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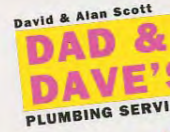
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CHURCH
OFFICE HOURS
Secretary: Mrs Carmel Munro
TUESDAY - FRIDAY
9.00am - 3.30pm
Parish ☎: 4628 2967
Email: ruse@dow.org.au
School ☎: 4625 6561

STEWARDSHIP
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
YEAR A

"Those who have faith in Me will do the works I do, and far greater than these," Jesus tells His disciples.

That's quite an assignment for us as Christian stewards!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
17th MAY 2020
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

1st Reading:
Acts 8:5-8. 14-17.

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

2nd Reading:
1 Peter 3:15-18.

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Reading:
John 14:15-21.

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

SAINT OF THE DAY
OUR LADY OF FATIMA



In the small Portugese village of Fatima, the Blessed Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to three shepherd children. On six occasions between May and October, 1917, Our Lady appeared to Lucia dos Santos and her two cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto. According to an account of the events given by Lucia, Mary entrusted the children with three secrets and encouraged them to do acts of penance and say the rosary every day. Thousands of people came to Fatima upon hearing of the visions, and on October 13, some 70,000 people reportedly witnessed a miraculous solar event.

Fatima is now a major site of Marian pilgrimage.

HUMOUR CORNER

A MAGICIAN WAS WORKING ON A CRUISE SHIP

A magician was working on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. The audience would be different each week, so the magician allowed himself to do the same tricks over and over again. There was only one problem: The captain's parrot saw the shows each week and began to understand how the magician did every trick. Once he understood he started shouting in the middle of the show: "Look, it's not the same hat!" "Look, he is hiding the flowers under the table!" "Hey, why are all the cards the Ace of Spades?" The magician was furious but couldn't do anything; it was, after all, the captain's parrot. One day the ship had an accident and sank. The magician found himself on a piece of wood in the middle of the ocean -- with the parrot, of course. They stared at each other with hate, but did not utter a word. This went on for a day and another and another. After a week the parrot said, "OK, I give up. Where's the damned Ship?"



Catholic Church - Diocese of Wollongong
St. THOMAS MORE PARISH, RUSE
welcomes you
Parish Priest: Fr Michael Healy

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
- YEAR A
10th MAY 2020



FIRST READING - Acts 6:1-7.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The Word of the Lord.
(R.) Thanks be to God
RESPONSORIAL PSALM
(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **(R.)**
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

SECOND READING - 1 Peter 2:4-9.
A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood

that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The Word of the Lord.
(R.) Thanks be to God
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING - John 14:1-12.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?'



'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?' Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

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

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unit myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

PRAYERING FOR OUR WORLD, AMIDST COVID-19

Gracious God, We give thanks anew for your providence and presence. We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas. We pray for those in need of healing. We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving. We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response. We pray for your Holy spirit's

discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders. We each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable. This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

REFLECTION - by Fr Michael Tate.

The disciples are full of premonitions that their beloved leader was about to be cruelly done to death, leaving them abandoned. Yet he tells them: 'Let not your hearts be troubled.'

Why shouldn't their hearts, our hearts, be troubled by the disappearance of Our Lord's physical presence? The answer is because there is a purpose to his passage through death. It was to bring about a situation where our Risen Lord could share his life in ever more intimate fashion with his followers.

How does this come about? At every Mass, after the gifts are brought to the altar, I pour a little water into the chalice of wine, saying: 'By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.'

What a powerful verb! By grace, we can participate in the Divine Life of the Risen Lord.

As the Greek saints of the early church used to say in very daring fashion: 'God became human so that humans might become God.'

We anticipate this at every Holy Communion when, as Pope John Paul II used to say: 'We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.'

We could pause for a moment after Communion to reverence the Divine Life dwelling in us, a truly Holy Communion!

Alleluia!
mtate@bigpond.com

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH DIRECTORY



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Website: www.stmruse.org.au
Facebook: St Thomas More Catholic Parish Church, Ruse.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Year A



10th May 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.

