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Catholic Church - Diocese of Wollongong

**St. THOMAS MORE PARISH, RUSE**

welcomes you

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Healy

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**28th JUNE 2020**

**FIRST READING - 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16.**

A reading from the second book of the Kings.

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

(R.) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)

2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss.. (R.)

3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength; it is by your favour that our might is exalted: for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord; our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

**SECOND READING - Romans 4:8-11.**

A reading from letter of St Paul to the Romans

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL READING - Matthew 10:37-42.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.'

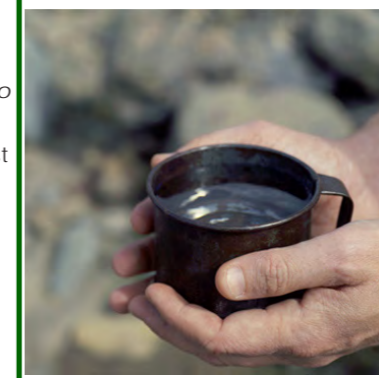
'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.'

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.'

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

(R.) Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



**PRAYERING FOR OUR WORLD, AMIDST COVID-19**

Gracious God, We give thanks anew for your providence and presence. We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas. We pray for those in need of healing. We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving. We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response. We pray for your Holy spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders. We each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable. This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**REFLECTION - by Fr Michael Tate.**

In the early Church, Christianity ripped families apart. Good Jewish families would have been appalled to see their sons and daughters go off to follow a crucified blasphemer. Good reason to keep apart in the synagogue, avoiding damnable pollution. This sectarianism contrasted with the Christians who fearlessly went out into the world.

St John Paul II personified what it is to be Catholic. But, he pressed a prayer into a crack in the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and as an old man shuffled across the floor of a Mosque in Syria.

Of course, there was no compromise of belief and faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, denied by both Jews and Muslims. But his actions were not those of one with the siege mentality of the member of a cult. Rather, he was able to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to take these steps recognising what was good amongst the adherents of those faiths.

We could pause for a moment to implore the Holy Spirit to break us out from any constricting cult-like tendencies so that we can go out into the world powerfully proclaiming the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

mtate@bigpond.com



Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

Matthew 10:40.

**MASS TIMES**



**TUESDAY 30th JUNE**  
9.30am. - Mass.

**WEDNESDAY 1st JULY**  
----- NO MASS -----

**THURSDAY 2nd JULY**  
----- NO MASS -----

**FRIDAY 3rd JULY**  
9.30am. - Mass.

**SATURDAY 4th JULY**  
**Saturday Vigil for 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**  
6.00pm. - Mass.

**SUNDAY 5th JULY**  
**14th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A**  
9.00am. - Mass.

**ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH DIRECTORY**



43 Acacia Avenue, Ruse NSW 2560  
P.O. Box 200N Campbelltown North 2560

**PARISH PRIEST**

Fr Michael Healy

**PARISH OFFICE**

Secretary: Mrs Carmel Munro

(TUES-FRI) 9.00am - 3.30pm

Telephone: 46 282967

Email: ruse@dow.org.au

Website: www.stmruse.org.au

Facebook: St Thomas More Catholic Parish Church, Ruse.



**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Secretary: Mrs Carmel Munro

**TUESDAY - FRIDAY**

9.00am - 3.30pm

Parish ☎: 4628 2967

Email: ruse@dow.org.au

School ☎: 4625 6561

**STEWARDSHIP**

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

Both the first reading and the Gospel today speak of hospitality and welcome. Our ministers of hospitality are a most visible example of using one's time and talents to welcome the people of God. But the Gospel assures us that all who give even just "a cup of cold water" to one of His lowliest ones will be rewarded.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

28th JUNE 2020

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

1st Reading:

Zechariah 9:9-10.

See how humbly your king comes to you!

2nd Reading:

Romans 8:9.11-13.

If by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 11:25-30.

I am gentle and humble of heart.

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**



St. Thomas the Apostle was one of the twelve disciples commissioned by Jesus. In John's Gospel when upon hearing that Jesus had risen from the dead, Thomas replied, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe". But when Jesus appeared Thomas then professed his faith – this story giving rise to the name "doubting Thomas". After Jesus' death it is widely believed he sailed to India in 52AD where he established several churches in the southern state of Kerala. Tradition suggests he was martyred in 72AD; speared to death at a site now called St Thomas Mount, before being buried in Mylapore in modern day Chennai. St Thomas is one of the patron saints of India.

