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**CATHOLIC CHURCH - DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG**

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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
- YEAR B  
29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

**FIRST READING -**

**Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8.**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.

Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you?

Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind.

You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you.

For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins.

And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help.  
**(R.)**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING -**

**1 Corinthians 1:3-9.**

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL READING -**

**Matthew 13:33-37.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

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



**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures. Through Christ our Lord.

**REFLECTION - by Fr Michael Tate.**

Our Lord portrays himself as the Master who goes away on a journey. It is certain that he will return, even if no-one in his household knows exactly when. That is our situation. What do we do in anticipation?

Our Lord, the Master, indicates we have a choice. We can close our eyes and enter into the world of dreams where we create our own fantasy futures, or we can stay awake and alert to do what Our Lord wants us to do: 'He left his servants in charge, giving to each his work.'

You and me - his servants - have a particular role or work in and for this phase of human history. A deep down intuition, prompted by the Holy Spirit, indicates what this is. We must be true to this assignment.

We could take a moment to pray that, when the Lord returns, we may hear: 'Come, good and faithful servant, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.'

mtate@bigpond.com



**TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER**  
9.30am. - Mass.

**WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER**  
9.30am. - Mass.

**THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER**  
St. Francis Xavier  
9.30am. - Mass.

**FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
9.30am. - Mass.

**RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

**SATURDAY 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
Saturday Vigil for  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**  
6.00pm. - Mass.

**SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**  
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**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
- YEAR B

*We are the servants of God,  
each with his or her own task.  
We will be judged  
good stewards if,  
at His coming,  
He finds us ready and  
conscientiously pursuing  
the tasks to which  
we have been called.*

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

**First Reading:**  
**Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11.**

*Prepare the way for the Lord.*

**Second Reading:**  
**2 Peter 3:8-14.**

*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

**Gospel Reading:**  
**Matthew 1:1-8.**

*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

**HUMOUR CORNER**

**THE CRAFTY DOCTOR AND HIS SPECIAL DEAL .....**

A Chinese doctor can't find a job in a Hospital in the United States, so he opens his own clinic and puts up a sign outside.

It reads: 'GET TREATMENT FOR \$20 - IF NOT CURED GET BACK \$100.'  
An American lawyer thinks this is a great opportunity to earn \$100 and goes to the clinic.

Lawyer: 'I have lost my sense of taste.'

Doctor: 'Nurse, bring medicine from box No. 22 and put 3 drops in patient's mouth.'

Lawyer: 'Ugh, this is kerosene!'

Doctor: 'Congrats, your sense of taste is restored. Give me \$20.'

The annoyed lawyer goes back after a few days to recover his money.

Lawyer: 'I have lost my memory. I cannot remember anything.'

Doctor: 'Nurse, bring medicine from box no. 22 and put 3 drops in his mouth.'

Lawyer (annoyed): 'This is kerosene. You gave this to me last time for restoring my taste.'

Doctor: 'Congrats. You got your memory back. Give me \$20.' The fuming lawyer pays him and then comes back a week later determined to get back \$100.

Lawyer: 'My eyesight has become very weak I can't see at all.'

Doctor: 'Well, I don't have any medicine for that, so take this \$100.'

Lawyer (staring at the note): 'But this is \$20, not \$100!'

Doctor: 'Congrats, your eyesight is restored. Give me \$20.'

**ST FRANCIS XAVIER**



St Francis Xavier was born in Spain in 1506 and studied at the University of Paris. He met St Ignatius of Loyola and joined his group of disciples who would found a new religious order; the Jesuits. Preaching in foreign missions became a fundamental aim of the Jesuits and in 1541, he sailed to

Goa in India. He worked and lived with the poor people in every place he visited; from India and Ceylon to Japan and the Malay peninsula. During his ten years as a missionary, he is believed to have converted many thousands to Christianity. He is recognised as the patron saint of foreign missions.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year B



29th November 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*

### 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 80 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 a 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 **Nobody** will be permitted to socially assemble in the courtyard before, during and after Mass.



**WE WELCOME:** To our Parish Masses this weekend, Parishioners, visitors and those that have been absent from the Church, especially during these difficult times of COVID-19. **May God always be with you and keep you safe in the palms of his hands.**



**ADVENT: 2020-2021:** This weekend we begin the Church’s New Year with the First Sunday of Advent Year B.

The first Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to centre our thoughts on hope. It’s a beautiful chance to remember the hope God offers to our lost and dying world, and that He’s given us through Jesus. **Galatians 4:4-8** says: But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.



