



St. Thomas' Primary School

Community Newsletter

Website: www.stterang.catholic.edu.au

Address: PO Box 123, Terang, VIC, 3264

Email: admin@stterang.catholic.edu.au

Phone: 03 5592 1925

Newsletter #1

Term 1 Week 2 2021

What's on this week?

Monday ~ P-6 Classes Resume

Tuesday ~

Wednesday ~ Swimming Program
for Gr 3-6 begins

Thursday ~ Gr 3-6 Swimming

Friday ~ Gr 3-6 Swimming
- Assembly @9am
(streamed live on
facebook)

Want to Know More?

View or download our Calendar
and Newsletters from Skoolbag or
our school Website.

Prayer FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder
of our being, for mind, body and spirit.

Be with our children as they begin a new school year.

Bless them and their teachers and staff.

Give them strength and grace as their bodies grow;

Give wisdom and knowledge to
their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and
zeal to their hearts.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our School Vision

'Inspired by Christ, together we learn and grow'



Happy birthday to the following children who celebrate their birthday this week!

Lily Guthrie
Keian Guerrero
and to
Felix Harrison
who celebrated his last week.

UPCOMING DATES

February

Wednesday 3rd Feb until
Thursday 11th Feb - Gr
3-6 Swimming Program

Friday 12th Feb -
Swimming Carnival
(Mortlake)

Tuesday 16th Feb - Shrove
Tuesday, Big Breakfast

Wednesday 17th - Ash
Wednesday

From the Principal

Hello all, welcome to the start of the 2021 school year. We have had a challenging 12 months, and I write this newsletter with optimism and hope that 2021 will be one of new beginnings. We welcome our new preps who begin their educational journey today. We also welcome our new families to our school community. Please take some time to read through the newsletter as there is plenty of information to start off the year.

Enjoy the rest of the week.

Matt Uzkuraitis

News

School Leaders 2021

As was announced last year, our school leaders for the 2021 year is as follows:

School Captains: Paddy Scanlon & Ava Conheady

Social Justice Captains: Lyla Grundy & Tahnee Sachs

Environment Captain: Brodie Fleming

Arts Captain: Eliza Beaton

All Gr 6's will be House Captains

Opening School Mass - Sunday 7th February

Our opening school Mass will be this *Sunday 7th February at St. Thomas Church @ 10:30am*. This mass will enable us to welcome our new students along with formally acknowledging our 2021 School Leaders. As has been with previous years **all children are expected to attend this mass.**

Grade 3-6 Swimming Program

Our Grade 3-6 students will commence their Swimming Program on Wednesday 3rd February. The swimming program will run every day. Our last session will be on Thursday 11th February. Trained instructors from the 'Splash Factory' will be taking the lessons. The classes will have their swimming times as follows:

Mrs Cain Grade 3 - 12:30-1pm

Alison/Miss Cole Grade 3/4 - 1-1:30pm

Miss Patterson - 1:30-2pm

Students in these classes are able to wear their sports uniform on these days. Please ensure students pack their swimmers, towel, change of underwear and goggles (if needed) along with a bag for their wet clothes.

Fr Michael McKinnon

We formally welcome Fr Michael McKinnon to our school community. Fr Michael is well known in the area and we are grateful that he will be our Parish Priest for the near future. His experience, knowledge and pastoral support will be greatly appreciated by all.

Rest Days for Foundation Students

For the first term the Foundation students will have a rest day each **Wednesday** during the month of **February**, once we arrive in the month of March they will attend school full time.

Swimming Carnival - Friday 12th February

Next Friday 12th February, we will be joining St Colman's Mortlake and having our swimming carnival in Mortlake. More information regarding this carnival will be on next week's newsletter.

Lunch Orders

Lunch Orders have commenced. A lunch order list was forwarded via skoolbag last Friday.

Summer Uniform

Our summer uniform is as follows:

Girls

Summer school frock

School Jumper

Black school shoes or sandals

School Hat

Boys

Grey Shorts

Light blue polo shirt

Black shoes or sandals

Grey socks

School Hat

A reminder that there are some items available from our second hand uniform shop at the school.

Finance Information for Parents

School Fee Statements

All families will receive their 2021 school fee statements this week, accompanying this letter will be an outline of our fees for 2021 and payment options for these fees. If you wish to discuss payment options then feel free to speak with Linda at any time.

