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Catholic Church - Diocese of Wollongong

St. THOMAS MORE PARISH, RUSE

welcomes you

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Healy



GOD MAY BE CALLING YOU,
but probably not on your mobile phone.
PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE
during the celebration of the Holy Mass.

FIRST READING - Acts 10:34, 37-43.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses - we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead - and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

SECOND READING - Colossians 3:1-4.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting

at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed - and he is your life - you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING - John 20:1-9.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Exultant with paschal gladness, O Lord, we offer the sacrifice by which your Church is wondrously reborn and nourished. Through Christ our Lord.



He is Risen...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look upon your Church, O God, with unfailing love and favour, so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries, she may come to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION - by Fr Michael Tate.

Women go to the tomb as dawn is breaking. The Power of Darkness which had Jesus unjustly sentenced, cruelly tortured and buried in the pitch blackness of the tomb, is conquered by the Son-Rise of all sun rises flooding our world and the whole of human history with Divine Light and Energy.

This is the heart of our faith as Catholic Christians, which we celebrate with bonfire (good fire) in darkness at the Easter Vigil. From that earthly element we light the Easter candle and the Exsultet is sung: 'Be glad, let earth be glad as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King.'

The resurrection itself is nowhere described in the gospels, but we do have appearances of the Risen Lord Jesus. The first appearance was to a woman, Mary of Magdala. A title given to her by the early church was 'Apostle to the Apostles' because she was the bearer of the message which the male disciples initially did not believe. But eventually they too believed that Death had been done to death because the Son had risen.

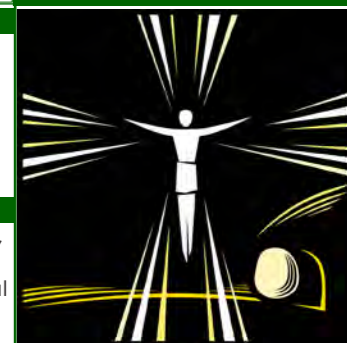
Christ's body was transfigured by the energy of Divine Love and we can, by grace, participate in that resurrection life of Our Lord. A glorious destiny awaits us, as indeed it awaits the whole cosmos as it is to be transformed by that resurrection life recreating the whole of creation.

We could take a moment to pray that we, along with all that matters, are graced with the life-giving energy of the Risen Son and that we may join Mary of Magdala in spreading the Good News of Christ's victory over death. Alleluia!

mtate@bigpond.com

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD - YEAR A

12th APRIL 2020



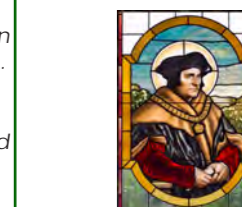
MASS TIMES

PUBLIC MASSES AND LITURGIES— BOTH INDOOR AND OUTDOOR— ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

(The faithful can keep holy their Sunday by setting aside some time for prayer at home, reading the Scriptures of the day, watching Mass on television or online, and asking God for the graces they would normally receive in Holy Communion)



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.

STEWARDSHIP

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD - YEAR A

Very early in the morning after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with precious oils. The reward of this good and conscientious steward was to be among the first to know that Jesus had been raised from the dead! Alleluia!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

**19th APRIL 2020
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A**

1st Reading:
Acts 2:42-47.

The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.

2nd Reading:
1 Peter 1:3-9.

He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

Gospel Reading:
John 20:19-31.

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

SAINT OF THE DAY

St Stanislaus



St Stanislaus was born of a noble Polish family in 1010. He became a priest and was eventually consecrated bishop of Cracow in 1072. He was generous to the poor and was considered a zealous reformer. However, he fell foul of King Boleslaus II who was known as an unjust and violent sovereign. Stanislaus excommunicated the king for his refusal to repent for his wrong doings. The king was enraged and had the bishop apprehended in the middle of a church service and according to tradition, the king despatched Stanislaus himself with his own sword. St Stanislaus is a patron of Poland..

HUMOUR CORNER

WILL YOU MARRY ME

There were these two elderly people living in an outback mobile home park. He was a widower and she a widow. They had known each other for a number of years. Now, one evening there was a community supper in the big activity center. These two were at the same table, across from one another. As the meal went on, he made a few admiring glances at her and finally gathered up his courage to ask her, "Will you marry me?"

After a dramatic pause and precisely six seconds of 'careful consideration,' she answered. "Yes. Yes, I will."

The meal ended and with a few more pleasant exchanges and they went to their respective places.

Next morning, he was troubled. "Did she say 'yes' or did she say 'no'?"

