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CATHOLIC CHURCH - DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

St. THOMAS MORE PARISH, RUSE
WELCOMES YOU
Parish Priest: Fr Michael Healy

**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**
18th OCTOBER 2020

FIRST READING - Isaiah 45:1-6.
A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The Word of the Lord.
(R.) Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. Tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to be feared above all gods; the gods of the heathens are naught. It was the Lord who made the heavens. **(R.)**

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. Bring an offering and enter his courts. **(R.)**

4. Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him. Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' He will judge the peoples in fairness. **(R.)**

SECOND READING -

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5.
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The Word of the Lord.
(R.) Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING -
Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.



The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed

him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
(R.) Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

REFLECTION - by Fr Michael Tate.

Jesus first cleverly throws his questioners on the defensive. They are the ones carrying the coinage, not him. Then he poses the crucial question, 'Whose image is it and whose inscription?' They said to him, 'Caesar's'. Then he said to them: 'Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.'

The coin bore the image and inscription of Caesar. Genesis teaches us that human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. Our Lord is saying, 'Let the political and financial authorities have their coinage. It is their legal tender. But they cannot have human beings. Human beings belong to Another. They belong to God.'

We are fortunate to live in a wonderful democracy. But even a democracy can violate the dignity of a human being created in the image and likeness of God. As Pope John Paul II said: 'Authentic democracy is possible only in a state ruled by law, and on the basis of a correct conception of the human person.' (Italics added)

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the inscription, 'Child of God', effectively engraved on our hearts by baptism.

mtate@bigpond.com

HISTORICAL CONTEXT?

WHAT'S IN A FACE?

The question of coinage was a problematic one for first century Jews. The tradition – grounded in the commandments given to Moses on Mt Sinai – forbade the use of 'graven' or carved images.

The people of Israel took this prohibition very seriously and did not portray the human face in artwork of any kind. Roman coins were minted with the face of the emperor on them and it was compulsory that taxes be paid with Roman coin. This helps to explain the role of the Temple money-changers who converted the Roman coin into Temple coin that could be used for religious purposes.



'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.'
Matthew 22:21.



MASS TIMES

- TUESDAY 20th OCTOBER**
9.30am. - Mass.
- WEDNESDAY 21st OCTOBER**
9.30am. - Mass.
- THURSDAY 22nd OCTOBER**
9.30am. - Mass.
- FRIDAY 23rd OCTOBER**
9.30am. - Mass.

RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

- SATURDAY 24th OCTOBER**
Saturday Vigil for 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
6.00pm. - Mass.
- SUNDAY 25th OCTOBER**
30th 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.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Secretary: Mrs Carmel Munro
TUESDAY - FRIDAY
9.00am - 3.30pm
Parish ☎: 4628 2967
Email: ruse@dow.org.au
School ☎: 4625 6561

STEWARDSHIP
TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Each year at tax time, we conscientiously give "to Caesar what belongs to Caesar."

Does my stewardship indicate that I am as faithful about giving "to God what belongs to God"?

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

25th OCTOBER 2020

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

First Reading:
Exodus 22:20-26.

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

Second Reading:
1 Thessalonians 1:5-10.

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

Gospel Reading:
Matthew 22:34-40.

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS



St Paul of the Cross was born Paolo Francesco Danei in 1694 in the Northern Italian town of Ovada. He came from a wealthy merchant family and at the age of 19 he experienced a conversion to a life of prayer. He came to the conclusion that the Passion of Christ was the greatest sign of God's love

and a means by which people can come to a greater union with God. He devoted his life to spreading this message and at the age of 26 he founded the religious order "the Poor of Jesus"; later to become known as "the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ".

Passionists live a life of solitude and contemplation, devoting at least three hours a day to prayer. They are easily recognised through the labeled emblem of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, surmounted by a cross, which is usually sewn into their clothing.

HUMOUR CORNER

WHO GAVE THIS LADY A LICENSE?

Two elderly women were out driving in a large car - both could barely see over the dashboard. As they were cruising along, they came to a major crossroads. The traffic light was red, but they just drove through it. The woman in the passenger seat thought to herself: "I must be losing it. I could have sworn we just went through a red light."

