

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year A
(Gaudete Sunday)**



11th December 2016

Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

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: If you require *Gluten Free Hosts* for Holy Communion please see Fr Mark *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 Ross or phone the Parish Office on 4628 2967. We have 2 Acolyte's who take Communion to the ill/elderly and/or housebound.



Our Parish would like to welcome FATHER MARK De BATTISTA. Fr Mark is here as Parish Administrator until Sunday 8th January 2017. Bishop Peter has advised that he will announce a permanent placement from this date.



WELCOME TO ALL PARISHIONERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND VISITOR'S TO OUR PARISH THIS WEEKEND:

I would like to welcome you to our Parish Special Family Mass in preparation for Christmas. I thank you for joining us in prayer and celebrating the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Please join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments after Mass.

With God's Grace and Blessings.

Fr Mark

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION TIMETABLE:
Tuesday 20th December 10.00am -10.30am
Tuesday 20th December: 7.30pm – 8.30pm: Rite of Reconciliation for Christmas
Wednesday 21st December: 10.00am – 10.30am
Thursday 22nd December: 10.00am – 10.30am
Friday 23rd December: 10.00am – 10.30am

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE:
Saturday 24th December:
5.30pm: Christmas Carols and Pageant
6.00pm: Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
11.30pm: Christmas Carols
12.00am: Midnight Mass
Sunday 25th December:
8.30am: Christmas Carols
9.00am: Christmas Day Mass

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED: Fr Tony Daly, Ken Dewick, Deborah Rix, Jim McKenzie, Mary Writer, John Read, Josephine and Frank McKay, Ladislav Feher, Genie Lynch, Maurya Hutton, Alice Harris and Maria Cabonara.
May internal rest grant to them O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: The *many* sick in our Parish Community *including:* Elaine Hoffmann, Cathy Bye, Natalie Dwyer, Aimiti Seufatu, Robert Berthaly, Ken Flemming, Bryce Smith, John Hill, Liban (Wako) Family, Maree and Noel Laming, Rita Jowsey, Freda and Wilfred Miranda, Beryl Purcell, Ellen Healy, John Donnelly, Ken Churchill, Jeannie and George Nicholson and Mary Fredericks.

Parishioner's Birthday's for this week:
12th: *Melanie Webb*
13th: *Russell Goodall*
14th: *Aggie D'Sa*

Parishioner's Wedding Anniversary for this week:
14th: Brian and Chris O'Brien (42 years)

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

WE WELCOME: Into our Parish Community: *Aubrey Elizabeth McGaughey* who was Baptised last weekend.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY: Christmas Jesse Tree: (Please do not wrap gifts). The gifts will be distributed before the School Holidays. So the Gifts need to be returned ASAP to the Parish Office. *We thank you for your kindness and know that your gifts will make a difference to needy children.*

PARISH LADIES GROUP CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: Tickets are on sale this weekend at all the Parish Masses. We have 5 terrific prizes, tickets are \$1.00 each. *The raffle will be drawn today (Rose Sunday) during morning tea. Please continue to support this Parish Fundraiser.*

CHILDRENS PAGEANT – CHRISTMAS EVE

"Any children interested in joining in the Children's Pageant, (5.30pm on Christmas Eve, prior to Vigil Mass), please fill in details on clipboard after Mass, or leave details at Parish Office. Joanne from Children Liturgy will be available after the 9am Mass to answer any queries. Details re practice sessions will be notified to you when they are confirmed."

READERS FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASSES: If you are available and wish to read, kindly put your name in the appropriate place on the clipboard on the table at the church entrance. Thank you. – May

MESSAGE FOR READERS: The current Readers' Roster ends on the 18th December and the year 2017 roster will be released by mid-December this year. We would like to invite more new readers to join us this new year. We are looking for individuals, couples or families who have passion for reading and would love to share their God-given talent. We highly encourage young people, who are in Year 5 and above and are good readers to join us. Those of you who have been readers in the past, we hope you will continue. There is a sign-up clipboard on the table at the church entrance for the next few weeks for your name, phone numbers, email address and preferred Mass time. Should you have any question regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me on 0451468931. *Thank you to the old readers for their loyalty and welcome to new ones into this rewarding Ministry. – May*

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 and 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. Thank you.

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

TAKE A RISK AND GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH: Did you know that in our Parish there is a faithful team of volunteers that take a risk and step out in faith? In State Government schools there are no school lessons that teach the basic message about Jesus, our faith and the great adventure that life can be with God. That's where Catechists come in. Each week of the school year they have a short 30-minute lesson where they use a step-by-step lesson plan that helps Catholic children understand their faith, grow in love and maturity and learn what it means to be Catholic. We were all given this gift by someone. Someone stepped up for us so that we would know. *So we invite you to take a risk and give the gift of faith. Become a Catechist as a teacher or helper today! For more information, ask our Parish Priest for more information or phone Colleen (our Parish Scripture Co-Ordinator) on: 0414284717. Thanking you in anticipation.*

PARISH PIETY STALL: Still looking for that last Christmas idea, eg 2017 Columban Calendar, Rosary Beads. Come and have a look at what is available for sale at the Piety Stall. Thank you to everyone who has supported our Parish Piety Stall throughout the year. Wishing you God's Blessings for this Christmas Season and 2017.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Please take home a School Newsletter and keep up to date with what is happening in our Parish Catholic Primary School. *Parishioners are invited to our Parish Primary School end of year Thanksgiving Mass this Friday (16th December) at 11.30am in the School Hall.*

DIOCESAN "JOURNEY" SUMMER EDITION: Is available on all the tables at the entrance of the Church. It's a jam-packed edition with so many articles and images for you digest over the coming weeks during the Christmas break, so take a few extra copies and give them out to your family and friends.

PARISH ROSARY STATUE:
The purpose of the Ministry is to increase prayer within our Parish. Parishioners involved in this Ministry are prepared to open their home for fellow parishioners to join them in saying the Rosary. *If you would like to join this prayerful Ministry please phone Bev on: 4625 0659*

PARISH DIARY DATES:
Wednesday 14th December: 7.30pm Parish Finance Council meeting (last for 2016) in the Parish Centre
Tuesday 20th December: 7.30pm – 8.30pm Rite of Reconciliation for Christmas

PARISH ROSTERS FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS:
EXTRADORDINARY MINISTERS' OF COMMUNION FOR NEXT WEEKEND:
Vigil Mass: Saturday 17th Dec: Bev McKenzie & James Munro
9.00am Mass: Sunday 18th Dec: Fay & Junior Faamau

READERS' FOR NEXT WEEKEND:
Vigil Mass: Saturday 17th Dec: Pauline & Gabby Menzies
9.00am Mass: Sunday 18th Dec: Elisapeta Misinale & Feyise Writer
Vigil Mass: Saturday 24th Dec: 9.00am Mass: Sunday 25th Dec:

CHURCH CLEANERS' FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS
Saturday 17th Dec: Syro-Malabar Indian Community
Saturday 24th Dec: Ruse Samoan Divine Mercy

USHERS' FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:
Vigil Mass: Saturday 17th Dec: Carmel Munro
9.00am Mass: Sunday 18th Dec: Barry Daley
Vigil Mass: Saturday 24th Dec: Chantel Barbari
9.00am Mass: Sunday 25th Dec: Helen Rawson & Chris Reddy

Prayer
*The spirit of the Lord is upon me:
He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Help me Lord to do your will always.*

Christmas Novena
The Christmas novena begins on 17th December. At this point, the Advent focus shifts to the Christmas story and the Virgin Mary. These days serve to prepare more directly for the Lord's birth. GNLYC 42.

