

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year C**  
**29th November 2015**



**Advent**  
The time to  
settle down,  
take a deep breath  
and concentrate on  
what's important.

**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. “Anyone who welcomes you, welcome me and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me”. Matthew 10:40*

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

**IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE IN OUR PARISH:** Who is ill/or unable to come to Mass and would like to have Holy Communion please either let Fr Tony or phone the Parish Office on 4628 2967. We have 2 Acolyte’s and Fr Tony who take Communion to the ill/elderly and/or housebound.

*Welcome*

**THE PARISHIONERS OF OUR PARISH WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME: BISHOP PETER INGHAM DD** to our Parish Sunday Vigil Mass. Bishop Peter will be presenting to Fr Tony his Catechist’s Awards for 2015.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO Fr Tony on his Catechist**

**Awards:** Bishop’s Citation – 10 Years Service  
Bishop’s Citation – 15 Years Service  
Papal Blessing – 20 Years Service  
Mary MacKillop Medal – 25 Years Service  
Life Membership – 30 Years + Service

**NOVEMBER:** Is a special time to pray for the dead. A plenary indulgence may be gained for the dead, once only, by visiting a church on 2 November and praying the Lord’s Prayer and the Creed. 3 conditions are required for gaining the indulgence: sacramental confession, eucharistic communion, and prayer for the pope’s intentions (*Norm 15,7*)

**FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:** All the Masses will be offered for the deceased relatives and friends of all our Parishioners. We will record all the names that have been given in the Parish Book of Remembrance, set up in the sacred space. Please notify either Fr Tony or the Parish Office should you wish to include deceased relative and/or friends in the Book of Remembrance.

**WE WELCOME:** Into our Christian Community *Ana Rose Lammond* who was Baptised last weekend.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** The *many* sick in our Parish Community including: Maree and Noel Laming, Betty White, Rita Jowsey, Bernie Smith, Jeannie and George Nicholson, Stevie Dilen, Bill Eccleston, Candice Walker, Chris Noyce, Ethan Craig, Leo Cornwell, Doreen Monckton, Mary Smith, Freda and Wilfred Miranda, Tina Ting, Beryl Purcell, Carmel Welsh, Ellen Healy, John Donnelly, Ken Churchill, Natalie Dwyer, Tomas Laming and Mary Fredericks.

**Parishioner Birthday’s for this week:**

28<sup>th</sup>: *John Nakasenh*  
29<sup>th</sup>: *Noel Laming*  
30<sup>th</sup>: *Les Paterson*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dec: *Maree Laming and Beryl Purcell*

**Parish Wedding Anniversary for this week:**

29<sup>th</sup>: *Annamaria & Pifui (David) Fililava*

*If any Parishioner/s would like to have their Birthdays and or Wedding Anniversaries included in the bulletin, please contact the Parish Office on 4628 2967 or [ruse@dow.org.au](mailto:ruse@dow.org.au)*

**THANK YOU:** To the 2 ladies who cleaned and tidied the back storage room in the Parish Hall. It is greatly appreciated.

**PARISH LADIES GROUP CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:**

Tickets are on sale this weekend at all the Parish Masses. We have 4 terrific prizes, tickets are \$1.00 each. *Please support this Parish Fundraiser.*

**PARISH CHILDREN’S LITURGY (Kindergarten to Year 6 inclusive):** At the Sunday at the 9.00am Mass during School Terms.

**ST THOMAS MORE PLAYTIME:** Tuesdays 9.30am – 11.30am in our Parish Hall during school terms. The last Playtime for 2015 will be this Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December and will resume on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016. **Thank you to Catherine and Colleen for starting this Parish Ministry. The gift of your time and talents are greatly appreciated, as you have more bought much joy to children and parents.**

**ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY: Christmas Jesse Tree** is in the Church and has tags with the ages of the children in need. If you are able, please take a tag (or 2) and buy a present for that aged child and return it to the Jesse Tree (preferably not wrapped). The gifts will be distributed before the School Holidays. So the Gifts need to be returned by the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> December or return to the Parish Office. **We thank you for your kindness and know that your gifts will make a difference to needy children.**

**CHRISTMAS PARISH WORKING BEE:** To ready our Church for Christmas, there is a working bee on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 8.30am (after the 8.00am Mass) until approx. 12.30pm. A list of jobs to be done are on the clipboards on the tables at the entrance to the Church. Even if you only have ½ an hour to spare, it would be greatly appreciated.** Morning tea and BBQ lunch will be provided. **Many hands make light work. Please keep this morning free.**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December: (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Rose Sunday).** Invitations are in the Parish Bulletin. We will be celebrating also our Parish Family Mass followed by morning tea in the Parish Hall.

