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CATHOLIC CHURCH - DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN
 ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A
 26th JULY 2020

FIRST READING - 1 Kings 3:5:7-12.

A reading from the book of Kings.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word. The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. **(R.)**
2. Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant. Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. **(R.)**
3. That is why I love your commands more than finest gold. That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways. **(R.)**
4. Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. **(R.)**

SECOND READING - Romans 8:28-30.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

GOSEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
 Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

GOSEL READING - Matthew 13:44-52.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.'

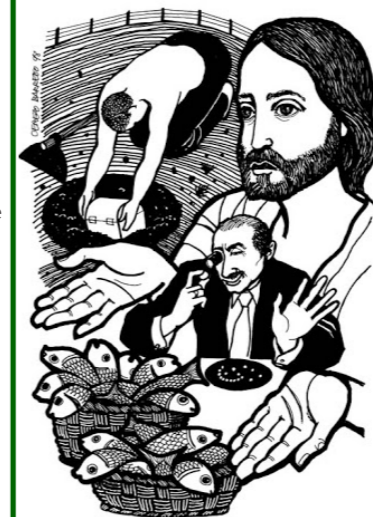
'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old, do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

(R.) Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



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.

A burning rubbish tip in Jerusalem (Gehenna) provided Jesus with one image of Hell. Here is John Henry Newman's image. Have you travelled to a foreign country and can't speak the language? There is lots of weeping and gnashing of teeth. What if you were born with a good ear for languages, but had deliberately never learnt the language of that other place? You would only have yourself to blame. It would be a living hell. That is what happens at death. The soul is suddenly transported to a different dimension of existence, and it can be either heavenly or hellish depending on the choices and actions of a lifetime. So, our lifetime project is to "learn the language of heaven." We can mainly do this by following the story of Jesus, the Word of God, the perfect conversation between humanity and God. We could pause for a moment to move from incommunicado to communion by learning and practicing the language of Heaven. mtate@bigpond.com

GOSEL FOCUS

THE KINGDOM IS LIKE
 Throughout the gospels, Jesus consistently uses the figures of speech of simile and metaphor to describe the kingdom. He never directly describes the kingdom. It is always described as being like some situation or person or as if... This figurative use of language means that we have no single clear picture of what the kingdom is like but we do have a multitude of metaphors and descriptions. This style of description adds to the paradoxical nature of the kingdom - it is like many things yet we don't really know what it is like at all.



'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'
 Matthew 13:44.

MASS TIMES

- TUESDAY 28th JULY**
 9.30am. - Mass.
- WEDNESDAY 29th JULY**
 9.30am. - Mass.
- THURSDAY 30th JULY**
 9.30am. - Mass.
- FRIDAY 31st JULY**
 9.30am. - Mass.

RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

SATURDAY 1st AUGUST
 Saturday Vigil for 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
 6.00pm. - Mass.

SUNDAY 2nd AUGUST
 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
 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.

STEWARDSHIP

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN
 ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

"The law of Your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces," says the psalmist today.

Does the amount of my offering suggest that I could honestly say the same?

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

2nd AUGUST 2020
 EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN
 ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

1st Reading:

Isaiah 55:1-3.

Hasten and eat.

2nd Reading:

Romans 8:35. 37-39.

No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 14:13-21.

They all ate and were satisfied.

ST ALPHONSUS LIGUORI



St Alphonsus Liguori was born near Naples in 1696, and was the son of a nobleman. He was a successful lawyer before being ordained a priest at the age of 29. In 1731, Alphonsus refounded a community of nuns and a year later he founded the Congregation of the Holy Redeemer; a community of priests

dedicated to preaching to the poor in rural towns. He was bishop of Sant Agatha dei Goti for thirteen years before retiring due to ill health. He published more than thirty theological and devotional works and as a result was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1871.

HUMOUR CORNER

INSERT FOOT IN MOUTH

An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps. "Where would you like to sit?" he asked politely.

"The front row please," she answered.

"You really don't want to do that," the usher said. "The pastor is really boring."

"Do you happen to know who I am?" the woman inquired.

"No," he said.

"I'm the pastor's mother," she replied indignantly.

"Do you know who I am?" he asked.

"No," she said.

"Good," he answered and disappeared from the service.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A



26th July 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 and friends of St Thomas More Parish

For Parish Masses please read main notices.

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

May God bless keep you well and safe,
Fr Michael

URGENTLY NEEDED:

MONITOR'S: Thank you to the Parishioner's who are currently being Monitor's – you are greatly appreciated and thank you also to those who have volunteered to help in this Parish Ministry.

The role of the Monitor is also to help people enter the Church safely and to ensure social distancing and not to congregate before or after Mass, and other similar things. Each Mass requires at least 3 Monitor's (our attendee numbers have increased)– if you would like to assist in this important role – please contact the Parish Office (during Office Hours – 4628 2967).

CLEANER'S: The Church, where people have sat, and frequently touched surfaces, need to be cleaned after each Mass, to help ensure the safety of our parishioners-all materials are supplied. If you have a spare 2-3 minutes after each Mass to assist with this – it is greatly appreciated.

UPDATES IN OUR PARISH:

Parish Bulletin: If you know of a parishioner who is not receiving these emails please encourage them to contact the parish office. There are hard copies available at the entrance to the Church.

Planned Giving Envelopes 2020/21: There are still a few to be collected from the Parish Office during Office Hours.