After a few more minutes, they came to another major junction, and the light was red again. Again, they went right through. The woman in the passenger seat was almost sure that the light had been red but was concerned that she was losing it.

She was getting nervous.

At the next junction, sure enough, the light was red, and they went on through. So, she turned to the other woman and said, "Mildred, did you know that we just ran through three red lights in a row? You could have killed us both!"

Mildred turned to her and said: "Oh! Am I driving?"

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



Reach out. Give life.

18th October 2020
(2020 World Mission Day)

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.

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

Matthew 10:40

DO YOU WISH TO ATTEND A WEEKEND MASS?

**You cannot just turn up for Mass as previously!!
YOU HAVE TO REGISTER WITH THE PARISH OFFICE BY THE
FRIDAY (12noon) BEFORE THE WEEKEND MASSES.**

We are unable to accommodate more than 70 in our church, and it will not be possible to admit parishioners who have not pre-registered.

Please arrive early for Mass (at least 15 minutes beforehand). Church doors are locked as Mass begins, No collections are taken up at Mass. Usual Parish Collection donations can be placed in the baskets provided on the table at the Church entrance door. If you are elderly (70 years +) or not feeling well, the ruling states that, (for your own safety) YOU MUST STAY AT HOME.

After entering the Church for Mass, your hands will be sanitized and your temperature taken. (This is obligatory) then a Monitor will show you to your RESERVED seat, where **Social distancing (4 sq meters)** must be strictly observed, (except for people of the same house-hold). Holy Communion (in a single file) **must** be Received in the hand. **You** are to sanitize your hands again as you leave the Church and **Nobody** will be permitted to socially assemble in the courtyard before, during and after Mass.

2020 World Mission Appeal – Cambodia: "For the Joy of the Lord is your STRENGTH" Nehemiah 8:10. This Appeal will be held in our Parish this weekend:

This year's Catholic Mission Church Appeal highlights the important work of the Church in Cambodia, which aims to reach out to those who have been affected by disability, and give them hope and support to live a fulfilling life.

With every country around the world affected in some way by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that now, more than ever, we stand together in solidarity with our brothers and sisters and support them in any way we can. There is a collection basket for this Appeal at the entrance to the Church (next to the 1st & 2nd Collection baskets).

For more details and/or to donate please either Freecall: 1800 257 296 or email: catholicmission.org.au/Cambodia

WE WELCOME: into our Christian Community:

Emily Sofia Simone who was Baptised last weekend.

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.

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: <https://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

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

THANKYOU:

- Parishioner's and Visitor's to our Parish Masses during the week and weekends, who help with the sanitising of their seats plus the many areas that are touched eg: door handles, the Lectern, Sanctuary etc.
- To the Parishioner's who have kindly donated: sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer and face masks.
- To the Parishioner's who look after our Parish grounds and our Church cleaners who keep our grounds and Church clean and tidy
- To our Monitor's, both during the week and weekend Masses,
- To Parishioners and visitors to our Parish especially during this Pandemic, and many others behind the 'scenes' and **Father Michael**.

PARISH CHURCH CLEANER'S:

24th Oct: Group 4: Maureen Molland, Faye Faamau, Colleen Jablonskis and Kerry Walker

31st Oct: Group 1: Syro-Malabar Indian Community

BAPTISM: If you wish for your child to be Baptised in our Parish, please contact the Parish Office during Office Hours, so that a suitable date can be organized for the celebration. Due to COVID-19 we are currently having only 1 Baptism per Sunday.

PRAYERS: Please continue to keep in your prayers those who are preparing for the Higher School Certificate, those who are unwell and those who "just" need prayers.