Family Assistance Scheme ~ are you eligible?

The Family Assistance Scheme, introduced by the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat offers a tuition

School
F E E S

fee concession to families who hold a current Health Care Card/Centrelink or Veteran Affairs concession card. Families who qualify for the scheme will pay \$520 per annum for primary school tuition fees. The discounted fee covers tuition and capital fees only. It does not cover additional charges such as camps, student fees and excursions.

To be eligible you must produce a Commonwealth Health Care Card or Pension Card to the office (which we are required to photocopy) and complete an application form. If during the year your circumstances change and you become eligible for a Health Care Card/Centrelink, please come and discuss this with Linda. Although a family may be eligible to receive a fee discount, families may choose not to apply for the fee discount and pay the full school fee.



Camp, Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF)

Similarly, if you are eligible for the above assistance, then there is a strong chance you will also be eligible for the CSEF. This amount is aimed at offsetting the costs associated with any camps, excursions and sporting events that your child participates in.

Conveyance Allowance

There is funding available for families if you have to travel more than 4.8km to pick-up or drop off students at Bus pick-up points, *(provided St Thomas' is your closest catholic school)* parents should apply for the reimbursement applicable through the Private Car Conveyance Allowance Application. This form is available from the office. Questions regarding this can be directed to Linda in the office.

Traffic & Student Management

As we commence a new year it is important for all community members to be aware of the systems we have in place to ensure all children are safe while travelling to and from school.

~ if your child is a bus traveller and is being picked up by a parent or guardian then the school requires you to notify your child's teacher or the front office via phone or email.

~ all children crossing Bolivar St or Lyons St are to do so at the Crossings and must not cross until accompanied by a teacher or a parent/guardian. Children are not permitted to cross the road until they can see their parents.

~ please ensure that your child knows what the arrangements are for their after school travel and only inform them of a change if it will definitely happen- this saves them a great deal of worry.



School Communication

St. Thomas' Primary School uses the following methods to assist you to stay informed:

Newsletter: the Newsletter is published weekly on Mondays and is available on our website and distributed directly to anyone with email. The newsletter carries the bulk of our news and information about what is happening at St. Thomas'. It is the main way parents/ guardians can be informed about coming events, student and teacher achievements.

Parent Access Module (PAM): Your login and password allows confidential access to information about student attendance and absences, medical profiles and approving permission forms. If you have misplaced your login or password please contact the Office.

SkoolBag App: the school app is the simplest way to receive short messages, reminders, or emergency information direct to your mobile phone. The app can be downloaded free from either Apple App Store or Google Play by searching for 'St. Thomas' Primary School Terang'.

Facebook: Facebook allows us to share many of the wonderful stories about what's happening at our school including individual and team achievements.

PAM Medical Profiles

We ask families that if you require to login into PAM and update your child's Medical Information then please do this ASAP. Please take the time to check that all information is correct.

This information assists with our electronic permission forms that are a feature in PAM, we require you to update the Medical Profile for your child/ren.

Please follow the instructions below to update a medical profile for each of your children by:

- Click on link to PAM
- Click on student (if more than 1 child, this will need to be done individually)
- Click on Medical Profile (blue writing to the left of screen)
- Check all questions and select Edit Details for updates to be made.
- Once you get to the end of the questions please confirm by clicking on the Green "Update Details" Box found at the bottom right of screen.

As a parent/guardian you are able to access your child/ren's medical profile on PAM at any time to update as needed. Administration will send out reminders each term in 2021 requesting you update any necessary information. If you have any queries or require your PAM login details, please do not hesitate to get in contact with the office.

Covid Update

COVID Safe Arrangements

In order to ensure the health and safety of all community members, we ask that all families adhere to the following guidelines. These guidelines are set with our Catholic Education Commission Victoria (CECV) School Operations guide:

Testing- Symptomatic (Feeling unwell) or Asymptomatic

If a member of a family is recommended by their doctor to have COVID 19 testing, this person is asked to self isolate until the results are known. **Any children/siblings of this family are requested not to attend school until the results of the testing are known.** This will restrict the spread of possible contact with the virus if the test is positive. This is a duty of care for all at school.

If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice. Any unwell children will be sent home. We will temperature check any child we feel is unwell.