He couldn't remember. Try as he would, he just could not recall. Not even a faint memory. With trepidation, he went to the telephone and called her.

First, he explained to her that he didn't remember as well as he used to. Then he reviewed the lovely evening past. As he gained a little more courage, he then inquired of her, "When I asked if you would marry me, did you say 'Yes' or did you say 'No'?"

He was delighted to hear her say, "Why, I said, 'Yes, yes I will' and I meant it with all my heart."

Then she continued, "And I am so glad that you called, because I couldn't remember who had asked me."



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Secretary: Mrs Carmel Munro
TUESDAY - FRIDAY
9.00am - 3.30pm

Parish ☎: 4628 2967
Email: ruse@dow.org.au
School ☎: 4625 6561

SUNDAY of the RESURRECTION
Year A



12th April 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

EASTER MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL:



May the gift of joy and peace that Jesus won for us and brought to us on the First Easter, touch the hearts and the families of all our parishioners during this usual Easter, none of us will forget

2020!! With parishes throughout the world, we cannot celebrate Easter Liturgically together – because of a tiny virus.

But we must make sure that Easter 2020 does not pass as a BLUR. We must celebrate it in our hearts and where possible as families, at home; when we do, we know that Christ will make up to us for the vacuum in our lives during these disturbing times.

We continue to pray for the many people who are working tirelessly to help stop the spread of the virus. We also prayerfully remember those infected with the virus, and those who have died from it.

I invite you to join me each day over Easter in praying Bishop Brian's prayer for our Diocese:

God of Love, we the people of the Diocese of Wollongong turn to you with prayerful hearts and with confidence in your loving presence among us now and in every moment of our lives. We stand before you as people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. May we be comforted by your love in these anxious times.



I wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful Easter

May God bless and protect you all, Fr Michael

MASS ONLINE AND OTHER SPIRITUAL RESOURCES: During This period of time where Masses in the diocese are suspended, it is important to know that you have not been abandoned by the Church. Members of the faithful are urged to keep holy the Lord's Day by making an act of Spiritual Communion (read far column), a well-established devotional practice of uniting one's self in prayer with Christ's sacrifice when circumstance prevent one from receiving holy Communion. Mass online available at www.dow.org.au and on the diocese's Facebook page with Bishop Brian Mascord and other priests from the diocese. These online Masses will continue every Sunday (including the Paschal Triduum during Holy Week) giving parishioners the opportunity to make an act of Spiritual communion together as a diocese.

Other resources include:

Mass for You at Home is available across the Ten Network on Sundays at 6.00am and any time on Ten Play.

Daily Mass from St John the Evangelist Catholic Parish, Campbelltown

Daily Mass on demand is available at CathNews YouTube channel

Saturdays 5pm and Sunday 10am Mass from St Mary MacKillop Catholic Church, Oran Park

CHANNEL 7 will broadcast the Lord's Passion of Good Friday (10th April) at 3pm and the Easter Sunday Mass (12th April) at 10.30am live from St Mary's Cathedral.

BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD DD HOLY WEEK MESSAGE:

As we prepare for Holy Week, I will be celebrating simplified online Masses and liturgies that will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel <https://dow.sh/YouTube>, Facebook page <https://facebook.com/WollongongCatholic> and website www.dow.org.au.

7pm Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper

10am Good Friday – Stations of the Cross

3pm Good Friday – Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

7pm Holy Saturday – Mass of the Easter Vigil

I hope and pray that your Easter, whilst it will be different, will also be blessed. May you and your families keep safe and well.

Most Rev Bishop Brian G Mascord DD
Bishop of Wollongong

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 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.

ELECTRONIC PARISH PLANNED GIVING: During this period of time where Masses in the diocese are suspended, parishes are urgently needing the ongoing financial support of parishioners more than ever, as their overhead costs will not change. As the vast 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 don't hesitate to contact **the CDF Wollongong:** Trevor Kellam at trevor.kellam@dow.org.au

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY: Because of the closure of churches the Catholic Weekly has temporarily stopped its printed edition. However, it is still available online at <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/catholic-weekly-newspaper-online/>

PROJECT COMPASSION (CARITAS Australia): Since the Church cannot be opened at the moment, please return your Project Compassion Boxes and/or envelopes to the Parish Office (during Office Hours) ASAP.

