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**CATHOLIC CHURCH - DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG**

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

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**  
**9<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020**

**FIRST READING - 1 Kings 19:9.11-13.**

*A reading from the first book of the Kings.*

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The Word of the Lord.

**(R.) Thanks be to God**  
**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING - Romans 9:1-5.**

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

**(R.) Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I hope in the Lord,  
I trust in his word.  
Alleluia!



**GOSPEL READING - Matthew 14:22-33.**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand and once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**(R.) Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**GOSPEL FOCUS**

**'LORD! SAVE ME!'.....**

The cry of Peter is one that each of us feels the need to cry out at some stage in our life. Jesus trusted Peter's ability to walk to him on the water; otherwise he would not have called Peter to do so. It is Peter who doubts himself. In this moment of realising that he can't do it alone, he calls out to Jesus. One of the enduring images of Jesus is as the one who saves – the Saviour. When the realisation eventually comes to each of us that we can't do it all alone, we need only call on the one who saves.

**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.*

**LIVING THE GOSPEL**

**CHRISTIAN**

What does it mean to describe oneself as a Christian today? A common understanding might be 'one who follows the teachings of Jesus Christ'. Perhaps, based on the understanding of what it meant to be a disciple, we might better describe a Christian as one who learns from the teachings of Jesus and seeks to emulate the work of Jesus. That is, a Christian is someone who models their life on the example of Jesus and is the face of Jesus to others. That's a tougher job description than just turning up to church once a week or putting a bumper sticker on your car.

**REFLECTION - by Fr Michael Tate.**

The disciples had started off from the Jewish side of the Sea of Galilee, familiar territory. Jesus guided them through the stormy situation to "the other side", the pagan side, unfamiliar territory where they would not have felt at home.

Buffeted by storms, the Church is in the midst of a journey from familiar to unfamiliar territory.

Some of the storms include a new attitude to authority, to gender roles. There is anger and suspicion at sexual abuse and its cover up. In all these situations and many more, Our Lord will not allow us the indulgence of nostalgic yearning for the safety of the past country inhabited by the Church. We must make our way to the other shore.

We could pause for a moment, resolving to row with courage because we know we are in the same boat as Peter whom our Risen Lord assures: "Do not be afraid."

mtate@bigpond.com



*So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?'*

Matthew 14:29-31.

**MASS TIMES**

**TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
9.30am. - Mass.

**WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
9.30am. - Mass.

**THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
9.30am. - Mass.

**FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
9.30am. - Mass.

**RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

**SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
*The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
**Saturday Vigil for 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**  
6.00pm. - Mass.

**SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
**20<sup>th</sup> 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.



**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 NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

*In today's Gospel, Elijah recognized the voice of God not in the strong and heavy wind, not in the earthquake, and not in the fire, but in a tiny whispering sound.*

*May we find enough quiet in our clamorous world to hear His voice and discern what He is calling us to do and be.*

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**16<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020**  
**TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:**  
**Isaiah 56:1.6-7.**

*I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:**  
**Romans 11:13-15. 29-32.**

*The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.*

**Gospel Reading:**  
**Matthew 15:21-28.**

*Woman, you have great faith.*

**ST CLARE OF ASSISI**



St Clare of Assisi was born in Italy in 1194 AD to a wealthy noble family. As a child she was devoted to prayer and at the age of eighteen she heard St Francis of Assisi preach and she was inspired to follow his example, despite the protestations of her family. After living a life of strict poverty with the Benedictine nuns, she eventually lead a new order known as the "Poor Ladies of San Damiano".

For a time the order was directed by St Francis himself, and Clare cared for him in his final days. In 1224 the Prussian King, Frederick II led an army to take the town of Assisi. It is believed that Clare faced the army carrying only the Blessed Sacrament, and that suddenly the army was overcome with fear and fled. Ten years after her death in 1253, her order became known as the Order of St Clare. In 1958 Pope Pius XII named Clare as the patron saint of television based on the story that when she was sick and unable to attend mass she could reportedly see and hear it on the wall of her room.

**HUMOUR CORNER**

**22 KPH.....**

One Sunday, sitting on the side of the highway waiting to catch speeding drivers, a State Police Officer sees a car puttering along at 22 KPH.

He thinks to himself, "This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!" So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over.

