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Catholic Church - Diocese of Wollongong

St. THOMAS MORE PARISH, RUSE

welcomes you

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Healy

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

21st JUNE 2020

FIRST READING - Jeremiah 20:10-13.

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah said:

'I hear so many disparaging me,
"Terror from every side!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"

All those who used to be my friends
watched for my downfall,
"Perhaps he will be seduced into error.

Then we will master him and take our revenge!"
But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;

my opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.

But you, Lord of Hosts, who who probe with justice, who scrutinise the loins and heart,

let me see the vengeance you will take on them,
for I have committed my cause to you.

Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the needy
from the hands of evil men.'

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face, that I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons.

I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me. **(R.)**

2. This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour. In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails: Lord, answer, for your love is kind;

in your compassion, turn towards me. **(R.)**

3. The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the Lord listens to the needy and does not spurn his servants in their chains. Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, the sea and all its living creatures. **(R.)**

SECOND READING - Romans 5:12-15.

A reading from letter of St Paul to the Romans

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING - Matthew 10:26-33.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

(R.) Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Patronal Feast of The Immaculate Heart of Mary, for the Diocese of Wollongong



PRAYERING FOR OUR WORLD, AMIDST COVID-19

Gracious God, We give thanks anew for your providence and presence. We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas. We pray for those in need of healing. We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving. We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response. We pray for your Holy spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders. We each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable. This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

REFLECTION - by Fr Michael Tate.

Our Gospel reads: '... not one [sparrow] falls to the ground without your Father knowing.'

But that is a bad translation. The Greek simply says 'not one [sparrow] will fall to the ground without your Father.' Full stop! Our Heavenly Father accompanies a dying sparrow as it dies! That is the measure of the Creator's love for all creatures. God wants to - does - enter into the moment of death, our moment of death.

Now, that would be consoling if I were facing what Jesus was foreseeing for his disciples in the first century.

One of the first Christian groups to hear this Gospel was that set around the Tigris River running through Baghdad in modern day Iraq. Now they face terrible persecution from fanatical Muslims. We can barely imagine hearing today's Gospel amongst the remnant, left in Baghdad today. How does 'Do not be afraid' really sound to them?

So, we could pause for a moment to pray for those for whom today's Gospel is a challenge beyond our imagining. mtate@bigpond.com



Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father

Matthew 10:29.

MASS TIMES



TUESDAY 23rd JUNE
9.30am. - Mass.

WEDNESDAY 24th JUNE
----- NO MASS -----

THURSDAY 25th JUNE
----- NO MASS -----

FRIDAY 26th JUNE
9.30am. - Mass.

SATURDAY 27th JUNE
Saturday Vigil for 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
6.00pm. - Mass.

SUNDAY 28th JUNE
13th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
9.00am. - Mass.

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH DIRECTORY



43 Acacia Avenue, Ruse NSW 2560
P.O. Box 200N Campbelltown North 2560

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Michael Healy

PARISH OFFICE

Secretary: Mrs Carmel Munro

(TUES-FRI) 9.00am - 3.30pm

Telephone: 46 282967

Email: ruse@dow.org.au

Website: www.stmruse.org.au

Facebook: St Thomas More Catholic Parish Church, Ruse.

STEWARDSHIP

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

The psalmist assures us that "the Lord hears the poor." Often, however, He answers their need through the generous gifts of good stewards.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

28th JUNE 2020

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

1st Reading:

2 Kings 4:8-11. 14-16.

That is the holy man of God, let him remain there.

2nd Reading:

Romans 6:3-4. 8-11.

Having been buried with him through baptism, we shall walk in a new life.

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 10:37-42.

Anyone who does not accept his cross is not worthy of me. Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me.

BIRTH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST



The Nativity of St John the Baptist as told in the Gospel of Luke, begins with the Angel Gabriel appearing to John's father in the temple. Gabriel told Zachariah that his elderly wife Elizabeth was to have a son named John. When Zachariah left the temple he was unable to speak, for Gabriel had told

Zachariah that he would be left mute until his son was born. After Elizabeth gave birth there was disagreement among the family's relatives over the naming of the baby. When they approached Zachariah he wrote, "His name is John".

From that moment, Zachariah was able to speak again and he praised God and made a prophesy about John, saying: "You will be called the prophet of the Most High."



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Secretary: Mrs Carmel Munro

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

9.00am - 3.30pm

Parish ☎: 4628 2967

Email: ruse@dow.org.au

School ☎: 4625 6561

GRANDMA IN COURT

HUMOUR CORNER

In a trial, a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grandmotherly, elderly woman to the stand. He approached her and asked, 'Mrs. Jones, do you know me?' She responded, 'Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you'll never amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you.'

