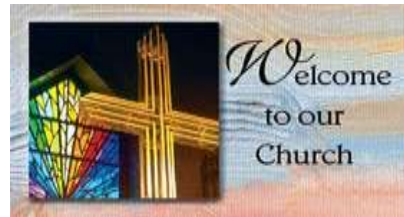


**4th Sunday of Advent
Year A
22nd December 2013**



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"



We welcome all visitors to our Parish and in particular those who are visiting family and friends in our Community at this special time of the Christmas Season.

Fr Tony's Christmas Message



I would like to welcome everyone who is visiting our Parish at this Christmas Season.

I would also like to thank the many parishioners who through their continued support, prayer and activities in the many Ministries of our Parish have promoted 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 Daly
Parish Priest

THANK YOU: To the many people who put together last Sunday's Special Family Mass. It was good to see so many people attend and join in the refreshments after the Family Mass in the Parish Hall whilst listening to the Choir from our St Thomas More Catholic Primary School. Also thank to the men who came during last week to beautify our Church grounds. **Thank you to all.**

Christmas Reconciliation Timetable:

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

READERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Christmas Eve Vigil (7.00pm):

1. Claire O'Brien
2. Therese Writer

Midnight Mass:

1. May Michelutti
2. Maria Feher/Cody Benes

Christmas Day: (9.00am)

1. Maryse Parisi
2. Jim Writer

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

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.

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

PARISH PIETY STALL: Those last minute Christmas ideas: are 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 great variety of stock available for Christmas gifts.

PARISH Birthdays for this week:

21st: Jeff Cross
24th: Daphne Pew and Abigail Minogue
26th: Jim Writer

Parish WEDDING Anniversary for this week:

27th: Steven & Catherine Robinson (16 years)

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

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.

JESSE TREE: St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal: *"This is a special Christmas thank you message from your conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society. During 2013 we have been encouraged by your support of the: Winter Appeal, Recruitment drive, Assist a Student weekend, Jesse Tree and Disaster Appeals and much more.*

Many of our members are involved in several Parish ministeries but our encouragement really comes from your generous support.

There are many needy families in the Ruse/ Airds catchment but with your help we have been able to make a difference. Please be assured, these families are very grateful and it helps them to know that the St Thomas More Catholic Community is thinking of them.

We wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Our first meeting for 2014 will be Tuesday 11 February at 7.45pm in the Parish Centre. New members or interested persons are always most welcome, without commitment.

**Ruse/ Airds conference
St Vincent de Paul Society".**

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: Don't forget to take your copy home. This is the last one for 2013.

THE JOURNEY – CATHOLIC RADIO: "The Journey" is the Diocese's weekly Catholic Radio Program. Hear the show Sundays from 11am on live streaming at pulse941.com.au. You can also listen at any time from the Diocesan website at radio.dow.org.au or find us on Facebook. This week tune in for a wonderful interview with Bishop Peter Ingham as we lead into Christmas as well as hearing from our regular contributors and great music.

EXPLORE AND DISCOVER NEW RICHES IN MASS, MUSIC, PRAYER AND WORSHIP – Wollongong 15-18 January 2014. Engage with inspirational speakers on an amazing array of topics. Experience showcases and deepen your love and knowledge of prayer and worship. Over 530 already confirmed for this special conference in Wollongong. Full details of the conference and online registration process are available at www.liftupyourhearts.com.au. GST free pricing for parishes and other members of the Catholic GST Group.

PARISH ROSARY STATUE: During the Christmas Season and School holidays, the Rosary Statue will not be going to Parishioners Homes until the 3rd February 2014. I take this opportunity to Thank the Parishioners who had the Rosary Statue in their homes During 2013. I wish them and their families a joyful Christmas and God's Blessings. Saying this great prayer, the family Rosary every day bring peace in the family – "The family that prays together stays together". **Thank you and God Bless Fr Tony and Edmund**

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS NATIONAL LITURGY CONFERENCE 15th – 18th January 2014

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Volunteers are needed to help with welcoming, registration, hospitality, support and administration during the conference. If you are able to help for 2 to 3 hours one day during the conference (Wednesday 15th - Saturday 18th), we will provide you with: a "Lift Up Your Hearts T-shirt", morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea on the day you are volunteering, entry to two of the conference sessions on the day you are volunteering. Please contact: Helen Bennett, Executive Assistant Phone: (02) 4222 2403 email: helen.bennett@dow.org.au. Provide your name, phone number, email and T-shirt size, together with your preferred attendance day **by no later this Tuesday, 24 December 2013.**

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED: Please pray for the recently deceased and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. Kevin Bauer (R.D.), Maurya Hutton (Anniv), Jim McKenzie (Anniv), Mary McInerney (Anniv), Maria and Graziano Cabonara, **May eternal rest grant to them O Lord and may perpetual light shine 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, Tina Boyd, Tomas Laming and The Liban Family

READERS FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER:

Vigil Mass:

28th: Bev and Julie McKenzie

9.00am Mass:

29th: Chris and Rosalie VINE
(Could the 2nd Reader please also read the Prayers of Intercession)

USHER'S FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

Vigil Mass: Carmel
9am Mass: Christine Foreman

CHURCH CLEANER'S FOR NEXT WEEK: Group 2:

Cathy Bye, Barry Daley, Kathy Donachie and Eugene Wasko

FLOWERS FOR NEXT WEEK: Francesca

REFRESHMENTS AFTER 9.00am MASS: This will be returning in February. Thank you to the many people who are members of this Parish Ministry and also to the Parish Ladies Group who continue to support this Parish Ministry.