**CONFIRMATION:** Congratulations to our 32 Parish Candidates who were Confirmed in our Parish last weekend. Thank you to Fr Michael, the Sacramental Team and families in preparing our Parish Candidates for this Sacrament.

Thank you also to the Sacristan, Organist and AV Operator for giving of your time for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**BAPTISM:** If you wish for your child/ren to be Baptised in our Parish, please contact the Parish Office during Office Hours, so that a suitable date can be arranged for the celebration. Due to COVID-19 we are currently having up to 2 Baptisms per Sunday (limited guests).

### WE WELCOME into our Christian Community:

**Andy Brian Morris** and **Thomas Andrew Peters** who were Baptised in our Parish 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](mailto:ruse@dow.org.au).

### Parishioner’s Birthday this coming week:

28<sup>th</sup>: **John Nakasenh**

29<sup>th</sup>: **Noel Laming**

2<sup>nd</sup>: **Beryl Purcell**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** For the **many** sick in our Parish Community including: Chris Hayes, Tresora Wyer, 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, Briege 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.

**THANKYOU:** Parishioner’s and Visitor’s to our Parish Masses during the week and weekends, who help with the santising of their seats plus the many areas that are touched eg: door handles, the Lecturn, Sactuary etc. **To the Parishioners who have kindly donated: sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer and face masks.**

**2021 COLUMBAN ART CALANDAR:** Are available from either the Parish Office (during Office hours) or from the Monitor’s at all Masses. This makes a terrific Christmas gift at the bargain price of \$9.00 each.

**ST VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS:** Are available for sale from the Parish Office, during Office Hours. We have plenty of stock available, available from the Monitor’s (at all Masses).

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY TOY APPEAL:** While we are not running a Jesse Tree in the current pandemic, the need for (not wrapped) any age toys remains. **For this year, a box for toy donations will be available in the Parish Office during business hours. Many thanks in anticipation of your generosity**

### PARISH CHURCH CLEANER’S:

5<sup>th</sup> Dec: Group 4: **Maureen Molland, Faye Faamau, Colleen Jablonskis and Maria Hill**

12<sup>th</sup> Dec: Group 5: **Somoan Divine Mercy**

**We are in urgent need of Church Cleaner’s. Due to COV-19 one of our Cleaning Groups has stopped coming.**

**If you have a spare ½ hour approximately every 6 weeks during the week or Saturday morning, please consider joining this Parish Ministry. Please contact the Parish Office for more details. Thanking you in anticipation**

**PARISH READER’S:** Thank you to the “fill in Reader’s” during these uncertain/difficulty times, you are greatly appreciated. As some or maybe most of you are aware that our Reader’s Roster for 2020 has not been strictly followed since Mass celebration came back with relevant restriction policies in place. **Thank you and God bless everyone! May**

**PARISH GROUNDS WORKING BEE FOR CHRISTMAS: Will be held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 8.30am to 11.00am.**

Thank you to the parishioners who have been keeping our Parish lawns mowed and gardens tidied, many have positively commented on how our Parish grounds have been kept. There are many jobs to be included in this working bee: eg: mowing, trimming etc. could you please bring mowers, brooms etc. Morning Tea will be provided. **Many hands make light work.** This is also a good opportunity to “catch-up” with those you have seen in a while. **Thanking you all in anticipation.**

**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 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> collection baskets during Mass, we are encouraging all parishioners to join the electronic parish planned giving program. The Diocese has 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](mailto:theCDF@wollongong.org.au)

### CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION and MASS TIMETABLE:

#### Reconciliation:

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec:** 10.30am – 11.30pm

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec:** 10.30am – 11.30am

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec:** 10.30am – 11.30am

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 10.30am – 11.30am

### CHRISTMAS WEEK MASS TIMETABLE:

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December:** 9.30am

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December:** 9.30am

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December:** 9.30am

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE:

**Christmas Eve Vigil:** 6.00pm Mass

**Midnight Mass:** 12 midnight

**Christmas Day:** 9.00am Mass

**The Parish Office will be taking Christmas Mass Registrations from Tuesday: 8<sup>th</sup> December either phone (during Office Hours) or email the Parish Office.**

**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>

### AROUND THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

**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’ – 29<sup>th</sup> November: Uploaded every Friday for free download – go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au)

### 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](http://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](http://www.faithcircles.dow.org.au) or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

### 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”.