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CATHOLIC CHURCH - DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A
23rd AUGUST 2020

FIRST READING - Isaiah 22:19-23.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

SECOND READING - Romans 11:33-36.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING - Matthew 16:13-20.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.
(R.) Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

REFLECTION - by Fr Michael Tate.

Jesus had a sense of humour! Simon, son of Jonah, was far from being a rock solid supporter of Jesus. So Jesus gave him the nickname 'Rocky' which in the Greek is Petros. Jesus puns with the nickname: 'You are Rocky and upon this rock I will build my church.' The natural personality of shifting sands was being transformed by the blessing just given (the only blessing bestowed upon an apostle by Jesus). Notice that Jesus only makes promises about 'my church', not a church shaped by human imagination, e.g. modes of Roman Imperial rule or with a Eurocentric mindset. Fortunately, we have a successor of St Peter responding to our Risen Lord's command to St Francis of Assisi, 'Rebuild my church'. We could pause for a moment to pray that the Risen Lord showers the 265th successor of St Peter with every blessing so that the Church of Jesus the Christ continues to prevail over the forces of death which threaten humanity.

mtate@bigpond.com

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

On many occasions in the Bible a character is given, or takes on, a new name when they take on a new role or move to a new level in their faith and relationship with God. Abram became Abraham; Sarai became Sarah; Jacob became Israel; and Saul became Paul. In all of these circumstances the person took on a new name to reflect their new relationship with God. This tradition has continued right to this day. Men and women entering religious life have traditionally taken on a new name to indicate the new life they are entering. When Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger became pope he took on the name Benedict to indicate the new role and the new life he was beginning.

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

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

The question that Jesus asks the disciples is a question he asks of all of us. How we answer that question reflects our relationship with Jesus. But more importantly, how we answer that question reflects the way we live our life in response to who we believe Jesus to be. If we truly say that we believe in Jesus as the son of God, then how do we live our lives in such a way that we act on that belief? The gospel shows us that an inadequate answer to that question leads to missing the point of all that Jesus is.



MASS TIMES

- TUESDAY 25th AUGUST**
9.30am. - Mass.
- WEDNESDAY 26th AUGUST**
9.30am. - Mass.
- THURSDAY 27th AUGUST**
9.30am. - Mass.
- FRIDAY 28th AUGUST**
9.30am. - Mass.

RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

- SATURDAY 29th AUGUST**
Saturday Vigil for 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
6.00pm. - Mass.
- SUNDAY 30th AUGUST**
22nd 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
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

In today's reading, St. Paul reminds the Romans — and us — that all things come from God: "For from Him and through Him and for Him all things are."

Good stewards understand that all is gift and share generously the gifts of time, talent, and treasure with which they've been blessed.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

30th AUGUST 2020
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

1st Reading:
Jeremiah 20:7-9.

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

2nd Reading:
Romans 12:1-2.

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Gospel Reading:
Matthew 16:21-27.

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

HUMOUR CORNER

BEAUTIFUL MESSAGE.....

A rich man looked through his window and saw a poor man picking something from his dustbin
... **He said, Thank GOD I'm not poor.**
The poor man looked around and saw a naked man misbehaving on the street
... **He said, Thank GOD I'm not mad.**
The mad man looked ahead and saw an ambulance carrying a patient
... **He said, Thank GOD am not sick.**
Then a sick person in hospital saw a trolley taking a dead body to the mortuary
... **He said, Thank GOD I'm not dead.**
Only a dead person cannot thank God.
Why don't you thank GOD today for all your blessings and for the gift of life
... **for another beautiful day.**

WHAT IS LIFE?

To understand life better, you have to go to 3 locations :

1. Hospital
 2. Prison
 3. Cemetery
- At the Hospital, you will understand that nothing is more beautiful than HEALTH.
In the Prison, you'll see that FREEDOM is the most precious thing.
At the Cemetery, you will realize that life is worth nothing. The ground that we walk today will be our roof tomorrow.

SAD TRUTH* : We all come with Nothing and we will go with Nothing

... Let us, therefore, remain humble and be thankful & grateful to God at all times for everything.

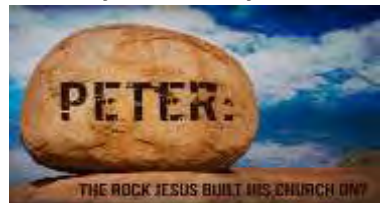
Could you please share this with someone else, and let them know that God loves them?

St Bartholomew



St Bartholomew was one of the twelve apostles, but very little is known about him. Scholars believe that he was the man known as Nathanael, who was introduced to Jesus by St Philip. In the synoptic Gospels he is named Bartholomew, which means "son of Tolmai". Some believe that he may have preached in India, where a Hebrew copy of Matthew's Gospel was found – believed to have been left by Bartholomew. He is also believed to have preached in Armenia where he was martyred.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



23rd 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

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).

THANKYOU: 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.

To those who continually look after our Parish grounds gardens, to the 2 Parishioners who mowed our Parish Lawns (the week before last), to the Parishioner who keeps the carpark clean of litter etc.

To the many Parishioners who quietly assist with looking after our Parish, eg: the cleaning of the linen, the Sacristan's, church cleaner's - just to name a few.

The gift of your time is greatly appreciated by all those who come and worship here.

UPDATES IN OUR PARISH:

Chelsea House (Parish Hall): The flooring replacement is now complete. (due to weather damage).

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: Please keep the Candidates, their families and teacher's in your prayers as they prepare for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. **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. **Parishioner's Birthdays this coming week: 22nd:** Briege Glover & Arthur Michelutti

PLEASE PRAY FOR: All the people who have died in this current pandemic, the recently deceased and whose anniversaries that occur at this time: Martin Goes, Patricia McInerney, 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: Peter Gabas, Ron Fredericks, Kathleen Sidebottom, Kerry Walker, Jessica Nilsson, David Jabour, Dennis Jabour, 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 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. If you have any questions about the form, please contact the CDF Wollongong: Trevor Kellam at trevor.kellam@dow.org.au

PARISH CHURCH CLEANER'S:

29th August: Group 3: Christine Foreman, Chris Charlton, James & Carmel Munro

5th September: Group 4: Maureen Molland, Colleen Jablonskis and Faye Faamau

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' - 23rd August 2020. This week we have Fr Mark De Battista giving us a 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

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

REQUEST FOR PRAYER FOR CATECHIST MINISTRY IN THE DIOCESE: Please keep in your prayers the work of Scripture Teachers, the children they teach in state schools and their families. If you would like to know more about the ministry, please go to www.ccdwollongong.com

KNOWING THE COMMUNITY WHOM WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE: Nation Zoom Webinar: Tuesday 25th August 11am-12pm. Register at: https://bit.ly/nationalwebinar_reg. How well do we know the people who come to Mass? How well do we know those beyond the worshipping community? And many more questions. This webinar, led by the National Centre for Pastoral Research, addresses these questions and ways we can be informed and supported, drawing upon the Parish Social Profiles and in dialogue with community leaders.

LIVE Local is Back: LIVE Local is a youth group held at St John the Evangelist Hall, Campbelltown from 7pm -9pm/ LIVE Local is open to all high school students from year 7-12 and is run by local young adults with the NET Team. To find out more information email robbyn.bailey@dow.org.au

A VOCATION VIEW: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time: "Who do you say that I am?" We confess with Peter that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God (Matthew 16:13-20). If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at 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.

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".

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIONS:

28 August: Ordination of Justin Stanwix to Permanent Diaconate

30 August: Social Justice Sunday

1 September: World Day of Prayer for the care of Creation

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT: 30 August: to Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today. The statement is aimed at inspiring reflection and action for the following 12 months, is now available as a free download at the Social Justice Website: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au. You will also find a downloadable prayer cards as well as liturgical resources.

