

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time/Australia Day

Year A

26th January 2014



AN AUSTRALIAN BLESSING

May you always stand tall as a tree,
be as strong as the rock Uluru,
as gentle and still as the morning mist,
hold the warmth of the campfire in your heart,
and may the Creator Spirit always walk with
you.



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"

WELCOME: Back to our Parish School Children who will commence their new school year for 2014 during this week. We wish them well, and also to those Kindergarten children who will be commencing school this week and next.

DATES OF PARISH SACRAMENTS FOR 2014:

Wednesday 12th February: Parent/Carers Information night for **Reconciliation** (for Catholic Baptised Children in Years 3 and above) **7.30pm** in the Parish Church:
The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be on either Wednesday 19th March or Thursday 20th March.

Wednesday 4th June: Parent/Carer's Information night for **Confirmation** (for Catholic Baptised Children in Years 6 and above who have made the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion) **7.30pm in the Parish Church:**
The Sacrament of Confirmation will be on Saturday 26th July at 3.30pm.

Wednesday 6th August: Parents/Carers Information night for **First Holy Communion** (for Catholic Baptised Children in Years 3 and above who have made the Sacrament of Reconciliation) **7.30pm in the Parish Church:**
The Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be: Celebrated on the weekend of 13th /14th September.

LENT 2014

Ash Wednesday: 5th March
Stations of the Cross will be every Friday evening during Lent commencing at 7.30pm in the Parish Church

The Sacred Paschal Triduum

Thursday 17th April:
Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday 18th April:
Stations of the Cross
The Passion of the Lord
Evening Prayer of Divine Office

Saturday 19th April:
Easter Vigil Mass (Resurrection of the Lord)

Sunday 20th April:
Easter Sunday Mass (Resurrection of the Lord)

"BEING HUMAN, BEING CHRISTIAN": A TIME TO GET INVOLVED: Our parish is a small community and sometimes we can become lost in the shuffle. Being involved in one or our Parish Ministries or groups provides the chance to get to know some of the people you see across the aisles at Mass. Please see Fr Tony or contact our Parish Office on 4628 2967 (during office hours or leave a message on the answering machine) for details about the many ways you can get involved. Why not make it your New Year's Resolution?

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.**

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED: Please pray for the recently deceased and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. Mary Writer, Frank McKay (Anniv), Genie Lynch (Anniv), Bernie Blackstock (R.D.), and Maria Cabonara. **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, Ellen Healy, Graham Wagg, Jack O'Sullivan, Ken Churchill, Melanie Blessing, Tina Boyd and Tomas Laming .

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

START AFRESH IN 2014: Looking for a new start? Is there a voice in your heart that you have been ignoring? Is God offering you a fulfilling choice? Please contact either Fr Tony on 4628 2967 or Fr Richard Healey, Vocations Director on 0401 621 591 or priesthood@dow.org.au

RETIRED STAFF AND PARTNERS of Catholic Schools and the Wollongong Catholic Education Office: Are invited to attend an informal lunch/social at Wollongong Golf Club, Corrimal St, Wollongong on Friday 7th February at 12noon to renew acquaintances with former colleagues and their partners. For more information and/or confirmation of attendance please contact: John Tubridy on 4228 4474, Kate Quinn on 4234 124 or Mel Condon on 4232 2795.

THE JOURNEY- CATHOLIC RADIO: "The Journey" is the Diocese's weekly Catholic Radio Program. Hear the show Sundays from 11am on Pulse 94.1FM in the Illawarra, or 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.

MT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE: 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville. Email: retreats@carmelite.com; generalmanager@carmelite.com www.carmelite.com Enquiries: (02) 8795 3400
February 1, Saturday day retreat, 'I want to give myself but who am I'. Registration: 9.00 – 10.00am, Retreat: 10.20 – 4.00pm Suggested donation: \$20

February 7-9: Pondering the Ignatian daily "Examen Prayer" as an aid to self-discovery and ability to love. Fr Gerard Moran OCD.

The Daily Examen is a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God's presence and discern his direction for us. The Examen is an ancient practice in the Church that can help us see God's hand at work in our whole experience. Cost: \$220.00

FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION Programs at CatholicCare:cCare:Bookings are now open for a range of education programs to assist adults, children and young people develop and enhance healthy relationships and wellbeing. Call 4628 0044 Campbelltown to book into a course or go to www.catholiccare.dow.org.au to see what courses are being offered in 2014.

menALIVE BREAKFAST: The next Breakfast is part of the National Catholic Man Breakfast Series and will be hosted by Bishop Peter Ingham at the Xavier Centre, cnr Crown St and Harbour St Wollongong. The theme 'Fire In Your Life' - 7.30am Sat 15th February \$15 per person. The invitation is to all men from 16 to 60+. The speaker is Robert Falzon founder of menALIVE - A Husband, Father, Businessman, and newly published author. Robert has a passionate belief that God wants each of us to experience life in all its fullness. Robert will explore what it means to stoke the fire in your life. To confirm your booking: Vince 0413 126 095, Jude 42 222 407, Peter 0418 123 824, Jeff 0422 000 623, Phil 0434 894 589.

CATHOLIC CARE ST PATRICK'S DAY RACING FUNRAISER: Saturday 15 March, Kembla Grange Racecourse
Tickets now on sale. Book today to avoid disappointment. Ph: 42271122 Email: chiaram@catholiccare.dow.org.au
Web: www.catholiccare.dow.org.au
All monies raised will assist the Family and Sibling Support (Sibs) program - helping siblings of kids with a disability

JANUARY 2014

READERS:

Vigil Mass: 1st/8th Feb: James Munro and Freda Miranda

9.00am Mass: 2nd/9th Feb: Noel Laming and Agnes Serfatu
(Could the 2nd Reader please also read the Prayers of Intercession)

USHER'S FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

Vigil Mass: Carmel
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 16th February: The Tongan Community

ROSARY STATUE: When you pray the Rosary in your home you are still a community at prayer. Have you considered celebrating praying the Rosary at home and inviting other parishioners to share this special time with you. Those interested in having the Rosary Statue (and/or would like more details) can contact the parish office on 4628 2967 to arrange a suitable time you and your family would like to have our Parish Rosary Statue in your home.

Parish Diary Dates:

Tuesday 28th January: Catechist's meeting at 10.00am in the Parish Hall

Thursday 30th January: Retiree's Social group gathering after the 9.00am Mass (1st for 2014) – all Retiree's over 55 are most welcome (come along for a good laugh and chat)

Monday 3rd February: Baptism Preparation Class at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre

Monday 3rd February: Parish Ladies Group meeting and AGM at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre (new members are most welcome)

Wednesday 5th February: Wednesday Prayer group will be returning after the 9.00am Mass (all Parishioners are most welcome)

Friday 7th February: Opening School Year Mass at 9.30am at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School (all Parishioners are most welcome) in the School Hall

Tuesday 11th February: St Vincent de Paul Conference meeting at 7.45pm in the Parish Centre (new members are most welcome)

Wednesday 12th February: Parents/Carers Information night for Reconciliation (for children in Year 3 and above who have been Baptised) at 7.30pm in the Parish Church

Tuesday 18th February: Parish Pastoral Council meeting at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

Wednesday 19th February: Parish Finance Council meeting at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre

Sunday 23rd February: at 10.15am in the Parish Church there will be a meeting for Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Communion Acolyte's and Senior Server's.

