

1st Sunday of Advent
Year C
2nd December 2012



The season of Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year of worship. The sights and sound of Advent attempt to focus our attention on Jesus' comings – at Bethlehem, today and in the fullness of time – by insisting that while we look back to his birth and forward to his second coming, it is in the daily struggles, challenges and choices that the 'days of the Lord' will be found. The Advent readings have a double focus:

- a) *We prepare for Christmas*
- b) *We look forward to the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time.*

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."

YEAR OF GRACE, YEAR OF FAITH

While planned independently of each other (the Year of Grace is an initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops in response to local issues, while the Year of Faith announced by Pope Benedict is a call to the universal Church) both have as their goal a renewal of faith in Jesus Christ. The Year of Grace invites us into a spiritual journey of encountering Christ afresh in our lives through prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, celebrating liturgies, repenting of our failures and listening to the voice of the Spirit. The Year of Faith (commenced on 11 October) calls us into a deep renewal of our faith through retracing the history of our faith, studying the Catechism, praying the Creed and seeking to be an active witness of what we believe. These two impulses of the Holy Spirit complement each other and provide opportunities for us to discover and nurture the gifts of 'grace' and 'faith' at work in our lives.

Parish Birthdays for this week:
2nd: Maree Laming and Beryl Purcell

Wedding Anniversary for this week:
5th: Kerry and Maureen Hennessy (42 years)

WE WELCOME: Into our Christian Community
Riley David Jackson who was Baptised last weekend

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED: Daniel Karr (R.D.), Peter Pereira (Anniv), Dr Ken Saw, Thomas Scott-Dolby, Bernard Hoffman, Deborah Rix, Pat Purcell, Alice Harris, Mary Writer, Jim McKenzie, Genie Lynch, Frank McKay, Frank Keevers, Laurie Keevers, Chris Wagstaff, John DeVillie, Keith Gomes and Maria and Graziano Cabonara and for anyone else whose Anniversary occurs at this time.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Please pray for the many sick in our parish community: Hector Bernardino, Maurya Hutton, Elaine Hoffman, Colum Brennan, Len Donoghue, Kelly Berthaly, Mary Fredericks, Jean Nicholson, Kay Burton, Mary Pace, Alphonse Zammit, Ken Smith, Zanaba Liban, Lorraine Evans, Sitani Nasio, Marcia Davis, Jack O'Sullivan, Kevin Hardinge, Gino Stephen, Iris Stephen, Tina Boyd, Beryl Purcell, Gloria Eggert, Barbara DeVillie, Jill Lovell, Salesi Kaufusi, Phillip Conroy, Rita Bingham, Sam Sheather, Sioeli Tupola, John McCann, Ken Churchill and Giovanna Cancellieri.

Diary Dates:

- **Baptism Preparation Class** Monday 3rd December at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre
- **St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Christmas Carols** Tuesday 4th December (see notices below)
- **Parish Liturgy Team meeting** Wednesday 5th December at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre to discuss Family Mass (**16th December**) and Christmas Masses Liturgies
- **Retiree's Social Group** gathering after the 9.00am Mass, Thursday 6th December (**parishioners and friends over 55 are more than welcome**) come along for a chat, a cuppa and a good laugh
- **St Vincent de Paul Society** meeting Tuesday 11th December at 6.30pm (note change of time for meeting once only) in the Parish Centre
- **Parish Finance Council** meeting Wednesday 12th December at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre
- **2nd Rite of Reconciliation for Christmas** on Wednesday 19th December at 7.30pm

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS CAROLS: Are on Tuesday 4th December all parishioners are invited to Christmas Carols at the school. BBQ starts at 5.30pm followed by Carols at 6.00pm. Please come along and get into the spirit of Christmas and support our Parish School.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:

Newsletter is available on all the tables at the entrance of the Church. Please take one and find out what is happening in our Parish Catholic Primary School.

"AWAKEN": Daily Advent & Christmas Reflections 2012 are also available for **80c** per copy from the Piety Stall. **Bishop Peter Ingham recommends that every home of every parishioner in our Diocese have one of these books.** The book contains short daily reflections from the beginning of Advent all the way to the Epiphany primarily for personal use. The daily reflections are written by Fr Graham Schmitzer, St Hilda Scott OSB, Fr Ronan Kilgannon and Ms Michelle Vass (Spiritual Director at Douglas Park). It contains beautiful religious artworks from our rich Catholic history for which Fr Sean Cullen is providing short descriptions.

