

**First Sunday of Advent Year A**



1<sup>st</sup> December 2019  
Happy New (Church) Year

**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. "Any more who welcomes you, welcomes me and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." Matthew 10:40*

**LOW GLUTEN HOSTS:** If you require Low Gluten Hosts for Holy Communion please see Fr Michael *before* Mass and they will be available for you at Holy Communion.

**PARENTS/GUARDIANS:** Can you please supervise your children in the Church courtyard and Chelsea House (Parish Hall). **They are not permitted to climb the brick walls, the hand rails both leading into the Church and Chelsea House (Parish Hall), the surrounding trees and the garden in the courtyard. Supervision is your responsibility. We cannot accept liability for a child hurting themselves if they engage in these activities.**



**ADVENT 2019-2020:** This weekend we begin the Church's New Year with the First Sunday of Advent Year A

**TAKE A RISK AND GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH:** In our Parish, there is a team of volunteers that take a risk and step out in faith. NSW Government schools do not provide lessons that teach the basic message about Jesus, our faith, and the great adventure that life can be with God. Each week of the School year, catechists present 30-minute lessons using 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. Take a risk, give the gift of faith and Become a Catechist teacher or helper today. **For more information please ask Fr Michael or our Catechist Co-Ordinator: Colleen Jablonskis on 0414 284717**

**THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO SHOW:** **Airs 1<sup>st</sup> December:** Reflections from: Fr Gregory Pine OP, Pete Gilmore, Mother Hilda Scott and Sam Clear. Tune into LIFE 101.0 or 98.5 or to go [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) to ensure that you never miss a show, it can be sent to you each week as a Podcast via email – for free.

**INTERNATIONAL DAY for the ELIMINATION of Violence against Women:** There are prayer and information cards to take home on all the tables at the Entrance to the Church.

**LIVE Local – Macarthur Youth Group:** Join a gathering of Teenagers and young adults every Friday night of the School Term. **Live Local** is a place for like-minded young people from ages 12-18 to grow in faith, community and fun. This runs from 7pm -9pm at St John's Hall, Campbelltown. For more information contact [robyn.bailey@dow.org.au](mailto:robyn.bailey@dow.org.au)

**THE EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE: 2 -8 January 2020:** The Epiphany Pilgrimage, through the Blue Mountains, is a not-for-profit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. Registration and details at [epiphanypilgrimage.org](http://epiphanypilgrimage.org) and [facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage](https://facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage).

**IF ANY PARISHIONER/S:** 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](mailto:ruse@dow.org.au).

**Parishioner's Birthdays this coming week:**  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Beryl Purcell                      6<sup>th</sup>: Joe Berbari

**Parishioner's Wedding Anniversary:**  
5<sup>th</sup>: Kerry and Maureen Hennessy (49 years)

**Belated Parishioner's Wedding Anniversary:**  
28<sup>th</sup> November: Mavon and Jan Vaughan (49 years)

**WE WELCOME:** Into our Christian Community **Thomas Low** who was Baptised last weekend.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:** Patricia (Pat) McManus, Rina Sheehan and Mary Caruana (Fr Peter's Mother) **and those whose Anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in Peace**

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

**CHELSEA HOUSE (Parish Hall) UPGRADE:** Thank you to the gentlemen who moved the furniture last Monday morning, for the removal of the old flooring and the new flooring installation and on Thursday for putting the furniture back. **You are greatly appreciated.**

**ADVERTISING ON THE BACK COVER OF THE PARISH BULLETIN:** If you would like to advertise your Business on the back cover of the Parish Bulletin please see/contact either Fr Michael, Barry Daley (Chairman Parish Finance Council) or the Parish Office. A business card size is \$275.00 (includes GST) or double business card size is \$550.00 (includes GST) this cost covers advertising for 12 months.

**ST THOMAS MORE PARISH PLAYTIME 2019:** is held in Chelsea House (Parish Hall) on Tuesdays 9.30am-11.30am during School Terms. Mums/Dads/Carers/Grandparents come along with your pre-school child/children. Lots of fun activities for the children and a great way to meet other adults. A gold coin donation. The last playtime for 2019 will be Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Please contact Catherine on 4627 1842 for details.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY 2019:** Is held during the 9.00am Sunday Mass. This is for Kindergarten up to and including Year 6 school students. If you would like to know more about this Parish Ministry or become a helper please contact Joanne on: 0421 802 132