The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, 'Mrs. Jones, do you know the defense attorney?'

She again replied, 'Why yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him.'

The defense attorney nearly died.

The judge asked both counselors to approach the bench and, in a very quiet voice, said, "If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you both to the electric chair."

Year A

12th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

(Patronal Feast of The Immaculate Heart of Mary, for the Diocese of Wollongong)



21st June 2020

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

"St Thomas More Parish, Ruse, is a Christ-centred Catholic Community that is committed to living Gospel Values, united by faith as we bring God's Kingdom to life. Our Mission is to welcome all, and respect and support each other in our spiritual journey. We encourage the gifts of people in building our community.

"Anymore who welcomes you, welcomes me and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."

Matthew 10:40

PARISH MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL:



Dear Parishioners,

It was lovely to see Parishioner's and friends of our Parish at our Weekend Masses last weekend and our Weekday Masses (with limited numbers). We look forward to the time when we can ALL be back to-gether

without restrictions.

In the meantime, we must persevere in keeping our faith and commitment strong by prayerfully supporting each other in our daily prayer for each other (not just for ourselves) and to pray for the gifts of patience and tolerance.

Lets especially continually pray for the medical professionals, Government Leaders, Police, first responders etc, who battle to overcome "the unknown" as we try to ride out the devastating storm, awaiting the welcome calm.

However, it is incredibly important that we ALL "do our bit" to help protect the health of others and ourselves, especially the vulnerable

Please register (for Weekend Masses only) beforehand each week at the Parish Office during office hours (Tuesday to Friday 9am -3.30pm or telephone 46282967.

Weekday Masses will be held on Tuesday and Friday at 9.30am. Until later, may God bless keep you well and safe,

Fr Michael

Have you "checked in" on another parishioner this week to say "Hi!"?

DO YOU WISH TO ATTEND A WEEKEND MASS:

You cannot just turn up for Mass as previously!!

Note: emails and text messages cannot be accepted.

You can state the weekend date and time of the Mass you wish to attend and you must give the name and phone number of each person you wish to register. These details will be checked and ticked off at the Church door as you enter Mass.

1. If you are elderly (70 years +) or not feeling well, the ruling states that, (for your own safety) YOU MUST STAY AT HOME.
2. After entering the Church for Mass, your hands will be sanitized and your temperature taken. (This is obligatory) then an usher will show you to your RESERVED seat, where **Social distancing (1.5m)** must be strictly observed, (except for people of the same house-hold) Details of movement during the Mass will be announced.
3. No Holy Water fonts, No Votive Candles, No Offertory Procession, no Sign of Peace. Holy Communion **must** be Received in the hand
4. Please arrive early for Mass (**at least 10 minutes beforehand**). Church doors **must** be locked as Mass begins
5. No collections can be taken up at Mass. Usual Parish Collection donations can be placed in the baskets provided at the Church door
6. You are to sanitize your hands again as you leave the Church.
7. **Nobody** will be permitted to socially assemble in the courtyard before, during and after Mass.

WEEKDAY MASSES AT RUSE CHURCH:

Masses on: Tuesday and Friday's at 9.30am

1. Those attending a Weekday Mass will NOT have to Register beforehand, but only the **first 50** Worshippers will be admitted. Your attendance has to be recorded (at the entrance to the Church)
2. When you arrive for Mass, your name and phone No will be recorded and ticked off as you leave
3. The same rules and procedures as at Saturday/Sunday Mass (above) will be observed. (P.S. **won't it be wonderful when we will be able to just "Go to Mass??"**)

UPDATES IN OUR PARISH:

Parish Working Bee: Thank you to the *small group* of Parishioners who volunteered making the Parish Grounds, Sanitising and cleaning the Church in readiness for the start of regular Masses last weekend. Your time and effort were greatly appreciated. 😊😊😊

Parish Bulletin: All parishioners who have provided the parish office with an email address have been receiving the Parish weekly Bulletin (that includes my weekly message). If you know of a parishioner who is not receiving these emails please encourage them to contact the parish office.

