

MARY, the MOTHER OF GOD

Year A



1st January 2017

(World Day of Peace inspired by the newborn Prince of Peace. The Pope's message for the 50th World Day of Peace is "Non-Violence – A style of Politics for Peace.")

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

Fr Mark's New Year Message:

*"The Glory of God is Man fully alive.
The Glory of man is in the vision of God."
(Irenaeus)*

Wishing you all a Happy New Year, filled with moments of intimacy with the Lord, overflowing with a "Yes" to God our Father, to the Lord Jesus our Brother and to the Holy Spirit our Advocate and Guide in every good deed His grace suggests!

Also, a heartfelt THANKYOU to all those who gave me cards and gifts for Christmas. After being here just a few weeks I felt touched that you would think of me enough to do this for me. It's a tribute to your goodness; may God reward you.

Fr Mark

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 inform Fr Mark or phone the Parish Office on 4628 2967. We have 2 Acolyte's who take Communion to the ill/elderly and/or housebound.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED:

Ev McInerney (Anniv), Jim McKenzie, Mary McInerney, Maurya Hutton, Fr Tony Daly, Ken Dewick, Deborah Rix, Mary Writer, John Read, Josephine and Frank McKay, Ladislav Feher, Genie Lynch, 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:

6th: *Edmund Pew*

Parishioner's Wedding Anniversaries for this week:

30th Dec: *Christine & Russell Goodall (27 years)*

3rd Jan: *Therese & Joe Berbari (47 years)*

4th Jan: *Daphne & Edmund Pew (59 years)*

5th: *Rosalie & Chris Vine (48 years) &*

Tresora & Brian Wyer (54 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

PARISH LADIES GROUP FUNDRAISERS': Thank you

to everyone who has supported the Parish Fundraising throughout this year.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas and the very best for the coming year.

The Parish Ladies Group

THANKYOU FROM ST THOMAS MORE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

As 2016 draws to a close, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Council members for their dedication and assistance in carrying out their Council and Ministry requirements. These sentiments I would like to extend to all participants in the Ministries for the enthusiasm and effort they put into carrying out their Stewardship. You all have the accolades of the 3 Priests that have served our needs as Custodians and Administrators since the unfortunate loss of Fr Tony Daly to our Parish. To these I add my esteem and sincere thanks.

On behalf of the Pastoral Council I would like to wish everyone that the New Year will bring you everything you wish for.

Mike Young – Chairperson – Parish Pastoral Council

THANK YOU: Your St Vincent de Paul Conference is extremely grateful for the support of parishioners during a very busy 2016.

We are encouraged in our work when we witness your generous support for the Winter Appeal, Assist a Student Weekend and this year especially the Jesse Tree. We especially thank the Parish Ladies Group for the later but our supporters throughout the St Thomas More Community are many and it is impossible in this brief note to acknowledge them all. All up these festive gifts brought the hope of Christmas to 346 people. We could not do this without your help. Thank you.

Our work is very rewarding but we do need new members. We encourage you to give this your prayerful consideration.

God bless and Merry Christmas on behalf of the St Vincent de Paul Society Ruse/ Airds Conference.

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 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 4628 2967 or e-mail: ruse@parish.woll.catholic.org.au. Thank you.

TAKE A RISK AND GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH: 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 MAINTENANCE: A reminder regarding the Parish Maintenance book on the main table at the entrance of the Church. You can either write in the book or phone/email the Parish Office, if you are aware or notice anything that is in need of repair.

PARISH 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.

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

DIOCESAN "JOURNEY" SUMMER EDITION: Is available on all the tables at the entrance of the Church. This edition has 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.

LOVE AND MARRIAGE ACCORDING TO POPE FRANCIS

10-12 February 2017 Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Rd Varroville. Lead by Fr Elio Capra this retreat will explore the theology and the spirituality underpinning Pope Francis' *The Joy of Love, Amoris Laetitia*. This retreat is for families, young people preparing for marriage and for all interested parishioners. Registration essential to the Retreat Centre on 8795 3400

FEBRUARY 2017 LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING CALENDAR: Registration essential to Helen Bennett 4222 2403 or helen.bennett@dow.org.au.

Saturday 11 February 2017:

Acolytes and Adult Altar Servers, 10:00am - 4:00pm

St John the Evangelist, Campbelltown.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, 10:00am -

1:00pm: St John the Evangelist, Campbelltown. *Led by Bishop*

Peter Ingham and members of the Diocesan Liturgical

Commission; morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided

Saturday 25 February 2017: Communion of the Sick and

Dying (Pre-requisite of prior training as an Acolyte, Adult

Altar Server or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion):

10:00am - 2:30pm: St John the Evangelist, Campbelltown

Led by Members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission;

morning tea and lunch provided.

PARISH ROSARY STATUE: *During the Christmas Season and School holidays, the Rosary Statue will not be going to Parishioners Homes.*

I would like to thank the families of our Parish who had our Parish Rosary Statue in their homes this year. I wish you all a joyous Christmas and God's Blessings.

If you would like to join this prayerful Ministry in 2017 please phone Bev on: 4625 0659.

PARISH ROSTERS FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS:

EXTRADORDINARY MINISTERS' OF COMMUNION FOR

Vigil Mass: Saturday 7th Jan: Winnie Cameron & Bev McKenzie

9.00am Mass: Sunday 8th Jan: Helen Rawson & Annette Read

Vigil Mass: Saturday 14th Jan: Trish Newman & James Munro

9.00am Mass: Sunday 15th Jan: Fay & Junior Faamau

READERS' FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS':

Vigil Mass: Saturday 7th Jan: Julie McKenzie & May Michelutti

9.00am Mass: Sunday 8th Jan: Feyise & Tess Writer

Vigil Mass: Saturday 14th Jan: Kerry Hennessy & May Michelutti

9.00am Mass: Sunday 15th Jan: Tess & Feyise Writer

USHERS' FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:

Vigil Mass: Saturday 7th Jan: Vicky Horne

9.00am Sunday Mass: 8th Jan: Gwen & Brian Harris

Vigil Mass: Saturday 14th Jan: Maureen Molland

9.00am Sunday Mass: 15th Jan: Barry Daley

CHURCH CLEANERS' FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

Saturday 7th Jan: Group 2: Cathy Bye, Kathy Donachie, Eugene Wasko and Barry Daley

Saturday 14th Jan: Group 3: Christine Foreman, James and Carmel Munro

Our Parish has gone through many things this past year both tragic and positive. The untimely passing of our Parish Priest, Fr Tony on the 29th February, his Vigil and Funeral. The celebration of the Church's opening 30 years ago (25th June), The Parish Ladies Group hosting the High Tea 11th September. The Easter and Christmas Celebrations. The many Baptisms and Weddings, the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

We have been Blessed this year with the Pastoral support of Fr Hugh Dowdell, Fr Michael Healy, Fr Lucas Myint, the Carmelite Priests, the Franciscan Friars, Fr Andrew Granc ofm, Fr Ross Naylor and Fr Mark De Battista

Thank you to all who have worked for and been of service to our Parish in so many, many ways over the past year. Your sense of responsibility, regular service, generosity, support, hospitality, courtesy, integrity and deep faith are most appreciated.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will lead us into the New Year with confidence to guide us forward in our journey with a sense of hope, peace and confidence.