**MESSAGE FOR READERS:** The current Readers' Roster will end in December and the year 2020 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 in reading and would love to share their God-given talent in reading. 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 t 0413077824. Thank you to the old Readers for their loyalty and welcome new ones into this rewarding Ministry. **May**

**PARISH JESSE TREE GIFTS:** As Fr Michael has said, each tag represents a Child whose family is assisted by our Vinnies Conference. **Could the unwrapped gifts please be returned by next weekend (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Dec),** or be delivered to the Parish Office during Office Hours ASAP. The St Vincent de Paul Conference will distribute these gifts mid-December. **Thank you in advance for your continuing generosity.**

**PARISH LADIES GROUP CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:** Tickets go on sale for this Parish Fundraiser this weekend 30<sup>th</sup> Nov/1<sup>st</sup> December and will be drawn on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Rose Sunday)) at the morning tea after the 9.00am Mass. We have 5 fantastic prizes and tickets are great value for \$1.00 each. **Please support this Parish Fundraiser, as half the Appeal will go towards the St Vincent de Paul Conference Bushfire Appeal and the other half towards our Parish Church.**

**PARISH GROUNDS WORKING BEE: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December** 8.30am – 11.00am (in preparation for Christmas) Some of the jobs to be included are: removal of old pruned trees/branches etc, mending of Church Pew kneelers, gardening, pruning and some mowing. Please bring your lawnmowers, edger's etc. Morning Tea will be provided. **Thank you also to the Parishioners who come and tender to the Gardens and the tidying of the car park. You are all greatly appreciated by all those who come to our Parish Church.**

**ROSE SUNDAY:** The Third Sunday of Advent, is the midpoint of our preparation for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus. It is a time to encourage each other in our spiritual preparation for Christmas. **You are invited to attend the 9am Mass on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December, and join in a special Morning Tea following Mass.** This will be in Chelsea House (Parish Hall). **It would be appreciated if you are able to bring a plate of food to share.**

**PARISH CHURCH CLEANER'S ROSTER:** Will end at the end of December. If you would like to join this very important Parish Ministry or continue, it would be greatly appreciated. You are appreciated by all who come to worship in our Parish. Please put your details down on the Clip board on the main table at the Entrance to the Church. **Thanking you in advance.**

**PARISH COLLECTIONS IN THE CHURCH:** We depend on your generosity to make ends meet for the support of our Parish. **The First Collection:** (at the Offertory) for our Parish Priest and the running of the Presbytery. **The Second Collection:** (after Communion) for Parish costs, insurance, bills (phone, gas, electricity, water etc) office operations etc. **If you are not part of our Parish Planned Giving Program, then please consider joining.** If you are new to our Parish, please consider joining. **For more information, please either contact the Parish Office or see Fr Michael. Forms are on all the tables at the entrance to the Church.**

**ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:** Keep up to date with the "latest" at our Parish Catholic Primary School, please take home a copy of their School Newsletter

**PARISH DIARY DATES TO NOTE:**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December:** Retiree's Social Group Gathering in Chelsea House **after the 9.30am morning Mass**  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December: 8.30am – 11.00am:** Parish Grounds Working Bee in readiness for Christmas (please read main notices)

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

**USHERS**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December: Vigil Mass: Vicki Horne**  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December: 9.00am Mass: Chris Reddy**  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Vigil Mass: Chantal Berbari**  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December: 9.00am Mass: Barry Daley**

**READERS:**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December: Vigil Mass: Annette Read and Julie McKenzie**  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December: 9.00am Mass: David Minogue and Alison Hourigan**  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Vigil Mass: May Michelutti and Karen Battour**  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December: 9.00am Mass: Elisapeta Minisale and Jim Writer**

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December: Vigil Mass: Bev McKenzie and Maureen Molland**  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December: 9.00am Mass: Loretta and Lafitaga Tuigamala**  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Vigil Mass: Trish Newman and Maureen Molland**  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December: 9.00am Mass: Faye Faamau and Julie Writer**

**POWERPOINT OPERATOR'S:**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December: Vigil Mass: Joshua Star**  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December: 9.00am Mass: Gwen Harris**  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Vigil Mass: Chantal Berbari**  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December: 9.00am Mass: Gwen Harris**

**CHURCH CLEANERS:**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December: Group 4: Maureen Molland, Colleen Jablonskis, Faye Faamau, Rosa & Manuel Herrera**  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Group 5: Samoan Divine Mercy**

**REFRESHMENTS AFTER SUNDAY MASS: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Rose Sunday) 15<sup>th</sup> December:** Please read main notice.

