

**1st Sunday in Lent
Year A**



1st March 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.

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, welcomes 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.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS: Can you please supervise your children in the Church courtyard and Chelsea House (Parish Hall). **They are not permitted to climb the brick walls, the hand rails both leading into the Church and Chelsea House (Parish Hall), the surrounding trees and the garden in the courtyard. Supervision is your responsibility. We cannot accept liability for a child hurting themselves if they engage in these activities.**

LENT: STATIONS of the CROSS: Will be held in the Church each Tuesday evening at 7.00pm. Commencing this Tuesday 3rd March.

PASCHAL PRECEPT: Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be between **Ash Wednesday** (26 February) and **Trinity Sunday** (7 June) unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least one a year.

Days of Penance: Under 14: No abstaining or fasting obliged.

14-17: Abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday **No fasting obliged.** **18-59:** Abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting obliged. **60+** No abstaining or fasting obliged, while maintaining the spirit of Lent

REFRESHMENTS AFTER SUNDAY 9.00am MASS: If you would like to join this Parish Ministry, please put your name down on the clipboard on the table at the entrance to the Church. This is another great way to develop friendships with other parishioners. Currently this Ministry is once a month. If you would like more information regarding this Ministry please contact Cathy on: 4625 5449. Thank you to the Ladies that are already on the Roster, the gifts of your time and talents are greatly appreciated.

ST THOMAS MORE PARISH PLAYTIME 2020: Is held on Tuesday mornings in Chelsea House (Parish Hall): 9.30am – 11.30am. Mums, Dads, grandparents, carers etc come along with the children. Come for a cuppa and a chat while the children play, do craft, read stories etc. Gold coin donation. For further information please contact Catherine on 4627 1842.

PARISH CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Is during the 9.00am Mass, for school aged children (Kindergarten to Year 6 inclusive), during the School Terms. For more information please contact Joanne on 0421802132. We are always on the search for more teachers/helpers.

VINNIES BUSHFIRE APPEAL: If you wish to donate online: <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw/vinnies-nsw-bushfire-appeal-nsw>. Thank you to those who have already contributed to support affected communities.

PARISH ROSARY STATUE: If you would like to have the Parish Rosary Statue in your home during 2020 please phone Bev on 4625 0659.

WE WELCOME INTO OUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY: **Hunter William and Tyler Cineo Lumagui, Charlotte Anne Spilsted and Jacob James Ledbrook** who were Baptised last weekend.

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.

Parishioners' Wedding Anniversary this coming week:
1st: Elwyn and Adele Spencer (62 years)

PLEASE PRAY FOR: The recently deceased and the anniversaries that occur at this time: Fr Anthony (Tony) Daly (4th Anniv), Ladislav Feher (11th Anniv), Tolentino Enaje, Beryl Ford, Peter Cochrane, Ken Churchill, David Burke, Olga Saulig, Jim McKenzie, John Read, Mary Writer, Bobby Cameron, Alice Harris, Marguerite (Marg) Davis, Maree Laming, Jay Jablonskis, Deborah Rix, Bernard Hoffmann, Maurya Hutton and Maria Cabonara. **May they rest in peace**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: The **many** sick in our Parish Community including Eileen Hughes, Mary Dolan, Frank Byron, Sean Scanlon, Kellie Brandes, Brian Harris, Francisco Carmona, David Minogue, Daphne and Edmund Pew, Steve Foreman, Luke Van Der Burg, Brieger Glover, Fr John Whitty, Elaine Hoffmann, Ellen Healy, 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 and Mary Fredericks.

PARISH COLLECTIONS IN THE CHURCH: We depend on your generosity to make ends meet for the support of our Parish. If you are not part of our Parish Planned Giving Program, then please consider joining. If you are new to our Parish, please consider joining. You can join by the envelope system or Direct Debit. There are forms on the table at the main entrance of the Church. For more information, please contact the Parish Office or see Fr Michael.

ADVERTISING ON THE BACK COVER OF THE PARISH BULLETIN: If you would like to advertise your Business on the back cover of the Parish Bulletin please see/contact Fr Michael, Barry Daley (Chairman Parish Finance Council) or The Parish Office. A business card size is \$275.00 (includes GST) or double business card size is \$550.00 (includes GST). This cost covers advertising for 12 months.

