

1st Sunday of Advent

Year A

1st December 2013



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"

PARISH FINANCE UPDATE

An ongoing review of our Finances at the end of October has revealed a Deficit of \$2,433 so far for this Financial Year. A full copy of the Financial Report for the past five years is on the Notice Board and copies are available from the Parish Office. It is now up to (Ruse Parish)us to ensure our financial viability. Please do what you can by joining the Planned Giving Programme and/or making a reasonable contribution on the collection plates.

Parishes Working Together – Where are we now and where are we going? copies of the *Summary Report-Parishes Working Together* booklet are available at the back of the Church. This booklet provides a wealth of information to assist our parishes and our schools in our planning for the future. We all want strong vibrant communities to support us in times of joy and sorrow. Because Bishop Peter recognises we are all vital members of our Diocese, he wants us to be aware of what is being planned and how it may impact on us. We are asked to read the Summary Report and it will be a valuable resource during the next year as we begin working together to plan for the future.

http://www.imags.com.au/flipbooks/pwt_summary/

GLUTEN FREE ALTAR BREADS: If you require Gluten Free Hosts could you please see **Fr Tony** *before* Mass so as they are available for you at Holy Communion.

PARISH DIARY DATES:

- **Tuesday 3rd December:** at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Christmas Carols from 5.30pm (BBQ from 5.00pm) at the School
- **Thursday 5th December:** Retiree's Social Group Gathering in the Parish Hall after the 9.00am Mass
- **Tuesday 10th December: St Vincent de Paul Conference: (last meeting for 2014)**
- **Wednesday 11th December: Parish Pastoral Council meeting at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre (last meeting for 2014)**
- **Tuesday 18th December: Parish Finance Council meeting at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre (last meeting for 2014)**

IMPORTANT NOTE TO PARISHIONERS

If anyone knows of any parishioner who would like a visit from Father Tony, or is ill and/or unable to come to Mass, housebound or in hospital.

Could a family member or friend please contact Fr Tony on 4628 2967 or speak to him in person after/before Mass to arrange a suitable visiting time.

Parish Birthdays:

2nd: Maree Laming and Beryl Purcell

6th: Joe Barbari

Wedding Anniversary for this week:

5th: Kerry and Maureen Hennessy 43 years)

WE WELCOME:

Into our Christmas Community: **Adelaide Claire Sperring, Estelle Angela Beatrice Nheu and Toby William Joy** who were Baptised last weekend.

JESSE TREE: St Vincent de Paul Christmas Toy

Appeal: The Jesse Tree is in the Church from this weekend. The Jesse Tree has tags with the ages of children in need. If you are able, please take a tag (or two) and buy a present for that aged child and return it to the Jesse Tree. As the gifts have to be distributed before school holidays the gifts need to be returned the following weekend (7th/8th December). There is no need to wrap the presents. **We would like to thank you for your kindness and know that your gifts will make a difference to needy children.**

PARISH FAMILY MASS: Will be on **Sunday 15th December (3rd Sunday of Advent – Rose Sunday).** Please keep this date free and come along and join in the Celebration of our Parish Family Mass. Followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall. To help with catering, it would be very much appreciated if you could please bring a plate (eg cake, biscuits etc) to share.

THIS WEEKS CATHOLIC WEEKLY: Great value for only \$2.00 please don't forget to **buy** your copy.

PARISH PIETY STALL: Available from our Piety Stall are still the 2014 Columban Calendars, the Diocesan 6 minute reflections for Advent booklet (\$2.50 per copy). St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards. We have a variety of stock available, plenty of ideas for Christmas gifts.

OLD STAMPS/PETROL DOCKETS: If you have any used stamps and/or any leftover petrol docketts that you will not be using, and you would like to donate them – our "white" Parish Mail box is located at the back table of the ramp entrance to the Church. The stamps will be sent to the Missions to help with their good works and the petrol docketts will be given to those in need. Thank you very much for your donations.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: Copies are available for you to take home and keep up to date with what is happening in our Parish Primary School.

JOURNEY MAGAZINE: Is available for each family to take a copy (they are on all the tables at the entrance of the Church). This issue of our diocesan magazine responds to the question: "Is the Mass essential to Catholic life?" There is an update on Parishes Working together and some great Christmas artwork from our schools. This issue also explores an aspect of depression, and features the Holy Land tour of a number of our catechists. **Please take a copy.**

Typhoon Haiyan Aid Response: Millions of people are now in need of emergency aid in the Philippines. Please give generously to the Caritas Australia Typhoon Haiyan Appeal. Call 1800 024 413, donate online at www.caritas.org.au or send your donation to Diocesan Director P.O. Box 1015 Wollongong NSW 2500. Envelopes are available at the end of the Church pews.

