



17<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
THE YEAR OF MERCY

**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"*

*Our Parish is wheelchair friendly. We have ramps going into the Church and into the Parish Hall. Please let your family and friends know.  
"Anyone who welcomes you, welcome me and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me".  
Matthew 10:40*

**GLUTEN FREE HOSTS (ALTAR BREAD):** If you require *Gluten Free Hosts* for Holy Communion please see Fr Tony before Mass and they will be available for you at Holy Communion.

**IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE IN OUR PARISH:** *Who is ill/or unable to come to Mass and would like to have Holy Communion please either let Fr Tony or phone the Parish Office on 4628 2967. We have 2 Acolyte's and Fr Tony who take Communion to the ill/elderly and/or housebound.*

**IMPORTANT FEAST DAYS FOR 2016:**

**Ash Wednesday:** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February  
**Easter Sunday:** Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March  
**Pentecost Sunday:** 15<sup>th</sup> May  
**The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of obligation):** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August

**LENT:**

**Ash Wednesday:** 10<sup>th</sup> February:  
9.00am Mass and Ashes  
7.30pm Mass and Ashes  
*Stations of the Cross will be every Friday evening during Lent in the Parish Church at 7.30pm*

**PIETY STALL:** Please come and visit this Parish Stall and see what items are available for sale.

**CATHOLIC WEEKLY:** Great value for only \$2.00 each, many interesting articles for your perusal.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** The *many* sick in our Parish Community including: Maree and Noel Laming, Kerry Hennessy, Betty White, Rita Jowsey, Anna Kovac, Bernie Smith, Jeannie and George Nicholson, Stevie Dilen, Bill Eccleston, Candice Walker, Chris Noyce, Ethan Craig, Leo Cornwell, Doreen Monckton, Mary Smith, Freda and Wilfred Miranda, Tina Ting, Beryl Purcell, Carmel Welsh, Ellen Healy, John Donnelly, Ken Churchill, Natalie Dwyer, Tomas Laming and Mary Fredericks.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED:** Please pray for the recently deceased and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Michael Bartolo (R.D.), Barry Ford, Eileen (Connie) Daly, Jim McKenzie, Maurya Hutton, Mary Writer, Deborah Rix, Josephine and Frank McKay, Bernard Hoffmann, and Maria Cabonara. May eternal rest grant to them O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them.

**Parishioners' Birthday for this week:**  
18<sup>th</sup>: *Eleanor Barbari and Rosalie Vine*

**Parishioner's Wedding Anniversary for this week:**  
12<sup>th</sup>: *Jim and Julie Writer (53 years) (Typing error from last weekend).*

*If any Parishioner/s would like to have their Birthdays and or Wedding Anniversaries included in the bulletin, please contact the Parish Office on 4628 2967 or [ruse@dow.org.au](mailto:ruse@dow.org.au)*

**PARISH LITURGY TEAM:** We are looking for interested Parishioners in being members of this Parish Ministry. This Parish Ministry plans the Liturgies for Special celebrations eg: Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas. **This also involves members of the Sacristy Team, Musicians, Powerpoint Creator's, Reader's and Acolytes.** *Our first meeting will be on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre to plan for the Lent and Easter Liturgies. Please see Fr Tony for any enquiries.*

**PARISH SACRAMENTAL TEAM:** We are looking for interest people to join the Parish Sacramental Team. This Ministry prepares candidates for the Sacraments of Initiation which are: Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. This is a very rewarding form of Catechesis (teaching). *Our first meeting is to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and will be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre. Please see Fr Tony for any enquiries.*

**SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2016:**

**First Reconciliation:** (For Baptised children in Year 3 and above). **Parent/Carer Information Night: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm** in the Parish Church. Parent's/Carer's have to attend for your child to make this Sacrament. Classes will commence on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

**First Holy Communion (Eucharist):** (For Baptised Children in Year 3 and above and have made the Sacrament of Reconciliation). **Parent/Carer Information Night: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm** in the Parish Church. Parent's/Carer's have to attend for your child to make this Sacrament. Classes will commence on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

**Confirmation:** Date to be announced.

*If you have any enquiries regarding any of the Sacraments please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office on 4628 2967 during Office Hours.*

**PARISH PLANNED GIVING:** Planned Giving is essential to the running costs of the Parish Did you know that you can contribute in several ways: Weekly Envelopes, Direct Debit from your Bank Account, Direct Credit by electronically transferring funds (EFT) from your Bank Account direct to the St Thomas More Church Account. Irregular contributions. (The Direct Credit facility is new and means that you control when you contribute but you need to join the Planned Giving Program to ensure that your contribution is recognized in our Finance System.) *If you would like to join the Planned Giving Program please contact the Parish Office on 46282867 or e-mail: [ruse@parish.woll.catholic.org.au](mailto:ruse@parish.woll.catholic.org.au). Thank you.*