Sick Children at School

Every student that presents to the sick bay with cold or flu like symptoms will have their temperature taken and the first aid staff member will assess the student. If necessary, we will send the student home.

Visitors to St. Thomas'

At this stage, there has been an ease on parents, volunteers and community groups entering the school - however it is recommended that parents enter for short periods of time only. We would ask, if parents do have to come in, that it is a valid reason and that the task is completed as quickly as possible. Any parents/visitors that are onsite for more than 15 minutes, will need to sign in at the office. We still advise parents and guardians to maximise the use of phone (5592 1925) and email communication with the school or directly to their child's teacher.

Drop Off & Pick Up Arrangements

Drop Off- Parents are welcome to drop off at the normal time from 8.30am onwards. All children will need to enter the school via the Bolivar Street doorway or the Playground doorway.

Pick Up- Children being picked up by parents or walking home will continue to do so. Parents collecting children by car, are asked to park in the church car park and wait for their child/children to cross the road. Children riding/ walking home will exit via the Bolivar Street doorway or the Playground doorway.

PASTORAL CARE WORKER- CLARE JEHU

Returning to school after holidays.

Whilst school holidays can be fun and relaxing, going back to school may be challenging for some.

Fortunately, getting well-prepared a few days in advance can make easing back into the normal school routine a lot less overwhelming for both parents and kids. Here are a few handy back-to-school tips that will make the transition smoother.

1. Encourage kids to set goals and take responsibility

Encouraging children to set goals and take responsibility for the upcoming school term is a great way to get them in the right frame of mind. Research by Gureckis & Markant (2012) found that kids who participate in setting learning goals are consistently more motivated and take learning more seriously.

2. Engage with their curriculum

If you want to help your child set appropriate learning goals, it's important to engage with their curriculum and be aware of what they will be learning and are expected to be proficient in.

3. Ease into the routine a few days early

During the holidays, schedules are usually more relaxed and kids get used to going to bed and waking up later, which is one of the

things that can make the first few days of school difficult. It can help to ease into routine by starting a few days early, so that everyone is already used to waking up on time by the time school starts.

4. Get organised

The more organised you are the easier your first back-to-school mornings will be, so take the time to plan your morning routine in advance. This may include figuring out what time you need to get up, what you'll prepare for breakfast and laying out some outfits the night before.

Lunches are also best prepared the night before, and you can even get the kids involved by asking them what they'd like to eat and see if they'd like to help you chop vegetables, prepare sandwiches and organise the kitchen once you're finished.

5. Have fun with it

School days may not be as exciting as holidays, but that doesn't mean it has to be a sombre or boring time. Look for ways to keep things fun, whether it's upholding family traditions, such as family breakfast and reading or watching a TV series together, or looking for extracurricular activities the kids will enjoy, such as swimming, football or music and art.

Be mindful that kids are often quick to pick up on adults' attitudes towards things, so try to speak positively about school and emphasise the positive aspects of it, such as their friends and teachers or the cool things they'll have a chance to learn.

Adapted from

<http://education.abc.net.au/newsandarticles/blog/-/b/2736073/5-back-to-school-preparation-tips-for-parents->

PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Michael McKinnon

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. Matthew Uzkuraitis
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 Wuorong 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:

6th & 7th February 2021

1st read: Job 7: 1-4, 6-7

2nd read: 1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23

Gospel: Mk 1: 29-39

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.

4th Sunday of Ordinary

30th & 31st January 2021

RECENT DEATHS: Wendy Lewis

ANNIVERSARIES: Jack Ewing

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

(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 23rd & 24th Jan 2021	TERANG	MORTLAKE
1st Collection	\$ 570.20	\$ 146.70

Planned Giving Program Week 25

2nd Collection	\$ 443.00	\$ 126.00
Average given	\$ 1,990.73	\$ 291.15
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, hand sanitise & social distance

TERANG & MORTLAKE ROSTERS:

LINEN: February Terang: Denise Bond
Mortlake: Rita Pasque

FLOWERS: 6th/7th & 13th/14th February

Terang: Annette Heffernan & Josie Vaughan
Mortlake: Judy McDonald (7th Feb)

