

3rd Sunday of Advent
Year A
Gaudete Sunday – Joy Sunday
Rose Advent Candle
15th December 2013



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



Dear Parishioners and visitors to our Parish,

I would like to welcome you here to our Parish Special Family Mass in preparation for Christmas. I thank you for joining us in prayer and celebrating the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. Please join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments after Mass. Fr Tony – Parish Priest

IMPORTANT NOTE TO PARISHIONERS

If anyone knows of any parishioner who would like a visit from Father Tony, or is ill and/or unable to come to Mass, housebound or in hospital. **Could a family member or friend please contact Fr Tony on 4628 2967 or speak to him in person after/before Mass to arrange a suitable visiting time.**

GLUTEN FREE ALTAR BREADS: If you require Gluten Free Hosts could you please see **Fr Tony before** Mass so as they are available for you at Holy Communion.

PARISH DIARY DATES:

- **Wednesday 18th December: Parish Finance Council meeting at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre (last meeting for 2013)**
- **Thursday 19th December: Retiree’s Social Group Gathering in the Parish Hall after the 9.00am Mass**

CONGRATULATIONS: To **Janet Taunese Mataia** and **Jonathan Lafi Falevaai** who were married in our Parish Church last weekend. May God’s Blessings be with them the rest of their Married life.

WE WELCOME: Into our Christian Community **Audrey Gwendoline Logue** and **Nash Michael Nicholas Young** who were Baptised last weekend.

Christmas Reconciliation Timetable:

Friday 20th December
7.30pm: 2nd Rite of Reconciliation
Saturday 21st December
4.00pm – 5.30pm: 1st Rite of Reconciliation
Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)
11.00am – 12noon: 1st Rite of Reconciliation

Christmas Mass Timetable:

Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve):
6.30pm: Children’s Christmas Pageant & Carols
7.00pm: Christmas Vigil Mass

11.30pm: Christmas Carols
12 Midnight: Christmas Mass

Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day)
8.30am: Christmas Carols
9.00am: Christmas Day Mass

READERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Christmas Eve Vigil (7.00pm):

1. Claire O’Brien
2. Therese Writer

Midnight Mass:

1. May Michelutti
2. Maria Feher/Cody Benes

Christmas Day: (9.00am)

1. Maryse Parisi
2. Jim Writer

JESSE TREE: St Vincent de Paul Christmas Toy

Appeal: If you have taken a tag from the Jesse Tree and haven’t yet returned your child/children’s gift, they can be left at the Parish Office during Office Hours and they will be passed onto our St Vincent de Paul Conference for distribution. The gifts have to be distributed before school holidays. There is no need to wrap the presents. **We would like to thank you for your kindness and know that your gifts will make a difference too many needy children.**

THIS WEEKS CATHOLIC WEEKLY: Great value for only \$2.00 please don’t forget to **buy** your copy.

PARISH PIETY STALL: Available from our Piety Stall are still the 2014 Columban Calendars, the Diocesan 6 minute reflections for Advent booklet (\$2.50 per copy), St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards. We have a variety of stock available for Christmas gifts.

OLD STAMPS/PETROL DOCKETS: If you have any used stamps and/or any leftover petrol docket that you will not be using, and would like to donate them – our “red” Parish Mail box is located at the entrance of the Church (near the ramp). The stamps will be sent to the Missions to help with their good works and the petrol docket will be given to those in need. Thank you very much for your donations.

CLEANER’S ROSTERS: Are available for collection on the main table at the entrance of the Church. A huge thank you to the Parishioners who are members of this Parish Ministry, your time and talents are greatly appreciated. You help to make our Parish Church an honour to worship in. If you would like to join this Ministry, please let Fr Tony know and you will be contacted shortly. **Once again thank you to the Church Cleaner’s.**

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER: Copies are available for you to take home and keep up to date with what is happening in our Parish Primary School.

THANK YOU: To the many people who have put together today’s Special Family Mass. Just to name a few: The Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Ladies Group, Catechist’s, Sacristan’s, Musician’s, St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Choir, Cleaner’s, Reader’s and Flower Arranger’s. **Thank you to everyone.**

JOURNEY MAGAZINE: *Is available for each family to take a copy* (they are on all the tables at the entrance of the Church). This issue of our diocesan magazine responds to the question: “Is the Mass essential to Catholic life?” and some great Christmas artwork from our schools.