Approaching the car, he notices that there are five old ladies - two in the front seat and three in the back - wide eyed and white as ghosts. The driver, obviously confused, says to him, "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! I always go exactly the speed limit. What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer replies, "you weren't speeding, but you should know that driving significantly slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers."

"Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly! Twenty-two miles an hour!" the old woman says a bit proudly.

The State Police officer, trying to contain a chuckle explains to her that "22" was the route number, not the speed limit.

A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask . . . Is everyone in this car OK? These women seem awfully shaken and they haven't muttered a single peep this whole time," the officer asks with concern.

"Oh, they'll be all right in a minute officer. We just got off Route 119."

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



9<sup>th</sup> August 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 Those Who Volunteer in our Churches*

*Everlasting God, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our churches; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow Jesus*

*Christ, offering to you their gifts and talents; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

*May God bless keep you well and safe,  
Fr Michael*

#### URGENTLY NEEDED:

**MONITOR'S:** Thank you to the Parishioner's who have joined this Parish Ministry, the gifts of your time, patience and talents is greatly appreciated. You are helping with keeping our Parishioner's and Visitor's to our Parish safe.

We are still asking for more volunteer's to help with this Parish Ministry as not all our current Monitor's can attend each weekday/end.

*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:** Thank you the Parishioner's and Visitor's to our Parish Masses both during the week and weekends, who help with the sanitising of their seats plus the many areas that are touched eg: door handles, the Lectern, Sanctuary etc.

#### 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.

#### DO YOU WISH TO ATTEND A WEEKEND MASS?

**You cannot just turn up for Mass as previously!!**

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 are locked as Mass begins, No collections are taken up at Mass. Usual Parish Collection donations can be placed in the baskets provided on the table at the Church entrance 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.

#### PARISH

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE:** First Holy Communion program lessons will commence today (Sunday 9th August). All families whose children recently completed their Reconciliation Program were notified via Email the FHC details. If you have not yet responded, please contact the Sacramental Coordinator, Annette Read on 0404 112 335 ASAP.

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

**BAPTISM:** 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](mailto:ruse@dow.org.au). **Parishioner's Birthday this coming week: 8<sup>th</sup>: David Mahanay, 9<sup>th</sup>: Jacqueline Cross and 13<sup>th</sup>: James Munro**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** All the people who have died in this current pandemic, the recently deceased and whose anniversaries that occur at this time: Patricia McInerney (R.D.), Rev Fr Larry Faraon, Joe White, 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: Ron Fredericks, Kathleen Sidebottom, Kerry Walker, Jessica Nilsson, Samantha Glover, Shirley Starr, Kenny Wilson, Antonio David, 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, 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.

**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](http://www.vinnies.org.au/donate) or call 13 18 12 to make a secure donation. All donations of \$2 and over are tax-deductible.

**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](http://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](mailto:trevor.kellam@dow.org.au)

#### PARISH CHURCH CLEANER'S:

**15<sup>th</sup> August: Group 1: Syro-Malabar Indian Community**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> August: Group 2: Cathy Bye, Barry Daley, Eugene Wasko and Kathy Donachie**

**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>

#### AROUND 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.

#### THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG WEEKLY PODCAST:

The Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast - 'The Journey' - 9th August 2020. This week we have Fr Mike Delaney giving us the gospel reflection for this Sunday, some brilliant music, and short talks from some of Australia's best Catholic presenters. Uploaded every Friday for free download - go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au)

**A VOCATION VIEW:** "Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid." By keeping our eyes set on Jesus, we are able to do marvellous things. Trust that he will not allow you to stumble or fall. (Matthew 14:23). If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au) or our new Vocations video at: <https://www.dow.org.au/cofid-19/Sunday-mass-online-with-bishop-brian/>

#### DATES LOCKED IN FOR PLENARY COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES:

The 2 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.

#### 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](http://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: Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish, Varroville: Host: Eddie Ferry:0417049418 and St Anthony's Parish, Tahmoor: 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](mailto:intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au)

#### YOUTH MINISTRY ONLINE:

Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong has launched LIVE -Check it out at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdC-Q7-OVY>. This is a great way for young people to build not only your faith but to build lasting friendships. To get in touch with the NET team and be part of this, simply follow the "CYMW" Facebook page or by Instagram at "wollongongnetteam".