PARISH LADIES EASTER RAFFLE: Thank you to the Parishioners who supported this Parish Fundraiser. Even through these trying times we managed to sell a few. **Congratulations to the following winners: Gwen Harris, Lina Nguyen, Sophia King, Cathy Bye, Rino Zamprognio, Maureen Kennedy, Jessica Littlewood, Maureen Crosland, Pearce Nelson and Vicki Horne.**

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 Birthday this coming week:
16th April: Michael Bye

Parishioner's Wedding Anniversary this coming week:
14th: Helen and Robert Rawson (47 years)
And Elaine and John Nakasenh (13 years)

PLEASE PRAY FOR: The recently deceased and the anniversaries that occur at this time: Marie Pollard (R.D.), Cathy Wiggins, Barbara Fetterplace, Michael Bartley, Winifred Minogue, Fr Anthony (Tony) Daly, Ladislav Feher, Beryl Ford, Olga Saulig, Jim McKenzie, John Read, Mary Writer, Bobby Cameron, Alice Harris, Marguerite (Marg) Davis, Maree Laming, Jay Jablonskis, Deborah Rix, Bernard Hoffmann, Maurya Hutton and Maria Cabonara. **May they rest in peace**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: The **many** sick in our Parish Community including: Hannah Kavanagh, Eileen Hughes, Mary Dolan, Frank Byron, Sean Scanlon, Kellie Brandes, Brian Harris, Francisco Carmona, David Minogue, Daphne and Edmund Pew, Steve Foreman, Luke Van Der Burg, Briegle Glover, Fr John Whitty, Elaine Hoffmann, Ellen Healy, Patricia McInerney, Betty Berthon, Brenda Baker, Moria Harris, Betty Byrne, Rosa Santos, Aimiti Seufatu, John Hill, Freda and Wilfred Miranda, Beryl Purcell, Jeannie and George Nicholson and Mary Fredericks.

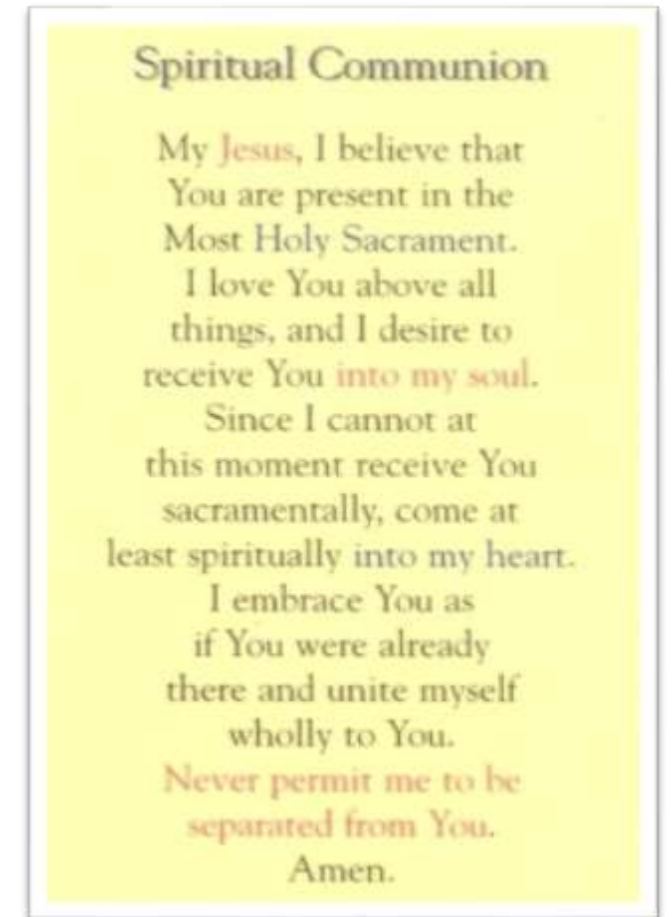
THANKYOU: To the Parishioners, who have been ensuring our Parish Grounds and gardens are maintained. Your continued support of our Parish is greatly appreciated by all. **Thank you**

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Are taking enrolments for 2021. Please contact the School Office, for further information etc on 4625 6561. As advised the link to read our Parish Catholic Primary School newsletter is: <https://stmdow.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=43>
Save the date: SCHOOL FETE: HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR 2020.

Wishing all our Parish School Children a very safe, healthy and spiritual Easter (with a difference) in these difficult times.

A CALL TO COMMIT TO PRAYER during the Pandemic every evening at 7pm: The faithful across the Diocese of Wollongong are urged to join with other members of the National Council of Churches, so that all Christians pray 7pm every night through until Easter Sunday during the Pandemic crisis.

A "spiritual Communion" can be made when a person cannot actually receive the Body and Blood of Christ.



Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

MASS IN TIME OF PANDEMIC –PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.