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: 20th: Yvonne Reddy and 23rd: Seta Barbari**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: All the people who have died in this current pandemic, the recently deceased and whose anniversaries that occur at this time: Bernardino Espinola, Robert (Bobby) Cameron, Ida Sa Cordeiro, Renato Sa Cordeiro, Michael Hennessy, Fr Anthony (Tony) Daly), Bernard Hoffmann, John Read, Alice Harris, Mary Writer, Ladislav Feher, Beryl Ford, Jim McKenzie, Marguerite (Marg) Davis, Maree Laming, Jay Jablonskis, Deborah Rix and Maurya Hutton. **May they Rest in Peace**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: For the **many** sick in our Parish Community including: Trish Spackman, Katy Carolan, Jan Vaughan, Peter Gabas, Ron Fredericks, Kathleen Sidebottom, Kerry Walker, Jessica Nilsson, David Jabour, Dennis Jabour, Samantha Glover, Shirley Starr, Kenny Wilson, Antonio David, 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, Betty Berthon, Moria Harris, Betty Byrne, Rosa Santos, Aimiti Seufatu, John Hill, Freda and Wilfred Miranda, Beryl Purcell, Jeannie and George Nicholson, Mary Fredericks and Flynn Griffiths.

VINNIES APPEAL: There remain many people in need and anyone able to make a cash donation is encouraged to do so. Simply, visit www.vinnies.org.au/donate or call **13 18 12** to make a secure donation. All donations of \$2 and over are tax-deductible.

ST VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS: Are available for sale from the Parish Office, during Office Hours. We have plenty of stock available.

PARISH SCHOOL CHILDREN (and TEACHER'S): We wish you and your families God's Blessings as you begin your last School Term for 2020.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Please contact the School Office on 4625 6561 for School enquiries. To keep up-to-date with the happenings in our Parish Catholic Primary School please use this link to read their School newsletter: <https://stmdow.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=50>

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT MARY MACKILLOP'S CANONISATION. 17th October marks the 10th anniversary of the Canonisation of Mary McKillop. You are encouraged to use the free prayer booklet titled 'Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer' which you can view or download from this link: <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/372439/>.

AROUND THE DIOCESE:

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.

THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG WEEKLY PODCAST:

The Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast – 'The Journey' – **18th October:** Uploaded every Friday for free download – go to www.jcr.org.au



MACRAMÉ IN THE MORNINGS:

CatholicCare is committed to ensuring the welfare of the elderly people within our local area, and with this, we are offering some macramé lessons at no expense to you with morning tea included at Lake Side Golf Club Camden

for the following dates. Mon 26 Oct, Thurs 29 Oct, Mon 2 Nov, Thurs 5 Nov, Mon 9 Nov, Thurs 12 Nov, Mon 16 Nov, Thurs 19 Nov, Tues 24 Nov & Thurs 26 Nov. Please see flyer for more information. **Contact Jane on 0417 018 152 or Melissa on 0400550627 ASAP to reserve your spot on your own or with friends.**

PARISH RENEWAL: Reflecting n Pope Francis' Recent

Instruction on Parish Life: Online Sessions in 3 Parts – between 12 October -13 November. Visit: www.dow.org.au/news-and-events for more information or contact Darren on daren.mcdowell@dow.org.au

YOUTH MINISTRY ONLINE: Catholic Youth Ministry

Wollongong LIVE -Check it out at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdC-Q7-OVY>. great way. To get in touch with the NET team and be part of this, simply follow the "CYMW" Facebook page or by Instagram at "wollongongnetteam".

PRAYER RESOURCES for INDIVIDUALS and FAMILIES:

These include daily prayers and readings, prayer services, the Sunday Office commentaries, homilies and reflections plus a lot more. Go to: liturgyhelp.com/aus/woll/pray and follow the prompts to access.

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

CatholicCARE- Have you thought about becoming a foster

carer? For more information please either: call 0418 783 956 or email fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au or go to <http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au> .

FORMED: Would you like to nurture your faith at home, in your own time and at your own pace? FORMED.org is a large Faith Formation Resource library website containing thousands of faith formation documentaries, courses, movies, audio and books covering all aspects of our Catholic faith. Materials for both adults and children. Sign-up for Free using our Diocesan Subscription by contacting Darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au or helen.bennett@dow.org.au.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: Marriage Enrichment Weekend 20-22 November 2020 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Book online at www.wwme.org.au Alternatively contact Christine & Terry on 0490 774 419 or nswwbookings@wwme.org.au