

1st Sunday of Lent
Year C
17th February 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."

PARISHES PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE BY WORKING TOGETHER – YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED

The Bishop has given an overview of what this process is all about which builds upon the work of our diocesan pastoral plan. The book that you received (there is plenty still available on the table at the entrance to the Church) gives much information about our vital role as baptised faithful in the Church as well as details about parishes and ministries in our Diocese.

Our parish will continue information and discussion session 2 today (after the 9.00am Mass): 10.15am – 11.45am in the Parish Hall (morning tea is provided).

For people unable to attend the parish sessions but wishing to give their feedback about discussion questions and activities in the Workbook, please access the website of the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong: www.dow.org.au or email your responses to netty.broekman@dow.org.au.

Your feedback about questions in the Workbook is important as we prepare for the Regional Consultations to be held across the Diocese in April. The Regional Consultations will give people across parishes in your region the opportunity to give their views about the future configuration of parishes and sharing of programs and resources as we seek to support each other in being bearers of Christ's love.

HOUR OF PRAYER AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Will be every Friday during Lent beginning with the Hour of Prayer at 6.30pm followed by Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm in the Church.

Lent: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18th year, until the beginning of their 60th year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their 14th year (CCL97, 1251f)

Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter with those who are to be baptised.

PROJECT COMPASSION: The theme for this year is "Open Doors to a Better Future". Your donations to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion give expression to the Gospel imperative to pursue justice and help those suffering from poverty and disadvantage. **Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of Lenten envelopes and give generously to the appeal this Lent.**

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2013
(Enrolment for all Sacraments will require the presentation of a Baptism Certificate)

FIRST RECONCILIATION
(Children Year 3 and above)

Parent/Carer's Information Night (Parents and Carers only)
This Wednesday (20th February) at 7.30pm – in the Parish Church. The cost of the program is \$20.00 per child.

Classes will commence week beginning Sunday 24th February
And conclude week beginning Sunday 17th March.

Second Rite of Reconciliation will be on Thursday 4th April and Friday 5th April from 4.00pm – 5.30pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
(Children Year 3 and above who have made their First Reconciliation)

Parent/Carer's Information Night (Parents and Carers only)
Wednesday 10th April at 7.30pm – in the Parish Church

Classes will commence week beginning Sunday 28th April and conclude week beginning Sunday 19th May.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be on Sunday 2nd June (more details to follow)

CONFIRMATION
(Children in Year 6 and Above who have made the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion)

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be on Saturday 10th August (more details to follow)

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Please pray for the many sick in our parish community: Colum Brennan, Len Donoghue, Kelly Berthaly, Mary Fredericks, Jean Nicholson, 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 DeVillie, Jill Lovell, Salesi Kaufusi, Rita Bingham, Sam Sheather, John McCann, Ken Churchill and Giovanna Cancellieri.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED:

Bishop Douglas Warren (R.D.), Stephen Vaz (Anniv), Siouli Tupola, Eustaquio Salas, Robin Platt, Brooke Millbank, Mary Writer, Phillip Conroy, Maurya Hutton, Jim McKenzie, Ronald Dawson, Anthony Jabbour, Dominic Pereira, Peter Pereira, Bernard Hoffman, Deborah Rix, Pat Purcell, Alice Harris, Genie Lynch, Frank McKay, Frank Keevers, Laurie Keevers, John DeVillie, Keith Gomes and Maria Cabonara and for anyone else who's Anniversary occurs at this time.

WE WELCOME: Into our Christian Community **Tiarley Jade Liwag** who was Baptised last weekend.

Parish Birthdays for this week:

18th: Epifania Inkster & Freda Miranda
22nd: Michael Barbari

Diary Dates:

- **Parish Working Together** (2nd workshop session) Sunday 17th February from 10.15am in the Parish Hall
- **Parish Pastoral Council** meeting Tuesday 19th February at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall
- **Wednesday Prayer Group** meet every Wednesday in the Parish Hall after the 9.00am Mass
- **First Reconciliation Information Evening** for Parents/Carer's at 7.30pm Wednesday 20th February in the Church
- **Holy Hour and Stations of the Cross (during Lent)** every Friday from 6.30pm in the Church
- **St Vincent de Paul Society** meeting Tuesday 26th February at 7.45pm in the Parish Centre **new members are most welcome**

LENTEN PROGRAM 2013: We are using the Diocesan Lenten called BELIEVE: Lenten Program 2013 – a 44 page program designed as a six-week Lenten resource for small groups, prayer companions, families and individuals.