“Anymore who welcomes you, welcomes me and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.”

Matthew 10:40

PARISH MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL:

Dear Parishioners,

While we may be isolated, we are not so out of touch as to be unaware that today is Mother’s Day!

To all you Mums in our Parish – a very happy Mothers Day! We love you and appreciate you. You are special in our lives in our community. We are reminded today of your special role in society and of the god-given gifts and qualities you have to fulfil that role. We thank you for who you are and what you are to us. We particularly pray for our own mothers, whether still with us or gone to their reward.

Last Tuesday, Bishop Brian organised a meeting of the Priests of our Region – this time by Internet link-up called Zoom! You all know of my illiteracy in the world of technology! But, I found it a rewarding experience. Bishop Brian wanted to know and to share how each of us was coping with the “isolation” and to share our experiences of it. With the current Sunday Gospel – Readings focusing on sheep and Shepherds, we all felt like “Shepherds without sheep” and how we longed for the day the “sheep would come back home”. It was most comforting to realise that we were all in the same boat and that none of us was any more successful with coping than the next. We clearly realised that, like all of you, we are in a new phenomenon that has no precedent for us in living memory.

We plan to have further such “meetings”, (please God) to consider the future lifting of restrictions, and the eventual re-opening of our Churches, and the RE-CELEBRATING of Worship and Sacraments. We realise that we, (Priests and people) will have to be in it together. So, we need to pray together for that while in “isolation”.

On this Mothers Day we ask the prayer, support and guidance of Mary, our Heavenly Mother as we face the unknown as she had to in her life.

God Bless you all and you continue to be in my daily Mass.

Fr Michael

UPDATES IN OUR PARISH: Due to recent winds and with another fallen branch (huge) we have had the much needed removal of trees completed. We have ample mulch to be spread around the Parish grounds gardens (future working bee).

The repair work is being completed on the Presbytery Pergola and Garage, just the painting, plumbing and electricals to be completed. Father Michael’s car will once again be able to be garaged.

We had a much needed **Parish Council clean-up.**

If you have some spare time, Our Parish Church hymn books are in urgent need of repairs. If you are able to assist with this, it would be greatly appreciated. Either contact the Parish Office by phone or email and this can be arranged.

The Parish Bulletin: If you know of anyone that would like to have a copy of the Parish Weekly Bulletin **emailed** to them, could you please ask them to contact the Parish Office either by phone or email. (there are some hard copies available in the Parish Office)

Have you “checked in” on another parishioner this week to say “Hi!”?

UPDATE FROM THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG:

ALPHA: Refreshing our Vision and Practice. Monday 1st June, 7.30pm via Zoom Video Conferencing. This refresher training is run by Donna Brennan from Alpha Australia. For more information and essential registering via darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au

THE EUCHARIST: Exploring our Catholic Faith: Mondays 1st-22nd June or Fridays 5th-26th June all at 4pm via Zoom Video Conferencing. You will explore Eucharist as Real Presence, as Sacrificae and as Meal and look at how we can prepare and get more out of our participation in this celebration. For more information and registration please email darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PSALMS: A Songbook for Today: Thursdays, 4th-25th June at 4-5pm (repeated at 8-9pm) Fr Mark De Battista will lead on an introductory explanation of the Book of Psalms. For further information and registration email: darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au

NOURISH YOUR FAITH AT HOME: www.dow.org.au/covid-19/nourish-your-faith-at-home. On this page there is resources for: participating in Masses and other Liturgies and Prayer Gatherings, Sharing Faith with Others in the Community etc.

