

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year A
8th 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"

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.

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 10th December: St Vincent de Paul Conference: (last meeting for 2013)**
- **Wednesday 11th December: Parish Pastoral Council meeting at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre (last meeting for 2013)**
- **Tuesday 18th December: Parish Finance Council meeting at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre (last meeting for 2013)**
- **Thursday 19th December: Retiree's Social Group Gathering in the Parish Hall after the 9.00am Mass**

Christmas Reconciliation Timetable:

Friday 20th December

7.30pm: 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

Saturday 21st December

4.00pm - 5.30pm: 1st Rite of Reconciliation

Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

11.00am - 12noon: 1st Rite of Reconciliation

Christmas Mass Timetable:

Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve):

6.30pm: Children's Christmas Pageant & Carols

7.00pm: Christmas Vigil Mass

11.30pm: Christmas Carols

12 Midnight: Christmas Mass

Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day)

8.30am: Christmas Carols

9.00am: Christmas Day Mass

Parish Birthdays:

12th: Melanie Webb

13th: Russell Goodall

JESSE TREE: St Vincent de Paul Christmas Toy

Appeal: If you have taken a tag from the Jesse Tree and haven't yet returned your child/children's gift, they can be left at the Parish Office during Office Hours and they will be passed onto our St Vincent de Paul Conference for distribution. The gifts have to be distributed before school holidays. 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 many needy children.**

PARISH FAMILY MASS: Will be next **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.

URGENT PLEE FOR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS:

As we will be celebrating Rose Sunday Family Mass next Sunday at 9.00am (15th December), and due to the rain our Parish Church grounds are very untidy, so if you have an hour or so to either do the edges and/or some mowing, it would be greatly appreciated. This will also help our Church to prepare for Christmas.

Thanking you in anticipation.

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 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 would like to donate them - our "red" Parish Mail box is located at the entrance of the Church (near the ramp). 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.

CLEANER'S ROSTERS: Are available for collection on the main table at the entrance of the Church. A huge thank you to the Parishioners who are members of this Parish Ministry, your time and talents are greatly appreciated. You help to make our Parish Church an honour to worship in. If you would like to join this Ministry, please let Fr Tony know and you will be contacted shortly. **Once again thank you to the Church Cleaner's.**

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?" and some great Christmas artwork from our schools. **Please take a copy.**

FRENCH MASS: Today, 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. 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.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED: Please pray for the recently deceased and for those whose anniversary occurs at this time. **May eternal rest grant to them O Lord and may perpetual light upon them.**

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:

14th: James Munro and Freda Miranda
21st/28th: Bev and Julie McKenzie

9.00am Mass:

15th: May Michelutti and Therese Writer
22nd/29th: Chris and Rosalie Vine
(Could the 2nd Reader please also read the Prayers of Intercession)

USHER'S FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

Vigil Mass: Vicky Horne
9am Mass: Gwen & Brian Harris

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

FLOWERS FOR NEXT WEEK: Julie

REFRESHMENTS AFTER 9.00am MASS:

Next 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

"O holy, patient, and loving God, in this season of grace-filled longing, we await the coming of your Son and our Savior. It is difficult for us to remember that this is a holy time. There are many distractions: commitments seem to pile up, and expectations are high. In the midst of our busy world, our busy lives, we need your help to remind us of what is important and necessary. While many of those things that we do not need will come to us in packages gleaming and bright, the one gift that will last comes from you alone, gracious God, as we grow in our awareness of your love. Bless us, our family and friends, and the food and the company that we share. Increase in us a growing urgency to celebrate the birth of your Son, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**"

