



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 #2

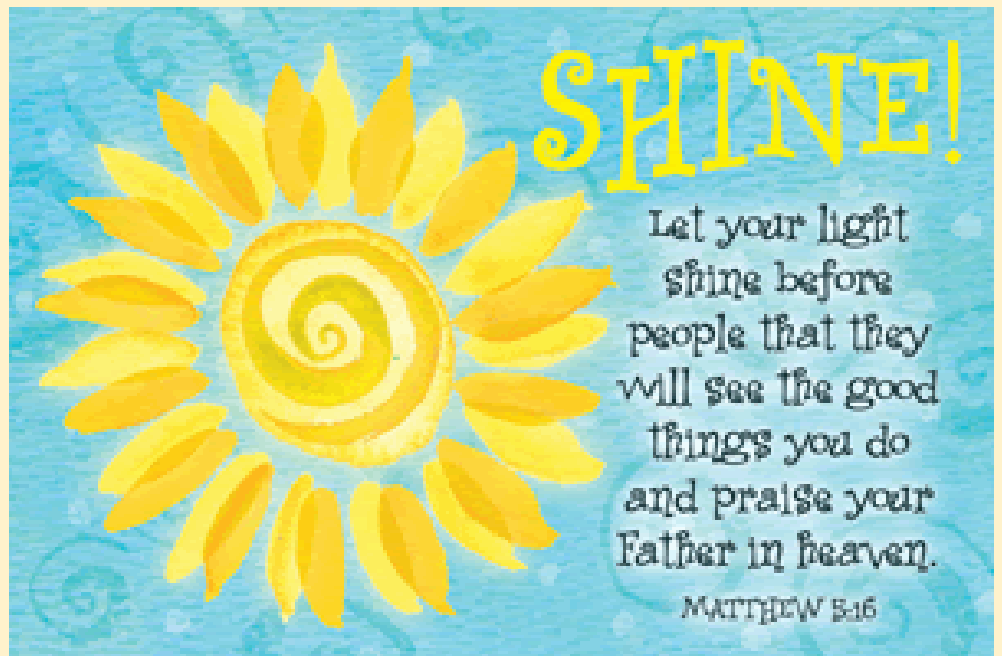
Term 1 Week 3 2021

What's on this week?

- Monday ~ Gr 3-6 Swimming
- Tuesday ~ Gr 3-6 Swimming
- Wednesday ~ Gr 3-6 Swimming
- Rest Day for Preps
- Thursday ~ Gr 3-6 Swimming
- Friday ~ Swimming Carnival
Mortlake
- No Assembly

Want to Know More?

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



Our School Vision

'Inspired by Christ, together we learn and grow'



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

Lexi Kenna
Ava O'Connor
Alex Gubbins

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, we had a very nice celebration yesterday at our Opening Mass. Our theme was 'Let your light shine'. After what has been a challenging past 12 months we should approach the year with optimism and enthusiasm.

Enjoy the rest of the week.

Matt Uzkuraitis

News

Opening School Mass - Sunday 7th February

Thank you to all those who attended our opening school Mass yesterday. A special thank you to Fr Michael who led our celebration. Also to Mrs Cavarsan and Michelle Croft who made our beautiful display at the church along with Mrs Cain and Clare Payne for their organisation of the Mass. Also to Marie Ewing and her choir for providing the music. Our next celebration at the church will be on Ash Wednesday.

Big Breakfast - Tuesday 16th Feb

Next Tuesday 16th will be our annual Big Breakfast. Work has been well under way to make sure that this event can go forward in a Covid safe way. There is a letter attached to this newsletter outlining ways you can help if you are available along with details about this event.

Hats

As we are now a week back into school life we will be implementing our no hat, no play rule. If you can please ensure your child has a hat and that it has their own name on it, that would be much appreciated.

Junior School Council Representatives

Our Junior School Council Representatives are as follows:

Prep/1B: Harriet Conheady & Jack Gilmour

1L: Kira O'Keeffe & Felix Harrison

2J: Daisy Dillon & Archer Gleeson

3C: Finn Scanlon & Jade Byron

3/4 KC: Tiah Moloney & Harper Dillon

5/6P: Paddy Scanlon & Ava Conheady

We congratulate these students and we are sure they will serve the students well as their representatives.

