

The NATIVITY of the LORD  
(Christmas) Year A



25<sup>th</sup> December 2016

**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 welcome the one who sent me".  
Matthew 10:40*

**Fr Mark's Christmas Message:**

"The Glory of God is Man fully alive.  
The Glory of man is in the vision of God."

*(Irenaeus)*

As we contemplate the mystery of God becoming man in the form of a baby, may these words of the early Church Father resonate deeply within us so that the Christ child may touch our hearts, heal our wounds and fill us all with the peace that the world cannot give.

*I wish you and your loved ones a very happy and Holy Christmas and a New Year filled with moments of intimacy with the Lord. 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 let 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:**

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:**

24<sup>th</sup>: *Daphne Pew and Abigail Minogue*

**Parishioner's Wedding Anniversaries for this week:**

27<sup>th</sup>: *Catherine and Steven Robinson (19 years)*

29<sup>th</sup>: *Hazel and Hector Bernardino (56 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](mailto: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 FORM 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 a Happy and Holy Christmas and may the New year 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. This Christmas we have been able to provide toys to 52 households while facilitating nutritious hamper delivery to 104 households. 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.*

**MESSAGE FOR READERS:** *Thank you to the old readers for their loyalty and welcome to the new ones into this rewarding Parish Ministry. Do forget to pick up your roster. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and the very best for the New Year.  
May*

**WE WELCOME:** Into our Christian community *Harvey Reynaldo Estrella* who was Baptised last weekend.

**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](mailto: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.

**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

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

**FEBRUARY 2017 LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING**

**CALENDAR:** Registration essential to Helen Bennett 4222 2403 or [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto: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 31<sup>st</sup> December/1<sup>st</sup> January 2017:**

Vigil Mass: Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec: Winnie Cameron & Bertha Berbari

2017

9.00am Mass: Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan: Catherine Minogue & Julie Writer

Vigil Mass: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan: Winnie Cameron & Bev McKenzie

9.00am Mass: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan: Helen Rawson & Annette Read

**READERS' FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS':**

**New Year's Eve Vigil Mass:**

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec: Bev McKenzie & May Michelutti  
2017:

**New Year's Day 9.00am Mass: Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan:**

Barry Daley & Christine Foreman

Vigil Mass: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan: Julie McKenzie & May Michelutti

9.00am Mass: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan: Feyise & Tess Writer

**USHERS' FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:**

Vigil Mass: Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec: Carmel Munro  
2017

9.00am Sunday Mass: 1<sup>st</sup> Jan: Christine Foreman and Catherine Minogue

Vigil Mass: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan: Vicky Horne

9.00am Sunday Mass: 8<sup>th</sup> Jan: Gwen & Brian Harris

**CHURCH CLEANERS' FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS**

**New Year's Day Eve: Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec: Tongan Youth Group**

2017

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



*May the joy the Good News of Jesus fill your heart and life at Christmas and throughout the New Year. St Francis of Assisi*