

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Year A
29th December 2013**

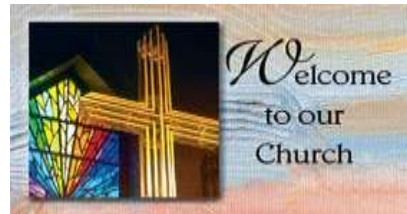


Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. It is also a day to celebrate all families. Children bring such joy to a family but they also bring trials and anxieties. Even the Holy Family suffered when Jesus stayed behind and said nothing to his parents. Imagine what it means to think you have lost your child. The Gospel is there for families today who struggle to raise a child in this world of ours.....

"show us the value of family life, and help us to live in peace with all men that we may share in your life for ever."

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

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 WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES for this week:

29th: Hector & Hazel Bernardino (53 years)
30th: Russell & Christine Goodall (24 years)
3rd January: Joe & Therese Berbari (43 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 docket 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 docket 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 ministries 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.**

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 will always 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, Maurya Hutton, Jim McKenzie, Ev 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

2014

READERS FOR JANUARY:

Vigil Mass: 4th/11th: Pam and Phil Kenyon

9.00am Mass: 5th/ 12th: Meli Mauga and Chris O'Brien

(Could the 2nd Reader please also read the Prayers of Intercession)

USHER'S FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

Vigil Mass: Vicky Horne

9am Mass: Helen Rawson and Chris Reddy

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

FLOWERS FOR NEXT WEEK:

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.

PARISH THANKYOU

I would like to personally thank the many people who contributed to the Christmas celebrations of our Parish. The Acolytes, The Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, The Sacristans, the Flower arrangers, the Grounds people, the Cleaners, The Readers, The many Musicians, the Childrens Christmas Pageant Co-Ordinator, helpers and participants, the Ushers/Greeters, the Powerpoint creator and those who worked the powerpoint during the Masses and the Parish Counters.

New Year's Prayer

God, thank you for a New Year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

Let us model ourselves of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.