**READERS FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS MASSES:** If you are available and wish to read, could you put your name in the appropriate place on the clipboard on the table closest to the ramp entrance of the Church. **Thanking you in anticipation.**

**ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:** Please take home a 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 this Wednesday evening (2<sup>nd</sup> December) at St Patrick’s College, Campbelltown. Christmas Carol BBQ from 4.30pm followed by the Concert at 6.00pm.**

**BELOVED ADVENT BOOK NOW AVAILABLE AS AN APP!**

The Beloved Advent book is now available as an interactive App for Apple and Android devices for only \$4.49. The App includes all the text and images from the book as well as audio narrations of the reflections by the authors and music from the four Sunday psalms for Advent from the "Cry Out" CD. Purchase now from [www.app.dow.org.au](http://www.app.dow.org.au)

**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL 3-5 December 2015:**

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is hosting the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Adelaide. This is for those from Year 9 through to 25 years of age, and is an excellent opportunity for young people to deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to be disciples in the world today and encounter and celebrate the vitality of the Church in Australia. Contact Seth Harsh at the Youth Office on 02 4222 2460 or email: [seth.harsh@dow.org.au](mailto:seth.harsh@dow.org.au)

**MT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE:**

247 St Andrews Rd, Varroville:

**December day retreat:** Welcoming Christ with Mary and the Prophets. Presenters: The Carmelite Team. When: December 5, Registration: 930am – 1000am and Cost: \$20.

**Weekend retreat:** Wellsprings of Hope. Presenters: Carmelite Team, When: December 11-13 Cost: \$220 (concessions apply)

**Take time out from the busyness of the end of year & prepare for the coming of Christ.**

Phone: 02 8795 3400 Email: [retreats@carmelite.com](mailto:retreats@carmelite.com)  
[www.carmeliteretreats.com.au](http://www.carmeliteretreats.com.au)

**YEAR OF MERCY BEGINS:** Pope Francis officially opens the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in Rome with the Opening of the Holy Door of St Peters Basilica on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Tuesday 8 December, 9:30am - 12:30am Rome time. In the Diocese of Wollongong Bishop Peter Ingham will open the Holy Door of St Francis Xavier’s Cathedral Wollongong on Sunday 13 December, 10:30am - 12:00 noon. Full details and parish resources for celebrating the Year of Mercy are available on the Diocesan website at <http://www.liturgydow.org.au/year-of-mercy.html>.

**PARISH ROSARY STATUE:**

The purpose of the Ministry is to increase prayer within our Parish. Parishioners involved in this Ministry are prepared to open their home for fellow parishioners to join them in saying the Rosary. **If you would like to join this prayerful Ministry please phone Bev on: 4625 0659**

**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, Musician’s (all Choir’s), Powerpoint Creator and Operator’s, Reader’s, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Usher’s, Parish Counter’s, Flower Arranger’s, Catechist’s, Sacramental Team, Children’s Liturgy Teacher’s, Baptism Preparation, Refreshments After Mass, Communion to the Sick/Elderly, St Vincent de Paul, Parish Ladies Group and the many other Parish Groups.**

God Bless and thank you

Fr Tony

**PARISH DIARY DATES:**

**Tuesday 1st December: 7.00pm** Baptism Preparation Class in the Parish Centre  
**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: 9.30am** (after the 9.00am morning Mass) Retiree’s Social Group gathering (Retiree’s over 55 are most welcome)  
**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December: 7.30pm** St Vincent de Paul Conference meeting (off site)  
**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December: 8.30am -12.30pm** Parish Working Bee

**PARISH ROSTERS FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS:**

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

**Vigil Mass: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Bertha Berbari and Bev McKenzie  
**9.00am Mass: Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Faye and Junior Faamau  
**Vigil Mass: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Trish Newman and Louise Phillips  
**9.00am Mass: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Julie Writer and Helen Rawson

**READERS’ FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:**

(Could the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reader please read also the Prayers of Intercession)

**Vigil Mass: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Gabby Menzies and James Munro  
**9.00am Mass: Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec:** May Michelutti and Barry Daley  
**Vigil Mass: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec:** James Munro and Bill George  
**9.00am Mass: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Pamela Samaha and Maureen Molland

**CHURCH CLEANERS’ FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec: Group 3:** Brian O’Brien, Christine Foreman, James and Carmel Munro  
**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec: Group 4:** Maureen Molland, Rosa and Manuel Herrera, Fay Faamau and Colleen Jablonskis

**USHERS’ FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:**

**Vigil Mass: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Maureen Molland  
**9.00am Mass: Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Christine Foreman  
**Vigil Mass: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Vicki Horne  
**9.00am Mass: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Chris Reddy and Helen Rawson

**FLOWER ARRANGERS FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:**

**5<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Christine Foreman and Carmel Munro  
**12<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Christine Gomes