CAROLS AT THE CUBE (CAMPBELLTOWN CATHOLIC CLUB): Tonight, Sunday 15th December at 7.00pm. Tickets are \$5.00 each at the Catholic Club. (General admission Family Event)

THE JOURNEY – CATHOLIC RADIO: ‘The Journey’ is the Diocese’s weekly Catholic Radio Program. Hear the show Sundays from 11am on live streaming at pulse941.com.au. You can also listen at any time from the Diocesan website at radio.dow.org.au or find us on Facebook. This week tune in for a wonderful interview with Bishop Peter Ingham as we lead into Christmas as well as hearing from our regular contributors and great music.

EXPLORE AND DISCOVER NEW RICHES IN MASS, MUSIC, PRAYER AND WORSHIP – Wollongong 15-18 January 2014: Engage with inspirational speakers on an amazing array of topics. Experience showcases and deepen your love and knowledge of prayer and worship. Over 500 already confirmed for this special conference in Wollongong. Full details of the conference and online registration process are available at www.liftupyourhearts.com.au. GST free pricing for parishes and other members of the Catholic GST Group.

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS NATIONAL LITURGY CONFERENCE 15th – 18th Jan 2014 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! With over 500 people already registered, volunteers are needed to help with welcoming, registration, hospitality, support and administration during the conference. If you are able to help for 2 to 3 hours one day during the conference (Wednesday 15th - Saturday 18th), we will provide you with: a “Lift Up Your Hearts T-shirt”, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea on the day you are volunteering, entry to 2 of the conference sessions on the day you are volunteering. **Please contact:** Helen Bennett, Phone: 4222 2403 email: helen.bennett@dow.org.au. Provide your name, phone number, email and T-shirt size, together with your preferred attendance day **by no later than Wednesday 18 December 2013.**

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED: Please pray for the recently deceased and for those whose anniversary occurs at this time. **May eternal rest grant to them O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them.**

SICK LIST: Please pray for the many sick in our parish community: Beryl Purcell, Candice Walker, Colum Brennan, Ellen Healy, Gino Stephen, Gloria Eggert, Iris Stephen, Jack O’Sullivan, Jane Rivett, Janice Ayers, Jean Nicholson, Jill Lovell, John McCann, Kathryn Primmer, Kelly Berthaly, Ken Churchill, Ken Smith, Kevin Hardinge, Len Donoghue, Lilly Levine, Lorraine Evans, Mary Fredericks, Mary Ford, Mary Pace, Melanie Blessing, Nicholas Larkin, Rita Bingham, Salesi Kaufusi, Sam Sheather, Shirley Starr, Sitani Nasio, Tina Boyd, Tomas Laming and The Liban Family

PARISH ROSARY STATUE: During the Christmas Season and School holidays, the Rosary Statue will not be going to Parishioners Homes until the 3rd February 2014. I take this opportunity to Thank the Parishioners who had the Rosary Statue in their homes During 2013. I wish them and their families a joyful Christmas and God’s Blessings. Saying this great prayer, the family Rosary every day will always bring peace in the family – “The family that prays together stays together”. **Thank you and God Bless Father Tony and Edmund.**

READERS FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER:

Vigil Mass:
21st/28th: Bev and Julie McKenzie

9.00am Mass:
22nd/29th: Chris and Rosalie Vine
(Could the 2nd Reader please also read the Prayers of Intercession)

USHER’S FOR NEXT WEEKEND:
Vigil Mass: Help required
9am Mass: Karenne Harvey

CHURCH CLEANER’S FOR NEXT WEEK: Group 1: Syro-Malabar Indian Community

FLOWERS FOR NEXT WEEK: Christine and Carmel

REFRESHMENTS AFTER 9.00am MASS: This will be returning in February. Thank you to the many people who are members of this Parish Ministry and also to the Parish Ladies Group who continue to support this Parish Ministry. Many friendships have been formed over a cuppa and a chat. If you would like to be a part of this Ministry, please contact the Parish Office on 4628 2967. Thank you once again for your time and talents and the gift of sharing with others, it is greatly appreciated.

ADVENT PRAYER

“God of joy, during these sometimes busy days of Advent, I keep your presence before my eyes. My heart is filled with joy for all you have done. You know the very depths of my soul, yet you love me with a tenderness that is beyond compare.”