ADORATION LIVESTREAMED WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: The NET Team are hosting Holy Hour every Wednesday at 6.30pm. Facebook: <https://www.face.book.com/cymdow/> and Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wollongongnetteam/>

THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG WEEKLY PODCAST: ‘The Journey’ – 10 May 2020: Listen in this week as we hear some of Australia’s best Catholic presenters as we celebrate the Easter season in isolation. etc. Uploaded every Friday for free download: www.jcr.org.au

MASS ONLINE AND OTHER SPIRITUAL RESOURCES:

Members of the faithful are urged to keep holy the Lord’s Day by making an act of Spiritual Communion (**read on front cover**). Mass online is available at www.dow.org.au and on the diocese’s Facebook page with Bishop Brian Mascord and other priests from the diocese. **Other resources include:** **Daily Mass from** St John the Evangelist Catholic Parish, Campbelltown, Tuesday-Sunday Masses from Our Lady Help of Christians, Rosemeadow, 7pm Mass and Sunday 10am from Mary Immaculate, Eagle Vale, All Saints, Shellharbour at 7am and Tuesday-Fridays, St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong at 12.10pm, St Pauls’, Moss Vale, Tuesday-Sundays at 8am Mary Mother of the Church, Macquarie Fields. Saturdays 5pm and Sunday 10am Mass from St Mary MacKillop Catholic Church, Oran Park. **Mass for You at Home** is available across the Ten Network on Sundays at 6.00am and any time on Ten Play. **Daily Mass on demand** is available at CathNews YouTube channel

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 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.

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

ELECTRONIC PARISH PLANNED GIVING: During this period of time where Masses in the diocese are suspended, parishes are urgently needing the ongoing financial support of parishioners more than ever, as their overhead costs will not change. As the vast 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: www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving. If you have any questions about the form, please don’t hesitate to contact **the CDF Wollongong:** Trevor Kellam at trevor.kellam@dow.org.au

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY: Is available online at <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/catholic-weekly-newspaper-online/>

CARITAS AUSTRALIA: Thank you for supporting Project Compassion 2020. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please return them ASAP or visit www.caritas.org.au to make your donation online. www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion #projectcompassion 1800 024 41

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 Birthday this coming week:

9th: **Feyise Writer**

12th: **Glynis Smith**

13th: **Bertha Berbari & Elaine Nakasenh**

Parishioner’s Wedding Anniversary this coming week:

12th: **Freda & and Wilfred Miranda (57 years)**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: All the people who have died in this current pandemic and the recently deceased and whose anniversaries that occur at this time: Mary Writer, Fr Pat McAuliffe, Romy Cruz, Joy Cullen, Dawn Neville, Aileen Graham, Marie Pollard, Cathy Wiggins, Barbara Fetterplace, Michael Bartley, Winifred Minogue, Fr Anthony (Tony) Daly, Ladislav Feher, Beryl Ford, Olga Saulig, Jim McKenzie, John Read, 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: For all the people who have coronavirus and the **many** sick in our Parish Community including: Kenny Wilson, Antonio David, Hannah Kavanagh, 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, Briege 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.

THANKYOU: To the Parishioners, who have been ensuring our Parish Grounds and gardens are maintained. Your continued support of our Parish is greatly appreciated by all. **Thank you**

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Please contact the School Office on 4625 6561, for information for School Enrolments for 2021. The link to read our Parish Catholic Primary School newsletter is: <https://stmdow.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=43>

CathFAMILY: Brings you a selection of activities, eg: prayer rituals, crafts etc for free from their website. <https://cathfamily.org/cathkids-faith-unlimited/> A weekly interactive experience with a 2-minute animated reflection on the Sunday reading, questions to stimulate discussion, a simple activity and prayer. Visit www.cathfamily.org especially during this time of COVID-19 social distancing especially if children are unable to attend school.

FAITH CIRCLES: The weekly Faith Circles resource is available free to download at www.faithcircles.dow.org.au or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

THE MONTH OF MAY: Pray with Pope Francis throughout May for an end to the Pandemic. Pope Francis has asked Catholics to make a special effort in May to pray the Rosary, knowing that by doing so they would be united with believers around the world asking for Mary’s intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic.