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CATHOLIC CHURCH - DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

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

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**
6th SEPTEMBER 2020



FIRST READING - Ezekiel 33:7-9.

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

The Word of the Lord.
(R.) Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R.)**

SECOND READING - Romans 13:8-10.
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING - Matthew 18:15-20.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

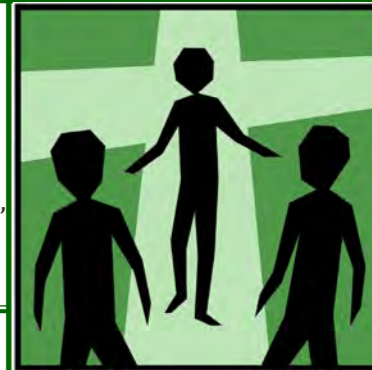
PRAYERING FOR OUR WORLD, AMIDST COVID-19

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.

Our Lord acknowledged that the community he was establishing had to set boundaries. Who is to decide who is within or outside those boundaries? In today's Gospel, Our Lord teaches that a nuanced step by step process should be invoked. First, there is private conversation, then slightly extended to bring in two or three others, then a sort of church community jury before a person is put beyond the pale. Our Lord promises to be with them to help guide their decision. We all know of marriages which are fractured and where one partner has found intimacy and security in a second (civil) marriage. Pope Francis has not suggested that the second marriage be regarded as valid. But he has suggested a process of discernment to allow a divorced person to receive 'the Eucharist ... a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.' Could a jury of ordinary Catholic lay people help make that discerning judgement, and then advise the Bishop as to the next step? We could pause for a moment to ponder the promise: 'Where two or three are gathered into my name, I am there with them.'

mteate@bigpond.com



'For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'
Matthew 18:20.

MASS TIMES

TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9.30am. - Mass.

WEDNESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER

9.30am. - Mass.

THURSDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

9.30am. - Mass.

FRIDAY 11th SEPTEMBER

9.30am. - Mass.

RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER

Saturday Vigil for 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
6.00pm. - Mass.

SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER

23rd 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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Am I my brother's keeper?

All three readings today suggest that for the Christian steward the answer is "Yes!"

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

13th SEPTEMBER 2020
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

1st Reading:
Sir 27:30 - 28:7.

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

2nd Reading:
Romans 14:7-9.

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

Gospel Reading:
Matthew 18:21-35.

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

HUMOUR CORNER

HUMOUR FOR FATHER'S DAY

A small boy was at the zoo with his father. They were looking at the tigers, and his father was telling him how ferocious they were.
"Daddy, if the tigers got out and ate you up..."
"Yes, son?" the father asked, ready to console him.
"...Which bus would I take home?"

DADISM...

"You're going to sit there until you eat your dinner. I don't care if you sit there all night."
"Delayed obedience is disobedience."
"When I say no, I mean no. Why? Because, that's why."
"If you don't stop crying, I'll give you something to cry about."
"Two wrongs do not make a right."
"As long as you tried your hardest, that's all that matters."
"I'm spanking you because I love you. This hurts me a lot more than it hurts you."
"If I didn't hear it, you didn't say it!"
"Shape up or ship out."
"That's so funny? Wipe that smile off your face."
"We'll do it the right way. My way."
"Don't ask me, ask your mother."
"This is your last warning."

THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a feast that commemorates the birthday of Jesus' mother. Even though Mary's birth is not recorded in the scriptures, it is mentioned in the Apocryphal writings from the second century, the Protoevangelium of James and is even mentioned in Islamic scripture.

Her parents are named as Saint Anne and Saint Joachim and tradition places Mary's birthplace in Jerusalem. The feast has been celebrated since the fifth century - on September 8 in the Roman Calendar.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



6th September 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

FATHER’S DAY MESSAGE: Jesus paid dads the highest compliment when, describing the Nature of God, He TAUGHT us all to pray to Him:



Our Father,
who art in
heaven,
hallowed be thy
name;
thy kingdom
come;
thy will be done
on earth as it
is in heaven.
Give us this

day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen

PARISH

THANK YOU: Huge shout out for the crew from O’Neill’s Civic Pty Ltd who came and spread the mulch on the mound behind the car park. They also went above what we asked for and removed some dead trees that had fallen and generally tidied up the church grounds to make mowing and maintenance much easier.

THANKYOU: Parishioner’s and Visitor’s to our Parish Masses during the week and weekends, who help with the santising of their seats plus the many areas that are touched eg: door handles, the Lecturn, Sactuary etc.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE: We are celebrating the Sacrament of First Holy Communion commencing next weekend (12th/13th Sept), There will be 4 Candidates at each Mass up to and including the weekend of 3rd/4th October. *Please continue to keep in your prayers, these children, their families, their Teacher’s and the Sacramental Team.* **Confirmation is scheduled for early November, and details will be available later in the term.**

DO YOU WISH TO ATTEND A WEEKEND MASS?
You cannot just turn up for Mass as previously!!

YOU HAVE TO REGISTER WITH THE PARISH OFFICE BY the FRIDAY BEFORE THE WEEKEND MASSES.

As we are celebrating First Holy Communion over four weekends commencing 12th September, it is essential that you ring the Office during working hours, to book a place. We are unable to accommodate more than 70 in our church, and it will not be possible to admit parishioners who have not pre registered.

Please arrive **early** for Mass (at least **15 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.**

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.

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: All the people who have died in this current pandemic, the recently deceased and whose anniversaries that occur at this time: Bernard Hoffmann Trish Noonan, Martin Goes, Patricia McInerney, 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 and Maurya Hutton **May they Rest in Peace**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: For the **many** sick in our Parish Community including: Katy Carolan, 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, Briega 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.

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:** 5th: Anica Michelutti, 7th: Maureen Molland and 11th: Anne Barbari
Parishioner’s Anniversary for this coming week: 11th: John and Bertha Barbari (42 years)

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:
12th September: Group 5: Ruse Samoan Divine Mercy
19th September: Group 1: Syro-Malabar Indian 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>

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIONS:
13 September: Child Protection Sunday
19/20 September: The Bishop’s Annual Appeal

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’ – 6th September 2020. On the journey this week, Fr Mike Delaney’s Gospel reflection, Mother Hilda on how God’s Word consoled her and will do the same for us in difficult times etc. Uploaded every Friday for free download – go to www.jcr.org.au

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: Marriage Enrichment Weekend 20-22 November 2020 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Book online at www.wvme.org.au Alternatively contact Christine & Terry on 0490 774 419 or nswwbookings@wvme.org.au

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT: The direction that human existence, society and history will take depends largely on the answers given to the questions of man’s place in nature and society. – *compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church – Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace*

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

LIVE Local is Back: To find out more information email robbyn.bailey@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>. great way. To get in touch with the NET team and be part of this, simply follow the “CYMW” Facebook page or by Instagram at “wollongongnetteam”.

FAITH RESOURCES FOR USE AT HOME: Diocesan website – go the new Section of DoW Website: www.dow.org.au/covid-19/nourish-your-faith-at-home.

VACANCY – COMMITTEE FOR THE AGED: The Diocesan Committee for the Aged is a volunteer committee that meets at least quarterly and online with other diocesan stake holders providing support and advice to the Bishop in the Ministry to the Aged within our Diocese. Members would bring experience and knowledge of the welfare of the ageing people or have other areas of expertise in ageing. We are inviting expressions of interest from parishioners from all over the diocese to be part of this committee for a term of 3 years. *If this interests you, please contact Jane Hollier Parish & Community Liaison Officer at Catholic Care Wollongong on 0417018152 or janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au to get an information pack including position description posted or emailed to you.*