

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year C

6th December 2015



THE YEAR OF MERCY (commencing this Tuesday 8th December 2015 to 26th November 2016)

MERCY: The Real meaning: The word Mercy originates from the Hebrew language (Hesed) and when literally translated means “Loving Kindness”. This is the real meaning of Mercy for us. Sadly many people associate Mercy with “judgement”. God’s Loving Kindness is unconditional and comes from a loving God not a judgemental God.

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 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.

NEXT SUNDAY: Third Sunday of Advent (Rose Sunday) our Parish celebrates this Sunday as a Family Mass followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall after the Sunday 9.00am Mass. (*Children’s Liturgy will be on for school student’s Kindergarten to Year 6 (inclusive)*). *We look forward to seeing as many Parishioners, their families and visitor’s to our Parish as possible.*

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.

WE WELCOME: Into our Christian Community *Jax Glen Achurch* 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED: Please pray for the recently deceased and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Peter Pereira (Anniv), Ivo Pereira (Anniv), Kelly Betherly (R.D.), Peter Allen Daly (Anniv) Mary Writer, Jim McKenzie, Deborah Rix, Josephine and Frank McKay, Maurya Hutton, Bernard Hoffmann, Marcia Rae, Imelda Zamprogno and Maria Cabonara. May eternal rest grant to them O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them.

Parishioner Birthday for this week:
6th: Joe Berbari

Parishioner’s Wedding Anniversary for this week:
5th: Maureen and Kerry Hennessy (45 years)

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

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 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 12th/13th 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 next **Saturday 12th 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.

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.*

PARISH PLANNED GIVING: Planned Giving is essential to the running costs of the Parish Did you know that you can contribute in several ways.

- Weekly Envelopes,
- Direct Debit from your Bank Account
- Direct Credit by electronically transferring funds (EFT) from your Bank Account direct to the St Thomas More Church Account.
- Irregular contributions

(The Direct Credit facility is new and means that you control when you contribute but you need to join the Planned Giving Program to ensure that your contribution is recognized in our Finance System.)

If you would like to join the Planned Giving Program please contact the Parish Office on 46282867 or e-mail: ruse@parish.woll.catholic.org.au. Thank you.

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.

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM –

Airs 6 December 2015: This week on *The Journey* we start with a Gospel reflection for the 2nd week of Advent by Fr Stephen Varney; Sr Hilda Scott OSB reminds us of the importance of keeping in touch with God; Sam Clear reminds us that Unity requires God’s love in action and Byron and Francene Pirola talk about the benefits of applying a date claimer to our marriages. Tune into PULSE 94.1 FM on Sun at 11am or go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL SERVICE: 7pm Monday 7 December North Chapel at Forest Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery and Crematorium (Camden Valley Way, Leppington). You are invited to join us for this annual event as we pray for and remember all the souls we love, but no longer see, especially those buried and memorialised at Forest Lawn Memorial Park. Service will be celebrated by Fr David Catterall and Samantha Lysaught, Civil Celebrant - Life’s Celebrations. Light supper provided. RSVP (02) 4648 2226 or oranpark@dow.org.au or 9606 5822.

MT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE: 247 St Andrews Rd, Varroville: 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 www.carmeliteretreats.com.au

FEBRUARY 2016 MINISTRY TRAINING DATE CLAIMERS!
Acolytes and Adult Altar Servers: 13 February 2016, 10am - 4pm, **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** 13 February 2016, 10am - 1pm, **Sacramental Preparation Coordinators and Team Members (Special In-Service):** 20 February 2016, 10am - 1pm. *The training days will be held: Xavier Conference Centre Ingham and Wilson Rooms, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong.*

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*

PARISH DIARY DATES:

Tuesday 8th December: 7.30pm St Vincent de Paul Conference meeting (off site)
Saturday 12th December: 8.30am -12.30pm Parish Working Bee
Wednesday 16th December: 7.00pm (note time change) Parish Finance Council meeting in the Parish Centre
Thursday 17th December: 9.30am (after the 9.00am morning Mass) Retiree’s Social Group gathering (Retiree’s over 55 are most welcome)
Wednesday 23rd December: 7.00pm – 9.00pm Choir practice for Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Mass – 9.00am), *all singers are encouraged to attend*

PARISH ROSTERS FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS:

EXTRADORDINARY MINISTERS’ OF COMMUNION FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:

Vigil Mass: Saturday 12th Dec: Trish Newman and Louise Phillips
9.00am Mass: Sunday 13th Dec: Julie Writer and Helen Rawson
Vigil Mass: Saturday 19th Dec: Bertha Berbari and Maureen Molland
9.00am Mass: Sunday 20th Dec: Fay and Junior Faamau

READERS’ FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:
(Could the 2nd Reader please read also the Prayers of Intercession)

Vigil Mass: Saturday 12th Dec: James Munro and Bill George
9.00am Mass: Sunday 13th Dec: Pamela Samaha and Maureen Molland
Vigil Mass: Saturday 19th Dec: Bill George and Louise Phillips
9.00am Mass: Sunday 20th Dec: Jim Writer and Marion Cross

CHURCH CLEANERS’ FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

Saturday 12th Dec: Group 4: Maureen Molland, Rosa and Manuel Herrera, Fay Faamau and Colleen Jablonskis
Saturday 19th Dec: Group 1: Syro-Malabar Indian Community

USHERS’ FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:

Vigil Mass: Saturday 12th Dec: Vicki Horne
9.00am Mass: Sunday 13th Dec: Chris Reddy and Helen Rawson
Vigil Mass: Saturday 19th Dec: Help needed
9.00am Mass: Sunday 20th Dec: Gwen and Brian Harris

FLOWER ARRANGERS FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:

12th Dec: Christine Gomes
19th Dec: FLOWER ARRANGERS NEEDED (for Christmas)

The Christmas Novena

Begins on 17 December. At this point, the Advent focus shifts to the Christmas story and the Virgin Mary. These days serve to prepare more directly for the Lord’s birth. GNLIC 42. This is the best time to hold carols services and to begin to sing Christmas carols in the liturgy.