Sacramental and Liturgy Dates

Please see below for our Sacramental and Liturgy Dates for 2021.

Rest Days for Foundation Students

A reminder 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

This Friday 12th February we will be having our Swimming Carnival with St Colman's at the Mortlake Pool. An outline of the day is as follows:

9am F-6 students leave on the bus for Mortlake

9:30am - Arrive at St Colman's, P-2 to stay at St Colman's for activities. 3-6 Students off to the pool

9:45 - 12:30 - Gr 3-6 Swimming Events

12:30 - 1:30 - P-2 walk down and complete swimming activities

1:30pm - Presentation/Some free time

2:30pm - Bus back to school

The Gr 3-6 students have nominated themselves to compete in many of the 4 strokes - freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly and we are very proud of their willingness to get in and have a go. The F-2 program will be a mixture of across the pool events and fun activities. Students will need to bring their swimming gear and can wear their sports uniform on this day. We are happy to announce that parents are able to attend this event. We will forward a more detailed program and a permission form soon.

Face Masks Indoors

Any parents or visitors to the school are required to wear face masks indoors. This is due to the tightening of restrictions that came into force late last week. We will keep you updated once changes are made. We thank you for your cooperation.

Finance Information for Parents

Family Assistance Scheme ~ are you eligible?

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



Bell Times and Supervision

Please be aware of the following information regarding bell times and supervision. It is important that you support us in our daily routine so that we can ensure the safety of all students.

8.45 Organisation time
8.55 – 10.55 Learning time
(fruit time @ approx. 10.00am)
10.55 – 11.00 Eating Time
11.00 – 11.30 Play time
11.30 – 1.00 Learning time
1.00 – 1.10 Eating time
1.10 – 1.50 Play time
1.50 – 3.20 Learning time
3.20 Dismissal bell



Supervision is provided by members of staff for students from 8.30am until 3.30pm, students should not arrive at school before 8.30am. Students must be picked up promptly following the 3.20pm bell, if you are running late then please contact the school.

At least two teachers are on duty at recess and lunch times.

No child is to leave school before the dismissal bell unless permission has been granted. In these circumstances the student needs to be signed out by an adult in the register at the Office. If a child arrives at school later than 9.00am then they are to be signed in at the front office by an adult.

Sacramental and Liturgy Dates 2021

St. Thomas' Sacramental & Liturgy Dates 2021

Opening Mass:	Sunday 7 th February @ 10.30am
Ash Wednesday Mass	Wednesday 17 th February @ 12.00pm
Easter Liturgy	Thursday 31st March
Easter	Sunday 4 th April
Reconciliation Parent Night	Wednesday 10 th March @ 7.30pm
Reconciliation	Wednesday 24th March @ 7.30pm
Confirmation Parent Night	Wednesday 21st April @ 7.30pm
Confirmation	Sunday 23rd May (Pentecost) @ 10.30am
Eucharist Parent Night	Wednesday 6th October @ 7.30pm
First Communion	Sunday 24th October @ 10.30am
Feast of the Assumption	Thursday August 13 th
Reconciliation Year 6	Thursday 2nd December @ 11.30am
Mass of Thanksgiving	Sunday 12 th December @ 10.30am

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 Commision 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.

Student Awards

Student Awards Name Term 1 Week 2, 2021

PREP/I	Fletcher Gleeson Max Walsh All Foundation Students	Star of the Week Persisting with your work and having a positive attitude. For making an amazing start to their first year of school.
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Gr 1	Wilbur Reid Charlotte Boshier	For never giving up even when things got difficult. A kind and caring addition to our year 1 class.
Gr 2	Annabelle Blackford Mary Heffernan	For perseverance, even though it was difficult you kept on trying. For showing responsibility by bringing in your reader.
Gr 3	Grace Boshier Veerath Curtis	For settling in very well to St Thomas Primary school and doing it with a big smile. Welcome Grace! For having a fantastic start to Year 3 and approaching all tasks with positivity! Keep it up!
Gr 3/4	Nate Irving Bella Scanlon	Making a positive start to the year and being a kind friend to his peers Being a delight to have in our class - kind, caring & hardworking!
Gr 5/6	Nikaiah Murfett Brodie Fleming	For settling in very well to St Thomas Primary school and doing it with a big smile. Always having a positive attitude towards his classmates and any activity he does.
ART	Nelson Sloane Darcy Meade	For wonderful listening and creating very impressive artwork. For trying so hard and taking great pride in the presentation of your art.
PE	Piper Kenna	For having a positive attitude and having a go at everything.