**OPENING OF HOLY DOORS FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY:** Saturday 23 January, at 9.30am, the Carmel of Mary and Joseph Convent, 345 St Andrews Rd Varroville, will hold the ceremony of blessing their Holy Door followed by Mass and then morning tea. Your parishioners are most welcome to attend. Jan 23 is the feast of the Espousals of Mary and Joseph and is the patronal feast of this community. As such, it is celebrated by them as a Solemnity. A warm invitation is extended to all to visit this designated place of pilgrimage in the Diocese.

**CALLED TO MINISTRY?** Have you considered serving our parish as an Acolyte, Adult Altar Server, or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion? The 2016 Diocesan Training courses in these ministries are scheduled for **Saturday 13 February**, with institution and commissioning ceremonies to be held during May. More information about these ministries on the website <http://www.liturgydow.org.au/ministry.html>. You can express your interest in any of these ministries using the form at: <http://www.liturgydow.org.au/expression-of-interest.html>. The times for each of the Ministry training are:  
**Acolytes and Adult Altar Servers:** 10am - 4pm.  
**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** 10am - 1pm  
**Sacramental Preparation Coordinators and Team Members (Special In-Service)** 20 February 2016, 10am - 1pm  
All the training will be held at: Xavier Conference Centre Ingham and Wilson Rooms, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong. *If wish to attend any of these training days please see Fr Tony.*

**YEAR OF MERCY FRIDAY PILGRIMAGES WITH DEACON MICHAEL DYER:** Deacon Michael will lead Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy Pilgrimages to various *Oases of Mercy* during January 2016. To register and/or for more information please contact Michael [michael.dyer@dow.org.au](mailto:michael.dyer@dow.org.au) or phone 1300 162 855

*But the time is coming - indeed it's here now - when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those will worship him that way. V.  
(NLT) John 4:23*

**PARISH ROSARY STATUE:**  
*During the Christmas Season and School holidays, the Rosary Statue will not be going to Parishioners Homes until February 2016. I would like to thank the Parishioners who had the Rosary Statue in their homes during 2015. If you would like to join this prayerful Ministry in 2016, please phone Bev on: 4625 0659*



**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January: 7.30pm** Parish Liturgy meeting For Lent/Easter in the Parish Centre (see notices for details)  
**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January: 9.30am** Retiree's Social Group Gathering in the Parish Hall, all retiree's over 55 are most welcome. Come along for a chat, cuppa and a laugh etc.  
**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February: 7.30pm** Parish Ladies Group Meeting and AGM (1<sup>st</sup> for 2016)  
**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February: 7.30pm** Baptism Preparation Class in the Parish Centre (1<sup>st</sup> for 2016)  
**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February: 7.00pm** Sacramental Team meeting in the Parish Centre (preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation)  
**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February: 7.30pm** St Vincent de Paul Conference meeting in the Parish Centre, all are most welcome to the meeting and hear about the good works of St Vincent de Paul

**PARISH ROSTERS FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS:**

**EXTRADORDINARY MINISTERS' OF COMMUNION FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:**

**Vigil Mass: Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan: Maureen Molland and Louise Phillips**  
**9.00am Mass: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan: Catherine Minogue and Annette Read**  
**Vigil Mass: Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan: Winnie Cameron and Bertha Barbari**  
**9.00am Mass: Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan: Julie Writer and Karenne Harvey**

**READERS' FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:**  
(Could the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reader please read also the Prayers of Intercession)

**Vigil Mass: Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan: Andrew James & Gabby Menzies**  
**9.00am Mass: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan: Angela Truong & Julie Writer**  
**Vigil Mass: Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan: Gabby and Pauline Menzies**  
**9.00am Mass: Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan: Andrew Truong and Julie Writer**

**CHURCH CLEANERS' FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS**  
**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan: Group 3: Brian O'Brien, Christine Foreman, James and Carmel Munro**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan: Group 4: Maureen Molland, Fay Faamau, Rosa and Manuel Herrera and Colleen Jablonskis**

**USHERS' FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:**  
**Vigil Mass: Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan: Carmel Munro**  
**9.00am Mass: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan: Barry Daley**

**Vigil Mass: Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan: HELP NEEDED**  
**9.00am Mass: Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan: Christine Foreman**

**REFRESHMENTS AFTER THE SUNDAY 9.00am MASS:**  
*Will be returning in February. Thank you to the many people who are members of this Ministry and also to the Parish Ladies Group who continue to support this Parish Ministry.*