WEEKDAY MASSES AT RUSE CHURCH: Those attending a Weekday Mass will NOT have to Register beforehand, only the first 70 Worshipers will be admitted.
We are in urgent need of Monitor's for Weekday Masses also.

DO YOU WISH TO ATTEND A WEEKEND MASS?

You cannot just turn up for Mass as previously!!

Note: emails and text messages cannot be accepted.

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 your RESERVED seat, where **Social distancing (4 sq meters)** must be strictly observed, (except for people of the same house-hold)

No Holy Water fonts, No Votive Candles, No Offertory Procession, no Sign of Peace, Holy Communion (in a single file) **must** be Received in the hand.

Please arrive early for Mass (at least 10 minutes beforehand). Church doors must be locked as Mass begins, No collections can be taken up at Mass.

Usual Parish Collection donations can be placed in the baskets provided on the table at the Church door

You are to sanitize your hands again as you leave the Church and **Nobody** will be permitted to socially assemble in the courtyard before, during and after Mass.

SOME STATISTICS from 2016 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CENSUS FOR RUSE PARISH 2016: PARISH PROFILE:

82% of Australia's Catholics lived in a family setting and 9% living alone.

In 1996 the median age of Catholics in Australia was 33 years. By 2016, it had risen to 40 years. Among Catholics in Australia, 48% were male, 52% female. Females accounted for 58% of Catholics 75 years and over.

In Ruse Parish, 694 Catholics were born overseas and 63 do not speak English well.

WE WELCOME: Into our Christian Community

Willow Gail Riley who was Baptised last weekend. Thank you to her Parents and Godparents.

If you want your child Baptised in our Parish, please contact the Parish Office during Office Hours, so that a suitable date can be organized for the celebration. Due to COVID-19 we are currently having only 1 Baptism per Sunday.

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 Birthday this coming week: 31st: Paul Newman**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: All the people who have died in this current pandemic, the recently deceased and whose anniversaries that occur at this time: Joe White (Anniv), Ern Munro, Fr Douglas Rheinberger, Rita D'Souza, Debbie Phillips, John Read, Alice Harris, Mary Writer, Cathy Wiggins, Fr Anthony (Tony) Daly, Ladislav Feher, Beryl Ford, Jim McKenzie, Bobby Cameron, 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 the *many* sick in our Parish Community including: Kathleen Sidebottom, Kerry Walker, Jessica Nilsson, Samantha Glover, Shirley Starr, Kenny Wilson, Antonio David, Hannah Kavanagh, Mary Dolan, Frank Byron, Sean Scanlon, Kellie Brandes, Brian Harris, Francisco Carmona, David Minogue, Daphne and Edmund Pew, Steve Foreman, Luke Van Der Burg, Briega Glover, Fr John Whitty, Elaine Hoffmann, Patricia McNerney, 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.

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.

Thank you once again for your continued support of our Parish of St Thomas More, Ruse.

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 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 contact the CDF Wollongong: Trevor Kellam at trevor.kellam@dow.org.au

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL: Your St Vincent de Paul Conference is unable to run a normal Winter Appeal in 2020 due to the current pandemic and associated risks. However, there remain many people in need and anyone able to make a cash donation is encouraged to do so. Simply, visit www.vinnies.org.au/donate or call 13 18 12 to make a secure donation. All donations of \$2 and over are tax-deductible.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE: First Holy Communion program lessons will commence on Sunday 9th August. All families whose children recently completed their Reconciliation Program have been notified via Email the FHC details. If you have not yet responded, please contact the Office during normal working hours, or the Sacramental Coordinator, Annette Read on 0404112335, to enrol in the program.

Confirmation is scheduled for early November, and details will be available later in the term.

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

PARISH CHURCH CLEANER'S:

1st August: Group 5: Ruse Samoan Divine Mercy Group (Maria Byron +)

8th August: Group 6: Tongan Community

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>

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 (*below*).

THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG WEEKLY PODCAST:

The Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast – 'The Journey' – 26th July 2020. This week you will hear all about the upcoming National Men's Conference and new content from Darren McDowell in his segment – leading for mission – asking us why we would bother? Uploaded every Friday for free download – go to www.jcr.org.au

DATES LOCKED IN FOR PLENARY COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES

The two assemblies for the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia will be held in Adelaide from October 3-10, 2021, and in Sydney from July 4-9, 2022. The new dates mean that the celebration of the Plenary Council has effectively moved 12 months from the original plan of a first assembly in October 2020 and a second assembly in June/July 2021.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT: It must not be forgotten that the passing of time and the changing of social circumstances will require a constant updating of the reflections on various issues, in order to interpret new signs of the times.
Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church – Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

AUGUST 15 VIRTUAL NATIONAL CATHOLIC MEN'S GATHERING:

This free half day gathering, will look to inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship 4 sessions with inputs from Australia Bishops and lay leaders to inspire and renew men in the Church for mission. Participate individually but also in around 30 locations around Australia, 4 in the diocese of Wollongong. Simply register at www.catholicmensgathering.com.au. The Diocese will bring men together in 4 locations on Saturday 15 August from 9.30am-2.30pm. Wollongong: Xavier Centre 38 Harbour St, Host: Peter 0407913696, Macarthur: Venue TBC: Host: Eddie Ferry:0417049, Southern Highlands Venue TBC: Host James Glynn 0431636027

CatholicCare: To find out more about CatholicCare's counselling service call us on 4254 9395 or email intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au