**CHUCKLE TIME .....**



**HUMOUR CORNER**

At a "Healing Mass", one Sunday morning a preacher said, if "Anyone with 'special needs' who wants to be prayed over, please come forward to the front of the altar."

With that, Peter got in line and when it was his turn the Preacher asked, "Peter, what do you want me to pray about for you?"

He replied, "Preacher, I need you to pray for help with my hearing."

The preacher put one finger of one hand on Peter's ear, placed his other hand on top of Peter's head, and then prayed and prayed and the whole congregation joined in with much enthusiasm.

After a few minutes, the preacher removed his hands, stood back and asked, "Peter, how is your hearing now?"

Peter answered, "I don't know. My hearing is actually next Thursday in the magistrate's court."

Year A

13<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME



28<sup>th</sup> June 2020

#### 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.*

*"Anymore who welcomes you, welcomes me and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."*

*Matthew 10:40*

#### PARISH MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL:



Dear Parishioners,

Please register (for Weekend Masses only) beforehand each week at the Parish Office during office hours (Tuesday to Friday 9am - 3.30pm or telephone 46282967).

Currently, weekday Masses are held on Tuesday's and Friday's at 9.30am.

*May God bless keep you well and safe,  
Fr Michael*

*Have you "checked in" on another parishioner this week to say "Hi!"?*

#### URGENTLY NEEDED:

**MONITOR'S:** *These are to help people enter the Church safely and to ensure social distancing and not to congregate before or after Mass, and other similar things.*

*Each Mass will require at least 2 Monitor's - if you would like to assist in this important role - please contact the Parish Office (during Office Hours - 4628 2967).*

**CLEANER'S:** *The Church, where people have sat, and frequently touched surfaces, need to be cleaned after each Mass, to help ensure the safety of our parishioners-all materials are supplied. If you have a spare 2-3 minutes after each mass to assist with this - it is greatly appreciated.*

#### UPDATES IN OUR PARISH:

**Parish Bulletin:** All parishioners who have provided the parish office with an email address have been receiving the Parish weekly Bulletin (that includes my weekly message). If you know of a parishioner who is not receiving these emails please encourage them to contact the parish office.

**Planned Giving Envelopes 2020/21:** There are still a few to be collected from the Parish Office during Office Hours.

#### DO YOU WISH TO ATTEND A WEEKEND MASS?:

**You cannot just turn up for Mass as previously!!**

**Note: emails and text messages cannot be accepted.**

You can state the weekend date and time of the Mass you wish to attend and you must give the name and phone number of each person you wish to register. These details will be checked and ticked off at the Church door as you enter for Mass.

1. If you are elderly (70 years +) or not feeling well, the ruling states that, (for your own safety) YOU MUST STAY AT HOME.
2. After entering the Church for Mass, your hands will be sanitized and your temperature taken. (This is obligatory) then an usher will show you to your RESERVED seat, where **Social distancing (1.5m)** must be strictly observed, (except for people of the same house-hold) Details of movement during the Mass will be announced.
3. No Holy Water fonts, No Votive Candles, No Offertory Procession, no Sign of Peace Holy Communion **must** be Received in the hand
4. Please arrive early for Mass (**at least 10 minutes beforehand**). Church doors **must** be locked as Mass begins
5. No collections can be taken up at Mass. Usual Parish Collection donations can be placed in the baskets provided at the Church door
6. You are to sanitize your hands again as you leave the Church
7. **Nobody** will be permitted to socially assemble in the courtyard before, during and after Mass.

#### WEEKDAY MASSES AT RUSE CHURCH:

**Masses on: Tuesday and Friday's at 9.30am**

Those attending a Weekday Mass will NOT have to Register beforehand, but only the **first 50** Worshippers will be admitted. Your attendance has to be recorded (at the entrance to the Church)

When you arrive for Mass, your name and phone No will be recorded and ticked off as you leave