PARISH PIETY STALL: Have for sale St Vincent de Paul Christmas cards \$7.00 per packet of 10 cards.

The Little Blue Book: \$4.50 each) for Advent and Christmas Seasons 2012-2013. The book contains 6 minute reflections on the Sunday Gospels of Year C.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY – ASSIST A

STUDENT SCHEME -Year 2012. The Scheme can be promoted with friends and members of the family and colleagues at work. For those who may want another brochure or missed out on one they are available in the stands at the back of the church.

Thank you from St Thomas More Catholic Church St Vincent de Paul Conference.

CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Now that it is Advent the Jesse Tree is in the back of the Church. Please take a tag (or two) and buy a present appropriate for the age and gender of the child on that tag. We also ask that you **don't** wrap the presents to make the sorting easier.

For those parishioners who can't get out to buy a gift, we will leave blue Vinnies envelopes at the base of the Jesse Tree and a cash donation will be gratefully accepted. The envelope can be put in the collection plate or given to Father Tony or the office. **Thank you for your generosity to the needy in our area.**

THANKYOU: To the two gentlemen (who braved the extreme heat on Thursday) and repainted the car park lines and entrance driveway to the Church and also around the car park garden beds.

FRENCH MASS: Is to be held on 9 December 2012 at 6:00pm at St John the Evangelist Cnr Cordeaux and Lindesay Street, Campbelltown.

CLAIM THE DATE – Stamp Club Auction – Campbelltown Stamp Club Auction Night

Please support the Stamp Club members whose annual auction of stamps, collectibles, bric-a-brac etc. will this year see 100% of all sales go to support the work of your local St Vincent de Paul Society Conference. **When:** Wednesday 12 December 2012 at 7.30pm for 8pm start. **Where:** St Thomas More Parish Hall, 43 Acacia Avenue Ruse. **How you can help:**
1. Donate – Items such as stamps, books, collectibles, novelties and all sorts of bric-a-brac may be donated. Simply bring them to the hall after 6.45pm on the night of the auction. So start searching those cupboards!

2. Attend – This is a chance to meet new people, have some fun and perhaps to find a bargain amongst the goods being auctioned. The Stamp Club members will provide nibbles along with coffee and tea. To help make the night a success, why not bring a friend?

MASS FOR YOU AT HOME will now be shown on **Channel 11 at 5.30am every Sunday** and repeated on the Aurora Channel on Foxtel during the week. This program benefits those who are isolated from the usual parish celebration: through age, distance, illness or imprisonment. If you know someone who enjoys this program or is in a situation that prevents them attending Mass, please let them know of this programming change.

The Parish Rosary Statue will be in the home of **Edmund & Daphne**. The family will say the Rosary on Monday at 7.00pm. Please see main notice board for the address details. *Please collect the Rosary Statue from the church kitchen on your weekend and return it the following fortnight. Thank you.*

READERS FOR MASS FOR DECEMBER 2012:

Vigil Mass: Louise Phillips and James Munro
9.00am Mass: (2nd & 9th): Chris and Claire O'Brien
(16th & 23rd): Noel Laming & Sinisita Filitoga

(Could the 2nd reader please also read the Prayers of the Faithful)

USHER'S for next weekend:

Vigil Mass Help Required
9am Mass: Christine Foreman

FLOWERS: Christine Gomes

CHURCH CLEANER'S: Group 1: Syro-Malabar Community

REFRESHMENTS AFTER 9.00am Mass: Sunday 16th December (3rd Sunday of Advent – Rose Sunday): Parish Family Mass: assistance and donations would be greatly appreciated.



The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a popular Advent custom that originated in Germany. It consists of four candles (three purple and one rose), surrounded by evergreen branches. One purple candle is lit the first week, two the second, two purple and one rose the third, and finally all four in the last week of Advent. The light of the candles signifies the light of Christ, Who will come into the world at Christmas.

