

4th Sunday of Lent
Year C
10th March 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."

MASS ATTENDANCE:

As you are aware the Mass times for Sunday:
Vigil - Saturday at 6.00pm and
Sunday - at 9.00am.

Mass starts promptly at these times. To fulfill your obligation you need to be in attendance at the beginning of the Mass and the Final Blessing.

It is very distracting to those who are already in the Church to have people coming in late.

The Mass begins with the sign of the Cross and Welcome, which then leads to the Penitential Rite, the Liturgy of the Word (Readings) and the Gospel.

We then move to the Profession of Faith and Prayers of Intercession. This then prepares us for Celebrating the Eucharist (that is the receiving of the Body and Blood of Christ) and ending with the final prayer and Blessing.

To fulfill your obligation of Mass attendance you need to be present for all of the parts of the Mass.

**Talk to God before Mass,
let God talk to you during Mass
and talk to each other after Mass.**

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

For people who were unable to attend the parish sessions but wishing to give feedback please access the website of Catholic Diocese of Wollongong: www.dow.org.au or email your responses to netty.broekman@dow.org.au.

REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS: PARISHES WORKING TOGETHER – HAVE YOUR SAY.

Bishop Peter Ingham invites parish communities in each region to now gather and have your say about what we believe is the best way to configure ourselves to be bearers of Christ's love. Come along to consider Mass times, the number of priests, parish boundaries and support for sacramental preparation and the many ministries and services in our region.
Eastern Macarthur: Thursday 18th April, St John's Hall, Campbelltown 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Western Macarthur: Tuesday 23rd April, St Paul's Hall, Camden 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Please RSVP to Jane Edwards email jane.edwards@dow.org.au or 4222 2404 and indicate which venue you will be attending.

PROJECT COMPASSION: Don't forget to take home a project Compassion box and/or a set of envelopes and give generously to the appeal this Lent. Your donations will allow Caritas Australia to reduce poverty and hunger in and around the world. They can start being returned to the Church from next weekend (Palm Sunday)

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

FIRST RECONCILIATION
(Children Year 3 and above)

Classes conclude week beginning Sunday 17th March.

First Rite of Reconciliation will be on Thursday 4th April and Friday 5th April from 4.00pm – 5.30pm. Details will be given at the lessons.

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)

RECONCILIATION: Please remember and keep in your prayers the children who are preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on either Thursday 4th April or Friday 5th April.

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, Ken Smith, Zanaba Liban, Lorraine Evans, Sitani Nasio, Tina Boyd, Kevin Hardinge, Gino Stephen, Iris Stephen, 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:

Christopher Torpy (R.D.), Joan McInerney (Anniv), Ladislav Feher, Alphonse Zammit, Stephen Vaz, Sioli Salas, Robin Platt, 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 Harper Rain Waller who was Baptised last weekend.

PARISH BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK:

9th: Brian Wyer
10th: Kerry Hennessy
14th: Nathan and Damien Bartolo
15th: Cathy Bye

Wedding Anniversary for this week:

11th: Warwick and Laura O'Reilly (7 years)

Diary Dates:

- **Wednesday Prayer Group** meet every Wednesday in the Parish Hall after the 9.00am Mass
- **Holy Hour and Stations of the Cross (during Lent)** every Friday from 6.30pm in the Church
- **St Vincent de Paul Society** meeting Tuesday 12th March at 7.45pm in the Parish Centre **new members are most welcome**
- **Choir Practice** Wednesday 13th March at 7.00pm in the Church, all singers are encouraged to come along
- **Retiree's Social Group** gathering on Thursday 14th March after the 9.00am Mass in the Parish Hall
- **Parish Pastoral Council** meeting on Tuesday 19th March at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

CATECHIST'S REQUIRED: Anyone who is interested in being a Catechist and has a couple of hours free on Wednesday morning between 9am and 11:10am or Thursday morning between 10:20am to 1:15pm please make inquiries with Colleen on 46284717. Classes are 30 minutes only, if you could assist with only one class between these times it would be appreciated. We teach at five schools: Briar Road, Kentlyn, John Warby, Ruse and Woodland Road.

PARISH LADIES EASTER RAFFLE: Tickets will be on sale on Sat 23rd & Sun 24th March after all Masses. The tickets are \$1.00 each and there are great prizes. Please help to support this fundraising raffle for our parish. **Thanking you in anticipation.**

PLEASE WATCH: Compass ABC 1 this Sunday at 6.31pm. "The New Pope: What Australians Want."
Hosted by Geraldine Doogue.

"THE PROMISE", A LENTEN CONCERT on Sunday 24 March 3.00pm – 4.30pm at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish, St Andrews Rd Varroville. Please see the notice boards for more details.

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.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Enrolment Applications for 2014 – are now available from the School Office and are due back by 10 April 2013. Enrolment Interviews will be held with Fr Tony and Mr Paul Croker (School Principal) early in Term 2. If you have any queries in regard to 2014 Enrolment Applications please contact with the school office on 4625 6561 or email info@stmdow.catholic.edu.au.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: "Open Day" Session – Thursday 14 March 2013 9am to 11am for new families. This year the School are planning to offer an Open Day session for prospective new families who are considering seeking a Catholic Education pathway for their child at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School. **The Open Day will be held on Thursday 14 March 2013 from 9am to 11am.**

The Open Day session will begin with a presentation by the Principal about the features, programs and policies of the school at 9am in the school hall. This will be followed by "tours" of the school "hosted" by our Year 6 Captains and School Leaders.

CHURCH SURROUNDS: The lawns are still growing like crazy. Any help any time in keeping them under control would be much appreciated.

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. Thank you to everyone for your support it is greatly appreciated.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY DISASTER ASSISTANCE: See the following link: <http://www.vinnies.org.au/donations-national>

PARISH ROSARY STATUE: The Parish Rosary Statue will be in the home of **Russell and Christine** for two weeks, commencing Monday 4th March until Sunday 17th 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 **Mondays at 8.00pm. Please collect the statue from the Church on the weekend and return it the following fortnight.**

READERS FOR MARCH 2013:

Vigil Mass: Bill George and Louise Phillips
9.00am Mass: (17th & 24th) Jim and Therese Writer
(Could the 2nd Reader please also read the Prayers of the Faithful)

USHER'S for next weekend:

Vigil Mass: Carmel Munro
9am Mass: Cathy Bye

CHURCH CLEANER'S FOR NEXT WEEK: Group 3: Brian O'Brien, Christine Foreman, James and Carmel Munro

REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS: Will be after our Palm Sunday Family Mass (9.00am 24th March): Cathy Bye, Gwen Harris, Kathy Donachie, Francesca Chow and Maria Hill.

INVITATION TO OUR PALM SUNDAY FAMILY MASS

Sunday 24th March at 9.00am.

All parishioners, past and present are invited to celebrate our Palm Sunday Family Mass followed by Morning Tea in our Parish Hall.

Come and celebrate the beginning of Holy Week and to build our Christian Community.