PASTORAL CARE WORKER- CLARE JEHU

School Connection:

Benefits of a strong parent-school relationship.

As a parent, you know your child better than anyone else. Your child's teachers will want to get to know your child also.

When a strong and respectful relationship is developed with your child's school and teachers, you're in a good position to give them the information they need to help your child get the most out of education. You and your child's teachers can work together to support your child's learning and wellbeing.

When everybody is working together in the best interests of your child, he/she is likely to reap **academic and social benefits**, like:

- a positive attitude towards school
- positive social and relationship skills
 - regular school attendance
 - positive school results
 - a sense of wellbeing
 - school completion
- progression to post-secondary education like TAFE, university or apprenticeships.

How to build a strong parent-school relationship.

You can build a parent-school relationship in several ways:

- Be involved in the school community in whatever ways you can.
- Become an active member of the Parents and Friends Association
- Assist with learning and sporting programs, excursions and activities.
- Talk informally with teachers at school drop-off and pick-up times.
- Phone to book an appointment to have a formal discussion with a teacher.
 - Go to parent-teacher interviews and parent meetings.
 - Check the school website and newsletters regularly.

Creating a relationship with your child's school is a two-way process. You can ask the school and teachers for information or feedback and you can also share your child's special events or achievements outside school.

Talking positively about school and its staff sends a message that you value education and are interested in your child's school.

Adapted from raisingchildren.net.au

Big Community Breakfast

Shrove Tuesday 16th February @ 7-9am



Menu (Gluten free available)

Pancakes
Bacon & Eggs
Toast
Tea, Coffee & OJ
Egg & Bacon Rolls
Fresh Fruit

Cost

Adults - \$10.00
Secondary School children - \$8.00
Primary & Pre School Children - \$4.00
Family - \$30.00

Preparations are underway for our Annual "Big Breakfast". This social gathering is very popular and we hope that all school families will attend and invite their relatives and friends.

We still require a few items for use on the day and **also lots of helpers** to fill the many jobs involved on Monday & Tuesday.

Jobs and items required:

- ☐ Set up Monday 16th February at 1.00pm (Dads are a great help)
- ☐ Helping on Day (from 6:00am - 7:30)
- ☐ Helping on Day (from 7:30am - 9:00)
- ☐ Money Collector/raffle (from 7:00 - 8:00)
- ☐ Money Collector/raffle (from 8:00 - 9:00)
- ☐ Clean & Pack Up (9am - Dads are again a great help)
- ☐ 4 slice toaster (clearly labelled so we can return them)

If you can help please reply to the google form that will be sent out via email by **Thursday 11th February**.

Covid considerations: All attendees will be required to sign in, maintain social distancing and wear a mask as directed.

PS: Help us and the environment by bringing your own "keepa" cup!

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 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:

13th & 14th February 2021

1st read: Lev 13: 1-2, 44-46

2nd read: 1 Cor 10: 31-11:1

Gospel: Mk 1: 40-45

Liturgy Roster

As of next weekend
we will resume having
an Offertory Procession
at all Masses
& one Eucharistic
Minister (Terang only)

Rosters will be altered
& emailed/posted
next week

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.

