new way of being in the world through the ministry, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. On another level, the imagery embraces the entire universe, the heavens and the earth, celestial and earthly beings, the human and the more-than-human. The preceding verses (Mark 1:5-6) have told us that John the Baptizer has drawn huge crowds of people from the Judean countryside and from Jerusalem to be baptised in the Jordan River. In the midst of this activity, John now suddenly announces that one more powerful (literally "the stronger one") is about to come on the scene. John knows who he is in relation to this coming one: he is not even worthy to bend down and untie the thong of his sandals. This footwear imagery evokes the humility and earthiness of John as well as the relentless journeying of Jesus in Mark's gospel. While John baptised with water, the more powerful one will "baptise" with the Holy Spirit.

The baptism story is a commissioning story. The heavens are torn apart, evoking the prophetic hope of Isaiah 64:1 and foreshadowing the tearing of the curtain of the temple at Jesus' death (Mark 15:38). In other words, all the barriers between God and God's creation are now dismantled. Just as God's spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so now the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus in the form of a dove, giving birth to something entirely new. The God of the universe addresses Jesus as "my beloved Son". There are echoes here of the story of Isaac, the beloved son of Sarah and Abraham, the one through whom God's promises were to be fulfilled. Isaac is the ancestor of Israel who struggled with God. God's people have always struggled with God and will continue to do so. But God's favour continues to rest on God's creation just as it rests on Jesus of Nazareth, God's beloved. We take heart from this in face of a world that cries out for justice and compassion.