Planned Giving Envelopes 2020/21: There are still a few to be collected from the Parish Office during Office Hours.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: All the people who have died in this current pandemic and the recently deceased and whose anniversaries that occur at this time: Wanda Antao (R.D.), Richard Garton, Fr Theophane (Theo) Rush ofm, Eileen Hughes, Elizabeth Sargent, Cohan Boyd, Alice Harris, Wayne Berthon, Anne Mogensen, Marguerite Green, Mary Writer, Cathy Wiggins, Fr Anthony (Tony) Daly, Ladislav Feher, Beryl Ford, Jim McKenzie, John Read, Bobby Cameron, Marguerite (Marg) Davis, Maree Laming, Jay Jablonskis, Deborah Rix, Bernard Hoffmann, Maurya Hutton and Maria Cabonara. **May they rest in peace**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: For the *many* sick in our Parish Community including: Rita D'Souza, Samantha Glover, Shirley Starr, Kenny Wilson, Antonio David, Hannah Kavanagh, Mary Dolan, Frank Byron, Sean Scanlon, Kellie Brandes, Brian Harris, Francisco Carmona, David Minogue, Daphne and Edmund Pew, Steve Foreman, Luke Van Der Burg, Briege Glover, Fr John Whitty, Elaine Hoffmann, Patricia McInerney, Betty Berthon, Brenda Baker, Moria Harris, Betty Byrne, Rosa Santos, Aimiti Seufatu, John Hill, Freda and Wilfred Miranda, Beryl Purcell, Jeannie and George Nicholson Mary Frederick and Flynn Griffiths.

FOR ANY PARISHIONERS: who would like to have their birthdays and/or wedding anniversaries included in the Parish Bulletin, please contact the Parish Office: 4628 2967 or email: ruse@dow.org.au.

Parishioner's Birthdays this coming week:

24th: Barry Daley

25th: Gil Rae

PARISH COLLECTIONS: With the current situation it is imperative that you please keep up your weekly contributions, as the Parish runs on a limited budget and without these regular contributions to both the First and Second Collections, we will be in real financial difficulties. For this reason, I strongly encourage parishioners who currently give by envelope to change to Direct Debit or Credit Card contributions (please read the following notice on how to arrange this or contact the Parish Office) to ensure the regular income of the parish continues. **I Thank you.**

Otherwise, please drop your Planned Giving Envelope Contribution into the secure letter box outside the Church in Acacia Ave, each week. Please don't forget the first collection for the sustenance of the clergy (as we still have to live too!) For this collection please place your donation in a plain envelope and mark it 'FIRST COLLECTION' and drop it in the secure letter box outside the Church in Acacia Ave.

Thank you once again for your continued support of our Parish of St Thomas More, Ruse.

ELECTRONIC PARISH PLANNED GIVING: Parishes are urgently needing the ongoing financial support of parishioners more than ever, as their overhead costs will not change. The majority of parishioners give physically to their parish in the first and second collection baskets during Mass, we are encouraging all parishioners to join the electronic parish planned giving program. The Diocese have created a page with 2 simple options for parishioners to give to their local parish electronically. You can view the page and forms at the following link: www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving. If you have any questions about the form, please contact the CDF Wollongong: Trevor Kellam at trevor.kellam@dow.org.au

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY: Is available online at <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/catholic-weekly-newspaper-online/>

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Please contact the School Office on 4625 6561, for information for School Enrolments for 2021. The link to read our Parish Catholic Primary School newsletter is:

<https://stmdow.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=50>

INFORMATION FROM THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG:

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020: New dates for plenary council have been announced as well as the Discernment Papers on each Plenary Theme are now available on the Plenary website: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG WEEKLY PODCAST:

The Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast - 'The Journey' - 21 June 2020. Listen in this week for as we hear from Monsignor Graham Schmitzer and about the upcoming national Catholic Men's Conference online. There are some great short talks from some of Australia's best Catholic presenters. Uploaded every Friday for free download - go to www.jcr.org.au

DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG MASS ONLINE: For all of the online Mass options - please visit the DoW website <https://dow.sh/dailymass>. Members of the faithful are urged to keep holy the Lord's Day by making an act of Spiritual Communion (**read on front cover**). **Mass for You at Home** is available across the Ten Network on Sundays at 6.00am and any time on Ten Play. **Daily Mass on demand** is available at CathNews YouTube channel

ADORATION LIVESTREAMED WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: The NET Team host Holy Hour every Wednesday at 6.30pm. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cymdow/> and Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wollongongnetteam/>

CatholicCare: We're always here, if you ever need...

These are challenging times for everyone and CatholicCare are here to support you and your family to navigate the uncertainty. We offer confidential online and phone counselling to support you with the frustration of managing family emotions, relationship pressures and employment changes. To find out more about CatholicCare's counselling service call us on 4254 9395 or email intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au

FAITH CIRCLES: is available free to download at www.faithcircles.dow.org.au or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

THE EUCHARIST: Exploring our Catholic Faith: Mondays 1st-22nd June or Fridays 5th-26th June all at 4pm via Zoom Video Conferencing. For more information and to register go to <https://www.dow.org.au/news-and-events>. For further information email darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au