FRENCH MASS: Sunday 8th December at 6.00pm at St John the Evangelist, Campbelltown.

YOUTH - SPIRIT ALIVE –CELEBRATE – FR ROB GALEA

Year 9 or older? Into your faith and great music and amazing speakers? Fr Rob Galea is internationally sought after for his incredible gift in music and inspirational personal story. Find out why Fr Rob energises young people. Young people up to 35 years of age are coming to this festival – Saturday 14 December, 5pm to 9pm, Holy Spirit College, Bellambi. Bring some money for dinner and drinks, and bring a bunch of friends. Let's ignite our faith at Spirit Alive!

youth@dow.org.au

CAROLS AT THE CUBE (CAMPBELLTOWN CATHOLIC CLUB): On Sunday 15th December at 7.00pm. Tickets are \$5.00 each at the Catholic Club.(General admission Family Event)

FATHER MAC'S HEAVENLY PUDDINGS: If you would like to purchase one or more please phone either 93493066 or mob no: 0419243285. They are available in various sizes and there are also gluten free ones available.

POPE FRANCIS SEEKS OUR FEEDBACK OF FAMILY LIFE: Pope Francis will convene a special Synod on the Family next October. It will examine the issues facing families today. Topics covered include: faith in family life, marriage, divorce, annulment, same-sex unions, natural family planning and the participation in sacraments as part of family life. As happens prior to any Synod of Bishops, Pope Francis is consulting Catholics from every diocese in the world about the Synod's theme. This is our opportunity to actively take part in the preparation for this Synod. We are asked to read a Preparatory document available at: tinyurl.com/k9td4m3 A quick way to then offer your response is via our online survey at tinyurl.com/lf7j4oa. If you prefer to send your response via email or in the post, you may wish to download the Microsoft Word version of the survey questions at tinyurl.com/m2nfjyz. Send your response to richard.mcmahon@dow.org.au or post to Richard McMahon, Office of the Bishop, PO Box 1239, Wollongong NSW 2500. Responses need to be supplied by Friday 6 December. Having trouble accessing the survey or document? Please contact Helen Bennett on 4222 2403.

ENGAGE, EXPERIENCE, UNDERSTAND MASS, MUSIC AND LITURGY BETTER Lift Up Your Hearts - Wollongong 15-18 January 2014 REGISTER NOW! 15% EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT – ONLY DAYS LEFT! It is being held locally at Wollongong so we can take full advantage. Renowned composer and liturgist Fr Jan Michael Joncas leads a panel of four international Keynote speakers. We will hear from over thirty speakers, all leaders in their respective fields in liturgy and music. Full details of the conference and online registration process are now available at www.liftupyourhearts.com.au. GST free pricing for parishes and other members of the Catholic GST Group.

SICK LIST: Please pray for the many sick in our parish community: Beryl Purcell, Candice Walker, Colum Brennan, Ellen Healy, Gino Stephen, Gloria Eggert, Iris Stephen, Jack O'Sullivan, Jane Rivett, Janice Ayers, Jean Nicholson, Jill Lovell, John McCann, Kathryn Primmer, Kelly Berthaly, Ken Churchill, Ken Smith, Kevin Hardinge, Len Donoghue, Lilly Levine, Lorraine Evans, Mary Fredericks, Mary Ford, Mary Pace, Melanie Blessing, Nicholas Larkin, Rita Bingham, Salesi Kaufusi, Sam Sheather, Shirley Starr, Sitani Nasio, Tomas Laming and The Liban Family

PARISH ROSARY STATUE: The Parish Rosary Statue is in the home of *Bev* for two weeks, commencing **Monday 2nd December to Sunday 15th December.** The family will be Praying the Rosary on **Monday at 7.00pm.** The address is on the main notice board at the side of the Church. **Please collect the statue from the Church on the weekend and return it the following fortnight.**

READERS FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER:

Vigil Mass:

7th/14th: **James Munro and Freda Miranda**

9.00am Mass:

8th/15th: **May Michelutti and Therese Writer**
(Could the 2nd Reader please also read the Prayers of Intercession)

USHER'S FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

Vigil Mass: **Carmel Munro**

9am Mass: **Barry Daley**

CHURCH CLEANER'S FOR NEXT WEEK: Group 5: Samoan Divine Mercy Group.

FLOWERS FOR NEXT WEEK: Samoan Divine Mercy Group

REFRESHMENTS AFTER 9.00am MASS: Sunday 15th December (Rose Sunday – Family Mass) Parishioners and St Thomas More Catholic School Community to bring a plate (of food) to share.

Prayer for Advent

*Father of our **Lord Jesus** Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church: the earth rejoices in **hope** of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and **hope** which his presence **will** bestow, for he is **Lord** for ever and ever. Amen.*