Mortlake Set Up: February - Gertie MacDonald

COUNTERS: Not required due to COVID

Liturgy Rosters: Weekend ~ 6th & 7th February 2021

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

Terang Saturday 6.00 pm: Kevin Lee

Sunday 10.30 am: Bernadette McKinnon

Mortlake Sunday 9.00 am: Pam Smith

(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 Mick will do this

Music Mortlake Sun 9.00 am: Pam & Noel

Lap Top Terang: Sat 6.00 pm: Kellie Lee
Sun 10.30 am: Trish Bricknell



Weekday Masses

Tues 2nd February: 10.00am Terang
(John Glennen & Ellen Glennen)

Thurs 4th February: 10.00am Terang



Sr Aileen Moloney, R.S.M. has recently celebrated her 70th Anniversary of Religious Profession 24/1/2021 whilst residing now: Rice Village, Marshall (Geelong).

Sr Aileen is able to accept our invitation to join us at the 5pm Mass: Tuesday 9th February, 2021 to allow family and friends to join in this celebration.

A light supper will follow. All Welcome
If intending to attend: Ph. St Mary's Parish :5231 2177
(Mon- Fri: 8.30 – 12.30pm).

Pastoral Care Education Program 2020-21

Another successful pastoral care education program was completed in December 2020 supported by our Parish.

Stephen Hishon (Catholic Communities of Apollo Bay, Lorne and Aireys Inlet)

Rev Frank Tuppin (Camperdown, Derrinallum, Apollo Bay Uniting Church Communities)

Fr Nay Htoo Khin (St Matthews Anglican parish Wendouree)

Peter Sherman (Catholic Chaplain and Spiritual Care Coordinator University Hospital Geelong) were all successful and we enjoyed celebrating the Graduation in Lorne.

Anyone interested in applying for the 2021 program and securing pastoral placement please contact Bernadette Wurlod coordinator and supervisor.

News about the 2021 program will advertised in the near future.

Bernadette Wurlod ~ Clinical Pastoral Educator ASACPEV

Inc. bernadette@bernadettewurlod.com.au

0455 033 321

Reflection on the Gospel-4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B **(Mark 1:21-28)**

-Veronica Lawson RSM

Today's gospel reading recounts the first episode in a section of Mark's gospel that focusses on a typical day in the ministry of Jesus as authoritative teacher and prophetic healer (1:21-38). Jesus comes with his disciples to Capernaum. On the Sabbath day, Judaism's holy day, he goes into the synagogue, Judaism's local gathering place, and preaches. The verbal forms in the first sentence indicate that teaching in the synagogue was part of his customary activity. Jesus is thus located firmly within Israel's prophetic tradition of proclaiming God's word to God's people. In today's first reading from Deuteronomy (18:15-20), the term "prophet" appears eight times. Moses tells the people that God will respond to their request at Sinai (Horeb) and raise up from among them a prophet like himself, a mediator between God and God's people, one who will speak God's word. Prophets do not appoint or authorise themselves: God calls and authorises the prophets to speak God's word. Failure to heed the prophets carries its own consequences as does the attempt to assume a prophetic role without God's authorisation. Just as the prophets of old speak the authentic word of God only when they are authorised by the God of Israel, so Jesus of Nazareth, later to identify himself in this gospel as God's prophet (6:4), speaks and acts "with authority". In other words, he speaks with the authority of the God of Israel.

In this first Markan story of his divinely authorised activity, Jesus is approached by a man "with an unclean spirit". The man's loud scream sets up a confrontation between the power of God, mediated through Jesus, and the forces of destruction that often take hold of human lives. Jesus silences and expels these destructive forces and thus renders a seriously troubled person whole. Confounding the "unclean spirit(s)" brings social and communal benefits to the troubled person as well as physical and emotional healing.

God's reign or empire is made real through a healing action that is perceived as "a new teaching". No word of Jesus' teaching is reported, only his actions and those actions are presented as "teaching". While words have their place, we teach primarily by who we are and what we do. For Jesus and his disciples, as for us, congruence between words and actions is integral to authentic gospel proclamation. Jesus is demonstrating to his newly formed group of followers that the gospel they are to proclaim is grounded in the ordinary struggles of ordinary people. This gospel carries the power to lift the burdens and restore the troubled to wholeness and health. We may wish to acknowledge the "unclean spirits" that take hold of us from time to time so that we can open ourselves to the power of God mediated through God's healer-teachers in our time.