

## First Sunday of Advent Year B



3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017

### 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"*

*Our Parish is wheelchair friendly. We have ramps going into the Church and into the Parish Hall. Please let your family and friends know. "Anymore who welcomes you, welcome me and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." Matthew 10:40*

**LOW GLUTEN HOSTS:** If you require Low Gluten Hosts for Holy Communion please see Fr Michael *before* Mass and they will be available for you at Holy Communion.

### MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL:

#### Dear Parishioners

I have been down with a flu virus for some weeks, but in the past week it has really incapacitated me. I am sorry for not being able to offer Mass for the past few days or offer other Ministries. Thank you for your patience, your care and your prayers - I am blessed to have such a beautiful, caring community. You are all very special.

Fr Michael

**The Pope announced at 10pm on 30 November 2017** (Sydney time) that he accepted the resignation of our bishop, Peter Ingham, who has passed the age of retirement.

**Congratulations to our new Bishop,** Bishop-elect, Fr Brian Mascord, Vicar General of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Thank you to Bishop Peter Ingham for the many faithful years of service, a genuine pastor. Thank you

**THANK YOU TO THE MANY PARISHIONERS IN THE VARIOUS PARISH MINISTRIES:** for the giving of their time and talents for our Parish. You are greatly appreciated. Acolyte's, Sacristan's, Church Cleaner's, Flower arrangers, Musician's (all Choir's) Powerpoint Creator and operator's, Extraordinary Ministers Of Communion, Usher's, Parish Counter's, Catechist's, Sacramental Team, Children's Liturgy Teacher's, Baptism Preparation, Parish Ladies Group, St Vincent de Paul, Refreshments after Mass groups, and the many other Parish Ministry Groups. Thank you

**WE WELCOME:** Into our Parish Community **India Rose Storey** who was Baptised last weekend.

### PARISHIONER'S BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK:

2<sup>nd</sup>: **Maree Laming and Beryl Purcell**  
6<sup>th</sup>: **Joe Barbari**

### PARISHIONER'S WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK:

5<sup>th</sup>: **Maureen and Kerry Hennessy (47 years)**

**IF ANY PARISHIONER/S:** 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](mailto:ruse@dow.org.au)

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To our Catechist: Gwen Harris who was awarded 35 years at the Diocesan Catechist Mass (9<sup>th</sup> Nov) at the Cathedral for her dedication and commitment to this important ministry.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** The *many* sick in our Parish Community including: Fr David Catterall, Patricia McInerney, Helen Rawson, Colleen Keane, Betty Berthon, Faleniko Tiatele, Maureen Wyer, Brenda Baker, Moria Harris, Jessica Cartwright, Betty Byrne, Rosa Santos, Elaine Hoffmann, Natalie Dwyer, Aimiti Seufatu, Robert Berthaly, John Hill, Maree and Noel Laming, Rita Jowsey, Freda and Wilfred Miranda, Beryl Purcell, Jeannie and George Nicholson and Mary Fredericks.

**MESSAGE FOR READERS:** The current Readers' Roster ends on the 31st December, the 2018 roster will be released by mid-December this year. We would like to invite more new readers to join us this new year.

**We are looking for individuals, couples or families who have passion for reading and would love to share their God-given talent. We highly encourage young people, who are in Year 5 and above and are good readers to join us.** Those of you who have been readers in the past, we hope you will continue. There is a sign-up clipboard on the table at the church entrance for the next few weeks for your name, phone numbers, email address and preferred Mass time. Should you have any question regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me (May) on **0451468931**. **Thank you to the old readers for their loyalty and welcome to new ones into this rewarding Ministry.** - May

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** Is held during the 9.00am Sunday morning Mass (during School Terms) and is for **school aged children - Kindergarten to Year 6 (inclusive)**. If you would like more information on this Parish Ministry please contact Joanne on 0421 802 132.

**ST THOMAS MORE PARISH PLAYTIME:** Is held on Tuesday's (during School Terms) from 9.30am - 11.30am in our Parish Hall. **This Tuesday the Playtime will be celebrating their last playtime for 2017 with a Christmas Party. Gold coin donation.** Parents/Guardians/Grandparents, if you have children including School aged and bubs, come for a chat and cuppa while the children enjoy playtime activities. If you have any enquiries please contact Catherine on 4627 1842.

**PARISH PIETY STALL:** Selling: 2018 Columban Art Calendar, \$9.00 each, **CHOSEN - Advent and Christmas Reflections 2017 book.** We have more stock available. **Chosen** is a 72 page pocket-size book containing short daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (3 Dec. 2017) to the Baptism of the Lord (8 Jan. 2018) **for \$2.00 each.** **The Piety Stall also has many Christmas present ideas. Come and have a look at what is also available.**

**THE PARISH LADIES GROUP, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR VINNIES CONFERENCE:** Is again seeking your help in helping making Christmas a little bit more joyful for some needy children in our Parish.