5th Sunday of Ordinary

6th & 7th February 2021

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES: Kathleen Kenna, Dawn Stapleton,
Rachael Meade



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

(Names placed on the sick list will remain for 3 weeks unless otherwise notified)

SUPPORTING OUR PARISHES:

Weekend 30th & 31st Jan 2021

1st Collection

TERANG
\$ 617.15

MORTLAKE
\$ 158.85

Planned Giving Program Week 26

2nd Collection

\$ 361.00

\$ 520.00

Average given

\$ 1,930.37

\$ 299.63

Amount promised per week

\$ 1,696.46

\$ 300.81

**MASSES AT TERANG & MORTLAKE 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: February Terang: Denise Bond
Mortlake: Rita Pasque

FLOWERS: 13th/14th February

Terang: Annette Heffernan & Josie Vaughan
Mortlake: Jenny Finnerty

Mortlake Set Up: February - Gertie MacDonald

COUNTERS: Not required due to COVID

Liturgy Rosters: Weekend ~ 13th & 14th February 2021

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

Terang Saturday 6.00 pm: Cate Watt

Sunday 10.30 am: Tony Meade

Mortlake Sunday 9.00 am: Jacinta Wareham

Offertory: Terang Saturday 6.00 pm: Mick & Trish Lee

Sunday 10.30 am: Gavan & Liz Moloney

Mortlake Sunday 9.00 am: Leonie Quinn

Eucharistic Minister: Terang Saturday 6.00 pm: Clare Banks

Sunday 10.30 am: Therese Moloney

Music Mortlake Sun 9.00 am: Volunteer

Lap Top Terang: Sat 6.00 pm: Lenny & Bella Scanlon

Sun 10.30 am: Max & Greta Neal

Weekday Masses

**NB: MASSES WILL BE AT
9.30AM AFTER THIS WEEK**

Wed 10th February: 10.00am Terang

Fri 12th February: 10.00am Terang



MEETINGS

St Vincent De Paul meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th February at 7.00pm in the Church Crying Room

St Colman's Parish meeting will be held on Thursday 11th February at 5.00pm in the Church. All Parishioners are encouraged and welcome to attend.

St Mary's COLAC

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).

Reflection on the Gospel-5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (Mark 1:29-39)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

In Australia, Sunday of the Word of God is celebrated this weekend. It comes at a time when our planetary community is in need of deep healing. It invites us to bring the distress of the Earth community into dialogue with the gospel. In the first century Mediterranean world, sickness was attributed to social rather than to physical causes. The corollary of this was that healing focussed principally on restoration of the person to her or his place or status in the society or community. Healing of an individual brought not only the person but the community itself to wholeness. Last Sunday, we reflected on the "healing" of a man with an "unclean spirit". Jesus, healer and teacher, expelled the unclean spirit and thus restored health to the man as well as to the worshipping community. The healing took place in the Capernaum synagogue on the Sabbath. This story began Mark's account of a typical day in Jesus' ministry. Today's gospel passage continues that account. Jesus leaves the synagogue and moves, in the company of two of his new disciples, to the house of Simon and Andrew. In other words, he shifts from a long established gathering place for God's people to a prospective new locus of communal engagement, the house church. This new locus does not preclude the older locus: Jesus continues to teach and heal in the synagogues throughout Galilee.

In this new place of encounter with God, Jesus heals a woman with a "fever" who is identified only in relation to her son-in-law, Simon. Jesus takes her by the hand and raises her up. She is the first human character in the Markan gospel story who is said to "minister". In other words, the love of God working through Jesus draws her beyond herself to engage in a ministry of leadership in the community of God's people. Earlier in Mark's gospel we heard that angels "ministered" to Jesus in the desert. In other words, God looked after Jesus as he began his mission of bringing God's love into a broken world. Jesus will later insist that he came "to minister" (10:45). This woman is caught up in the same mission of bringing the community to health and wholeness.

That same evening, Simon's house becomes a magnet for "the whole city". Jesus heals their sick and afflicted and, early in the morning, seeks the solitude of a "desert" place for prayer. The disciples seek him out, as everyone is looking for him. Jesus makes it clear that he must move on and bring God's word and healing beyond the city to the neighbouring Galilean towns. God's word in this gospel story is for us as well as for those early disciples. Amid all the troubles besetting our world, we too must search out the solitude of a "desert" place for prayer, and engage with renewed energy and insight in whatever each new day brings.

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