

4th Sunday of Advent - Year C
23rd December 2012

Christmas Prayer



Lord, in this holy season of *prayer* and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you shepherds, innkeepers, wisemen. Help us to rise bigger than we are. *Amen*

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."

Every 25TH December a child lying in straw brings us to a stop - and jolts us to recognise what is most important in life:

Our loved ones, our family and friends-
And our loving God

Who holds us 'in the palm of his hand'.

A good way to carry forward the Christmas spirit is to be part of the parish family here at St Thomas More Catholic Church, as we celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays.

You will be very welcome!

If you would like to speak with Fr Tony please phone 4628 2967.

Wishing you and your family a happy and a holy Christmas!

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION TIMETABLE
1st Rite Reconciliation (St Thomas More Catholic Church Ruse):

- **Saturday 22nd December:** 11.00am - 12noon
And 5.00pm - 5.30pm
- **Monday 24th December (Christmas Eve):**
11.00am - 12.30pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

Monday 24th December (Christmas Eve)
(Please note change in time)

6.30pm: Children's Christmas Pageant & Carols
7.00pm: Christmas Vigil Mass

11.30pm: Christmas Carols
12 Midnight: Christmas Mass

Tuesday 25th December (Christmas Day)

8.30am: Christmas Carols
9.00am: Christmas Day Mass

Readers for Christmas Masses:

Christmas Vigil Mass: 1st Reader: Dominic Robinson
2nd Reader: Claire O'Brien
Midnight Mass: 1st Reader Cody Benes
2nd Reader: Maria Feher
Christmas Day: (9.00am)
1st Reader: Freda Miranda
2nd Reader: Jim Writer

WITH IN OUR PARISH WE HAVE MANY DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES: Here is a sample of some wishing each and everyone of us a Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2013:

Melkin Yelidet Beaal (Ethiopian)
Boldog Karácsonyt (Hungarian)
La Maunia Le Kilisimasi Ma Le Tausaga Fou (Samoan)
Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia (Polish)
Chuc Mung Giang Sinh (Vietnamese)
Joyeux Noel (French)
Mele Kilisimasi (Tongan)
Sretan Božić (Croatian)
Frohe Weihnachten / fröhliche Weihnach (German)
Buon Natale (Italian)
il-milied it-tajjeb / milied hieni (Maltese)
feliz Navidad (Spanish)

Parish Birthdays for this week:
24th: Abigail Minogue & Daphne Pew
26th: Jim Writer

Wedding Anniversary for this week:
27th: Steven and Catherine Robinson (15 years)

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED: Maurya Hutton (R.D.), Jim McKenzie (Anniv), Mary McInerney (Anniv), Ronald Dawson, Anthony Jabbour, Dominic Pereira, Daniel Karr, Peter Pereira, Dr Ken Saw, Thomas Scott-Dolby, Bernard Hoffman, Deborah Rix, Pat Purcell, Alice Harris, Mary Writer, Jim McKenzie, Genie Lynch, Frank McKay, Frank Keevers, Laurie Keevers, Chris Wagstaff, John DeVille, Keith Gomes and Maria and Graziano Cabonara and for anyone else who's Anniversary occurs at this time.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Please pray for the many sick in our parish community: Elaine Hoffman, Colum Brennan, Len Donoghue, Kelly Berthaly, Mary Fredericks, Jean Nicholson, Kay Burton, Mary Pace, Alphonse Zammit, Ken Smith, Zanaba Liban, Lorraine Evans, Sitani Nasio, Kevin Hardinge, Gino Stephen, Iris Stephen, Tina Boyd, Beryl Purcell, Gloria Eggert, Barbara DeVille, Jill Lovell, Salesi Kaufusi, Phillip Conroy, Rita Bingham, Sam Sheather, Sioeli Tupola, John McCann, Ken Churchill and Giovanna Cancellieri.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL - THANK YOU

We would like to thank the generous parishioners of St Thomas More for their wonderful response to our toy drive for the needy. Our members had a big night of sorting presents into family groups and another morning of delivering them. There were over 36 families who were very grateful for this help, some with very large families. This time of year can be very difficult for some families and to spread a bit of joy was a privilege which we were happy to do on your behalf. We wish you a happy and holy Christmas.

PARISH PIETY STALL: Have plenty of last minute Christmas present ideas. Eg: St Vincent de Paul Christmas cards \$7.00 per packet of 10 Cards, religious books, photo frames etc.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO CANNOT COME TO MASS? Members of our parish community visit parishioners and bring communion every week to those who are ill or elderly so are unable to come to Mass. Sometimes, it may be that someone could benefit from a lift. Please encourage them to contact our parish office either to arrange communion to be brought to them or to organize transport.

CHRISTMAS POOR BOX: A poor box is set up in front of the Crib for donations during the Christmas Season. The money will support St Vincent de Paul in their charitable works.
May the Christ-child bless you for your love and generosity.

JOURNEY MAGAZINE - DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER: This edition is now available on the tables at the entrance of the Church. This edition includes Bishop Peter's statement on the Royal Commission, an exploration of the problem of evil and suffering, winning artwork from the student Christmas exhibition, and a complete list of Christmas Mass times for parishes within the Diocese.

Parish Rosary Statue: During the Christmas Season and School holidays. The Rosary Statue will not be going to Parishioners homes until February 2013. I take this opportunity to thank the Parishioners who had the Rosary Statue in their homes during 2012. I wish them and their families a joyful Christmas and God's Blessings. Saying this great prayer the family Rosary every day will always bring peace in the family - The family prays together stays together.

Thank you and God Bless Fr Tony

READERS FOR MASS FOR DECEMBER 2012:

Vigil Mass: Louise Phillips and James Munro
9.00am Mass: Noel Laming & Sinisita Filitoga

READERS FOR JANUARY 2013:

Vigil Mass: David Minogue and Bev McKenzie
9.00am Mass (6th & 13th): Meli Mauga and Julie Writer
(20th & 27th): Chris and Rosalie Vine

(Could the 2nd reader please also read the Prayers of the Faithful)

USHER'S for next weekend:

Vigil Mass: Carmel Munro
9am Mass: Barry Daley

FLOWERS: Melanie and Elaine

CHURCH CLEANER'S FOR NEXT WEEK: Group 4: Maureen Molland, Leesha Bell, Fa'aliu Faamau & Lina & Tino Maugututia

Fr Tony's Christmas Message



"One night long ago, God filled the earth with hope so real, Joy so pure, and love so true, our hearts still rejoice today".
(anon).

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued generosity in the giving of your time, talent and treasure in support of our Parish Ministries for the past year.

I look forward to your continued prayers and support to promote the growth of our Parish into God's Kingdom.

Wishing you, your families and friends the Blessings of the Christ Child this Christmas that will last the whole year through.

Fr Tony
Parish Priest