Tags are on the Jesse Tree, you are invited to take as many as you are able, and purchase a gift suitable for a child whose age and gender is on the tag. **Please return unwrapped gifts as soon as possible, either to the Church next weekend or to the Parish Office during the week.**

*Your generosity is very much appreciated*

**PARISH LADIES GROUP CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:** Thank you to the many people who have supported these Parish Fundraising Raffles. Yes, Christmas is fast approaching and the Parish Ladies Group have 8 wonderful prizes for their Christmas Raffle. Tickets will be on sale before and after Masses for the next 2 weekends (2/3 & 9/10<sup>th</sup> Dec). Tickets are \$1.00 each. **The raffle will be drawn on Rose Sunday (17<sup>th</sup> December after the 9.00am Mass).** Thank you for supporting this Parish Fundraiser.

**PARISH GROUNDS WORKING BEE PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS:** Will be on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December from 8.30am. Please bring along, lawnmowers, whipper snippers, etc. Morning Tea will be provided. **The more hands the lighter the better.**

**GROUNDS MAINTENANCE:** The Parish is looking for a volunteer who will be willing to work on a regular basis each week in an effort to keep the Church grounds and surrounds neat and tidy. Hours would be flexible and any handyman skills would also be beneficial as there sometimes small tasks that need doing but it is expensive to bring a tradesman in. If you are able to assist please contact the Office on 46282967 your help would be greatly appreciated.

**PARISH MAINTENANCE:** Like anywhere, from time to time little things need 'doing' in the Church, Parish Hall, toilets etc. It's good to keep on top of things. If you happen to notice eg: kneelers need mending, or anything that is need of repair, please write in the Maintenance book on the main table at the entrance of the Church. You can either write in the book or phone/email the Parish Office, if you are aware or notice anything that is in need of repair.

**TAKE A RISK AND GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH:** In our Parish there is a team of volunteers what take a risk and step out in faith. Each week of the school year Catechists present 30 minute lessons using a step-by-step lesson plan that helps Catholic children (in the State Schools) Understand their faith, grow in love and maturity And learn what it means to be Catholic. If you would Like to join this Ministry or have any questions please Contact our Parish Scripture Co-Ordinator: Colleen on 0414284717.

**PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD:** All Parishioner's and Visitors are invited to the Parish celebration on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December (Rose Sunday - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent) at the 9.00am Mass followed by Refreshments in the Parish Hall. Rose Sunday is awaiting the coming of Jesus - and it provides **Us with the encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation For Christmas.**

If possible, it would be appreciated if you could please bring a plate of food to share.

**ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:** Please take a copy of the School Newsletter and keep up to date with what is happening in our Parish Catholic Primary School. *Parishioners are invited to the School's Christmas Carol Concert to be held next Wednesday evening (6<sup>th</sup> Dec) at 6.00pm in the School Oval)*

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** 5.30pm on Christmas Eve, prior to Vigil Mass. Any school children who would like to participate in this Liturgy please contact **Joanne Griffin on 0421 802 132**, for full details. **All children are encouraged to join.**

**MASS IN FRENCH** is celebrated at St John's Parish, Campbelltown, every second Sunday of the month. The next one will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> of December, at 6:00 pm. The celebrant is Fr Jan Chrzczonowicz.

**PARISH ROSARY STATUE:** If you would like to have the Parish Rosary Statue in your home, **please phone Bev on: 4625 0659.**

*"When you prayer the Rosary, you have our Lady's hand in your hand. When you pray the Holy Rosary you have the power of God in your hand".*

### PARISH DIARY DATES:

5<sup>th</sup> December: **7.30pm** Parish Pastoral Council Meeting in the Parish Hall (last meeting for 2017)

14<sup>th</sup> December: **after 9.30am** Mass Retiree Social Group - Parish Hall

20<sup>th</sup> December: **7.30pm** Parish Finance Council Meeting in the Parish Centre (last for 2017)

### PARISH ROSTERS FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS:

**EXTRADORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:**

9<sup>th</sup> December: **Saturday Vigil Mass: Trish Newman & James Munro**

10<sup>th</sup> December: **Sunday 9.00am Mass: Catherine Minogue**

16<sup>th</sup> December: **Saturday Vigil Mass: Bertha Barbari & Bev McKenzie**

17<sup>th</sup> December (Rose Sunday): **Sunday 9.00am Mass: Fay & Junior Faamau**

**READERS FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:**

9<sup>th</sup> December: **Saturday Vigil Mass: Julie & Bev McKenzie**

10<sup>th</sup> December: **Sunday 9.00am Mass: Pesio & Noelle Aiga**

16<sup>th</sup> December: **Saturday Vigil Mass: James Munro & May Michelutti**

17<sup>th</sup> December (Rose Sunday): **Sunday 9.00am Mass: Feyise & Jim Writer**

**USHERS FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:**

9<sup>th</sup> December: **Saturday Vigil Mass: Cqrmel Munro**

10<sup>th</sup> December: **Sunday 9.00am Mass: Gwen & Brian Harris**

16<sup>th</sup> December: **Saturday Vigil Mass: Vicki Horne**

17<sup>th</sup> December (Rose Sunday): **Sunday 9.00am Mass: Barry Daley**

**CHURCH CLEANERS' FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS:**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December: **Group 5: Ruse Samoan Divine Mercy**

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December: **Group 1: Syro-Malabar Indian Community**