THANKYOU: To the 3 Gentlemen who mowed etc the Parish Church grounds last Thursday; it is greatly appreciated by all who worship in our Parish Church.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO SHOW: Airs 1 March 2020: This week on the Journey we have Week 1 of Lent for you!. The Gospel read by Bishop Brian, reflections by Fr Chris Sarkis and Sr Anastasia Reeves. Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au to listen

MOUNT CARMEL CATHOLIC COLLEGE INFORMATION EVENING YEAR 7, 2021: Will be held this Monday, March 2 at the College in the Champagnat Centre. This meeting will begin at 7pm. Please spread the word to anyone who may be considering enrolling in Year 7 at Mount Carmel for 2021.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Are now taking enrolments for 2021. The School will have an open afternoon this Monday 2nd March from 3-5pm for all prospective families. During this time Families will be taken on a tour of the School by the School Captains and questions will be answered. If you know any family, who have children beginning school next year, please let them know to come along on Monday afternoon. For further information please contact the School Office on: 4625 6561.

ST MARY'S TOWERS RETREAT CENTRE: 415 Douglas Park Drive, Douglas Park Ph: 4630 0233 or email: contact@towersretreat.org.au or website: <http://towersretreat.org.au>. St Mary's Towers is steeped in a spirituality of the heart, a spirituality of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. They offer a variety of retreat experiences throughout the year as well as day visits for individuals and groups. Retreats can be tailored to individual circumstances. **6 Day Retreat: 6th – 12th March:** The Gift of Aging, for more information please contact the above. **Weekend Retreat: 13-15 March:** Mindfulness and the Presence of God, for more information please contact the above.

RELICS PILGRIMAGE As part of the National Pilgrimage, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Rosemeadow, will be hosting the relics of the much loved **St. Therese of Lisieux, the “Little Flower”**, together with the relics of her recently canonised parents, **Ss. Louis and Zelig Martin** in our parish church on **Thursday 19 March from 4.30pm to 9.30pm**. People from all parishes in our region, and indeed anyone, are welcome to come and venerate these holy and unique relics of the only family to be canonised. **The schedule will be as follows:**
4.30pm: Solemn Liturgical Reception & Enthronement of Holy Relics in Sanctuary, **Reflection: A Family Bringing Blessings**, Silent Veneration, **5.45pm:** Reflection: *The Relics of Ss. Louis, Zelig, & Therese Martin*, Silent Veneration
6.30pm: Reflection: *St. Therese of Lisieux* Silent Veneration
7.30pm: Solemn Mass, **8.30pm:** Silent Veneration
9.00pm: Holy Rosary, **9.30pm:** Final Prayers & Departure of Holy Relics

WHY WE'RE CATHOLIC: A Presentation by Trent Horn: Sunday 8th March 2020 6.30pm – 6.30pm, Xavier Conference Centre, 38 Harbour St, Wollongong. Mass at 5pm followed by a light supper at 6pm before the presentation at 6.30pm.

DIARY DATES:

Monday 2nd March: 6.30pm Baptism Preparation Class in the Parish Centre
Monday 2nd March: 7.30pm Parish Ladies Group meeting in the Parish Centre
Thursday 5th March: after the 9.30am morning Mass Retiree's Social Group Gathering in Chelsea House, all Retiree's over 55 are most welcome
Tuesday 10th March: 7.30pm St Vincent de Paul Conference. Meeting in the Parish Centre.

PARISH ROSTERS:

Saturday 7 th March Vigil:			
Usher	Readers	Communion	PowerPoint
Chantal Berbari	Raquel Villareal Julie McKenzie	Maureen Molland Glynis Smith	Chantal Berbari
Sunday 8 th March 9.00am:			
Barry Daley	Samoan Community	Loretta and Lafitaga Tuigamala	Gwen Harris
Saturday 14 th March Vigil:			
Maureen Molland	St Thomas More Catholic Primary School	Winnie Cameron Julie McKenzie	Chantal Berbari
Sunday 15 th March 9.00am:			
Brian & Gwen Harris	Feyise and Tess Writer	Faye Faamau Mavon Vaughan	Gwen Harris

MUSCIANS

Saturday 7th March: Vigil: Dexter Harris
Sunday 8th March: 9.00am: Junior and Samoan Choir
Saturday 14th March: Vigil: Carmen Wells and STM School Choir
Sunday 15th March: 9.00am: Dexter Harris and Tongan Choir

CHURCH CLEANING

Saturday 7th March: Group: 4: Maureen Molland, Faye Faamau, Colleen Jablonskis and Kerry Walker
Saturday 14th March: Group 5: Samoan Divine Mercy

REFRESHMENTS AFTER SUNDAY 9.00AM MASS: Sunday 8th March: Carmel Munro, Christine Foreman, Annette Read, Sue Boyd and Shirley Smith