PARISH CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Is available for children who attend school from Kindergarten to Year 6 during the 9.00am Mass during the School Terms. If you would like to help with this Parish Ministry please contact Christine on 4626 7475 for more details.

PARISH LADIES GROUP: Would like to invite all ladies (over 18) to join them at the Campbelltown Catholic Club Cube on Saturday 11th May to see Marina Prior and The Aust Tenors. The cost is \$40.00 per head. **We need to know numbers and payment as soon as possible please.** This can either be given to Maureen Molland or handed in at the Parish Office. Please put your name down on the clipboard at the entrance of the Church. This will be an enjoyable night by all.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Please take home a copy of our Parish School newsletter and keep up to date with what is happening.

POPE BENEDICT'S RESIGNATION – Bishop Peter's Statement and further information is available at www.dow.org.au and an excellent summary about the process for electing a new Pope is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/beysm2d>

LENTEN PASTORAL LETTER: CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF NEW SOUTH WALES: "Sowing in Tears: Response to the Royal Commission booklet is available for every family. Please take home your copy; they are available at the entrance of the Church on all the tables.

MEET THE FRANCISCANS: You are invited to hear Barry Blake OFS and Fr Norbert Pittorino OFM tell the story of St Francis of Assisi and what the Franciscans are doing in our world today. On Saturday 2nd March, Mass at 2.00pm followed by DVD's and talks at St John the Evangelist Campbelltown. Please come along.

SAMOAN DIVINE MERCY GROUP: Invite Parishioners to join them in their Devotional Prayers in the Church from 1.00pm to 3.30pm every Sunday afternoon. For more information phone Maria 9603 5106 or 0404 929498. If you would like to help with donations of chips, poppers and/or fruit for their visit to Reiby Detention centre for the 4th Saturday of the month it would be greatly appreciated. Thankyou to everyone for your support it is greatly appreciated.

HIGH SCHOOL ENROLMENT EVENINGS FOR YEAR 7 2014:
John Therry Catholic High School:

Saturday 23rd February at 10.30am Information and Presentation in the School Hall (Enrolment packages will be Available on the day – they will also be available from the local Catholic Primary Schools from Monday 25th February
Mount Carmel Catholic High School:
Tuesday 26th February at 7.00pm in the Champagnat Centre, at the school. (Enrolment packages will be available on the night)

St Gregory's College:

(Sunday 24th February: College Open Day from 10.00am – 2.00pm)

Wednesday 27th February at 7.30pm in the Brother Luke Hall at St Gregory's College (Enrolment packages will be available on the night). The School also offers 3, 5 & 7 day boarding

CATECHIST COURSES – MACARTHUR/HIGHLANDS: The LEVEL 1 BASIC Course will continue on Monday 18 February from 9.30am – 1.30pm at Micah House, Campbelltown. The full LEVEL 1 Course will continue on Monday, 25 February and 4 & 11 March from 9.30am – 1.30pm, also at Micah House, Campbelltown. Please contact Cindy on 4640 8550 or email cindy.oliver@dow.org.au.

PARISH ROSARY STATUE: The Parish Rosary Statue will be in the home of **Joe and Christine** for two weeks, commencing Monday 18th February until Sunday 3rd March. The address is on the Main notice board at the side of the Church. Parishioners are Welcome to say the Rosary with the family on Monday 18th February at 8.00pm.

Please pray the powerful prayer – "The Rosary" with the family and receive many blessings. Please collect the statue from the Church on the weekend and return it the following fortnight.

READERS FOR FEBRUARY 2013:

Vigil Mass: Steven and Anthony Robinson
9.00am Mass: Maryse Parisi and Vella Andrews (17th & 24th)

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

READERS FOR MARCH 2013:

Vigil Mass: Bill George and Louise Phillips
9.00am Mass: (3rd & 10th) Freda Miranda (17th & 24th) Jim and Therese Writer

USHER'S for next weekend:

Vigil Mass: Helpers required
9am Mass: Barry Daley

CHURCH CLEANER'S FOR NEXT WEEK: Group 6: Tongan Youth Community



