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Catholic Church - Diocese of Wollongong

St. THOMAS MORE PARISH, RUSE

welcomes you

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Healy

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YEAR A

24th MAY 2020



FIRST READING - Acts 1:1-11.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord.
(R.) Thanks be to God
RESPONSORIAL PSALM
(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. **(R.)**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise,

sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**

3. God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

SECOND READING - Ephesians 1:17-23.
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The Word of the Lord.
(R.) Thanks be to God
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING - Matthew 28:16-20.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

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.

Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ could have continued to appear to groups of followers, century after century - until now! But, he didn't, because the disciples had to be weaned of his Risen-mode of appearance among them lest they think that the victory over Death is meant for human beings alone. But, as St Paul says, the Risen Lord is the One who 'fills all creation' with His power radiating out from his Risen Humanity. However, dis-appearance is not the same as absence. We believe that Our Risen Lord is present in many modes, including as St Paul says '... the Church which is His Body'. That is why the figures in white rebuke the disciples: 'Why do you stand looking into Heaven?' The Disciples had, rather, to ready themselves to be the Spirit-filled body of Jesus Christ in their own time and place. As we do. We might pause for a moment to stop staring into Heaven, to ready ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit as at Pentecost in order to be 'The Church which is His Body.'

mtate@bigpond.com



Monday 25th May

Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians

The Patronal Feast of Australia

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.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
Sunday 24th May



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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YEAR A

In today's Gospel, Jesus prays, "I have given You glory on earth by finishing the work You gave Me to do."

Good stewards follow His example by using their time and talents for the glory of God.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

31st MAY 2020
PENTECOST - YEAR A

1st Reading:
Acts 2:1-11.

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

2nd Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13.

In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.

Gospel Reading:
John 20:19-23.

As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

HUMOUR CORNER

AVOID TOUCHING M.E.N. TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Avoid touching **M.E.N.** to stop the spread of **COVID-19.**

M - Mouth.
E - Eye.
N - Nose.

Follow **W.O.M.E.N.** to prevent **COVID-19.**

W - Wash your hands with Soap.
O - Obey directives.
M - Move away from crowded places.
E - Exercise regularly.
N - Never ignore warning signals.

SAINT OF THE DAY
ST. PHILIP NERI



St Philip Neri was born in Florence in 1515. His mother died when he was young and he was educated at a Dominican convent. In 1533 he went to Rome and lived as a hermit for two years, then spent a further three years studying theology and philosophy. He gave up his studies and sold his books and encouraged his friends to join him in working for the sick and visiting the churches of Rome. St Philip was ordained a priest in 1551 and he spent many long hours hearing people's confessions. He founded the Congregation of the Oratory, which gave its name to the musical form 'Oratorio', which developed from their services.

St Philip was known as a happy man, who enjoyed playing the occasional practical joke, but was also regarded as a living saint by those who knew him.

The ASCENSION of the LORD
Year A



24th 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,



Today (Sunday 24th May) would normally mark the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, the Patronal Feast of Australia. This year, however, it is "trumped" by the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. So this year, Mary's Feast has been transferred to

Monday 25th May. To highlight the Feast this Year, the Australian Catholic Bishops have issued a Statement of Encouragement to the Australia people during our time of CORONAVIRUS and the pandemic and isolation that ensued.

You will already have received a copy of the Statement, (via email from the Parish Office during the week) including a prayer Entrusting Australia to Mary Help of Christians. I strongly encourage you to read and pray them.

The Ascension of the Lord, in the past was celebrated on Ascension Thursday, reminds us that Heaven is our real homeland and that Christ will come again in glory to take us to our heavenly home, and in the meantime we should live as people whose home is in heaven.

While we wait for the time of return to our Parish "home" with Mass and the Sacraments once again. Let's continue to pray for each other.

May Jesus and Mary comfort us while we wait.
God Bless you all.

Fr Michael

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

UPDATES IN OUR PARISH:

Chelsea House: the concertina door repairs have been completed (thank you to the 2 gentlemen for the gifts of their *time, patience and talents* – you are greatly appreciated)

Parish Bulletin: If you know of any Parishioners or friends of our Parish that would like to have the Bulletin emailed to them, could you please ask them to email the Parish Office and it will be emailed to them. (thanking you in anticipation). There are hard copies available from the Parish Office (during Office Hours)

Planned Giving Envelopes 2020/21 Are ready for collection from the Parish Office during Office Hours.

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: Ellen Healy, Audrey Barsenbach, Mary Writer, Cathy Wiggins, Winifred Minogue, Fr Anthony (Tony) Daly, Ladislav Feher, Beryl Ford, 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: Shirley Starr, 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, 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.

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:
27th: **Karen Mahanay & Maria Lavocah**
29th: **Patrick Barbari**

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

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>

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

UPDATE FROM 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 (**read on front cover**).

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

THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG WEEKLY PODCAST: "The Journey" – 24 May 2020: Listen in this week as we hear some of Australia's best Catholic presenters as we celebrate the Easter Series of Gospel reflections in isolation. etc. Uploaded every Friday for free download: www.jcr.org.au

A VOCATION VIEW: "The Ascension of the Lord): "Go and make disciples of all nations!". Our lives must proclaim the Truth that comes to us from Christ; embrace the call to be a witness of Christ to the ends of the world! (Matthew 28:19) if you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au or our new Vocations video at <https://www.dow.org.au/covid-19/sunday-mass-online-with-bishop-biran/>

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.facebook.com/cymdow/> and Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wollongongnetteam/>

CathFAMILY: Brings you a selection of activities for free: <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.

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. To register via <https://www.dow.org.au/news-and-events> For further information email 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 Sacrifice and as Meal and look at how we can prepare and get more out of our participation in this celebration. To register go to <https://www.dow.org.au/news-and-events>. For further information 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

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.

ENTRUSTING AUSTRALIA TO MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS: *Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country. We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly. We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious. We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.*

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis. Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!