

The EPIPHANY of the Lord

Year A



8th January 2017

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.

Farewell Message from Fr Mark

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Friends, Parishioners of St Thomas More, Ruse

I can hardly believe 5 weeks ago when I took up the assignment as temporary Administrator of your Parish that I would become so attached to you all in such a short period of time. Yet, by the grace of God, your goodness, the normal interactions of sweet human relationships, your fervour and faith, this has come about.

I want to thank you sincerely for the warmest of welcomes that you have given to me for making my first pastoral assignment after quite a few years of study such a memorable one and so enriching.

Many of you have told me and shown me how hungry you are to learn about the word of God and about our Catholic Faith, but I wish to explain to you how touched I have been by your sincere devotion, your love of the Church and your desire and hunger for true Catholic teachings.

I encourage you to remain faithful in the gift of faith that God has given to you, to allow the Holy Spirit to fan into a flame the gifts that you all have received through Baptism and through the other Sacraments nourished on a weekly and even daily basis.

I ask for your continued prayers. I am not going far away. Fr Michael Healy will bring his own gifts. A very kind and compassionate man. A man with many, many years of Pastoral experience. He will be a Father to you.

With my love and my heart and the promise of prayer, I remain

Fr Mark



FAREWELL MORNING TEA FOR FR MARK:



All parishioners and visitors to our Parish this weekend are invited to share a farewell morning tea after the Sunday 9.00am Mass in our Parish Hall. This is our Parish way of saying Thank you to Fr Mark for being our Parish Administrator for the past 5 weeks.

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:

John (Jack) McNerney (Anniv), Ev McNerney, Jim McKenzie, Mary McNerney, 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:** Pio Byron, 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:

7th: *Chris Vine*

10th: *Julie Writer*

Parishioner's Wedding Anniversaries for this week:

7th: *Rosa & Manuel Herrera (56 years) & Gwen & Brian Harris (50 years)*

12th: *Jim & Julie Writer (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 last year.

**Wishing you all very best for the coming year.
The Parish Ladies Group**

THANKYOU FROM ST THOMAS MORE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

FRENCH MASS to be celebrated this Sunday (8th January) 7 at St John the Evangelist, Cnr Lindesay and Cordeaux Street, Campbelltown at 6:00pm.

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. Led 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 14th Jan: Trish Newman & James Munro

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

Vigil Mass: Saturday 21st Jan: Bev McKenzie & Bertha Berbari

9.00am Mass: Sunday 22nd Jan: Catherine Minogue & Annette Read

READERS' FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS':

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

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

Vigil Mass: Saturday 21st Jan: Bev McKenzie & Kerry Hennessy

9.00am Mass: Sunday 22nd Jan: Julie Writer & Andrew Truong

USHERS' FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:

Vigil Mass: Saturday 14th Jan: Maureen Molland

9.00am Sunday Mass: 15th Jan: Barry Daley

Vigil Mass: Saturday 21st Jan: Chantal Berbari

9.00am Sunday 22nd Jan: Chris Reddy & Helen Rawson

CHURCH CLEANERS' FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

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

Saturday 21st Jan: Syro-Malabar Indian Community

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.