The same rules and procedures as at Saturday/Sunday Mass (above) will be observed.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** All the people who have died in this current pandemic and the recently deceased and whose anniversaries that occur at this time: John Read (Anniv), Wanda Antao, Richard Garton, Fr Theophane (Theo) Rush ofm, Cohan Boyd, Alice Harris, Mary Writer, Cathy Wiggins, Fr Anthony (Tony) Daly, Ladislav Feher, Beryl Ford, Jim McKenzie, Bobby Cameron, Marguerite (Marg) Davis, Maree Laming, Jay Jablonskis, Deborah Rix, Bernard Hoffmann, Maurya Hutton and Maria Cabonara. **May they rest in peace**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** For the **many** sick in our Parish Community including: Rita D'Souza, Samantha Glover, Shirley Starr, Kenny Wilson, Antonio David, Hannah Kavanagh, Mary Dolan, Frank Byron, Sean Scanlon, Kellie Brandes, Brian Harris, Francisco Carmona, David Minogue, Daphne and Edmund Pew, Steve Foreman, Luke Van Der Burg, Briega Glover, Fr John Whitty, Elaine Hoffmann, Patricia McInerney, Betty Berthon, Brenda Baker, Moria Harris, Betty Byrne, Rosa Santos, Aimiti Seufatu, John Hill, Freda and Wilfred Miranda,

Beryl Purcell, Jeannie and George Nicholson Mary Frederick and Flynn Griffiths.

**FOR ANY PARISHIONERS:** who would like to have their birthdays and/or wedding anniversaries included in the Parish Bulletin, please contact the Parish Office: 4628 2967 or email: [ruse@dow.org.au](mailto:ruse@dow.org.au).

**Parishioner's Birthdays this coming week:**

**30<sup>th</sup>: Kelvin (Jim) Eggert and Pauline Menzies**

**PARISH COLLECTIONS:** With the current situation it is imperative that you please keep up your weekly contributions, as the Parish runs on a limited budget and without these regular contributions to both the First and Second Collections, we will be in real financial difficulties. For this reason, I strongly encourage parishioners who currently give by envelope to change to Direct Debit or Credit Card contributions (please read the following notice on how to arrange this or contact the Parish Office) to ensure the regular income of the parish continues. **I Thank you.**

Otherwise, please drop your Planned Giving Envelope Contribution into the secure letter box outside the Church in Acacia Ave, each week. Please don't forget the first collection for the sustenance of the clergy (as we still have to live too!) For this collection please place your donation in a plain envelope and mark it 'FIRST COLLECTION' and drop it in the secure letter box outside the Church in Acacia Ave.

**Thank you once again for your continued support of our Parish of St Thomas More, Ruse.**

**ELECTRONIC PARISH PLANNED GIVING:** Parishes are urgently needing the ongoing financial support of parishioners more than ever, as their overhead costs will not change. The majority of parishioners give physically to their parish in the first and second collection baskets during Mass, we are encouraging all parishioners to join the electronic parish planned giving program. The Diocese have created a page with 2 simple options for parishioners to give to their local parish electronically. You can view the page and forms at the following link: [www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving](http://www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving). If you have any questions about the form, please contact the CDF Wollongong: Trevor Kellam at [trevor.kellam@dow.org.au](mailto:trevor.kellam@dow.org.au)

**THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY:** Is available online at <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/catholic-weekly-newspaper-online/>

**Vinnies Winter Appeal:** Your St Vincent de Paul Conference is unable to run a normal Winter Appeal in 2020 due to the current pandemic and associated risks. However, there remain many people in need and anyone able to make a cash donation is encouraged to do so. Simply, visit [www.vinnies.org.au/donate](http://www.vinnies.org.au/donate) or call 13 18 12 to make a secure donation. All donations of \$2 and over are tax-deductible.

**ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:** Please contact the School Office on 4625 6561 for School enquiries. To keep up-to-date with the happenings in our Parish Catholic Primary School please use this link to read their School newsletter:

<https://stmdow.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=50>

#### INFORMATION FROM THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG:

**PLENARY COUNCIL 2020:** The Discernment papers on each Plenary Theme are now available on the Plenary website: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

**THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG WEEKLY PODCAST:** The Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast - 'The Journey' - 28 June 2020. Listen in this week for as we break open the Sunday Gospel reading and hear about the upcoming national Catholic Men's Conference online. There are some great short talks from some of Australia's best Catholic presenters. Uploaded every Friday for free download - go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au)

**DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG MASS ONLINE:** For all of the online Mass options - please visit the DoW website <https://dow.sh/dailymass>. Members of the faithful are urged to keep holy the Lord's Day by making an act of Spiritual Communion (**below**). **Mass for You at Home** is available across the Ten Network on Sundays at 6.00am and any time on Ten Play. **Daily Mass on demand** is available at CathNews YouTube channel

#### CatholicCare: We're always here, if you ever need...

These are challenging times for everyone and CatholicCare are here to support you and your family to navigate the uncertainty. We offer confidential online and phone counselling to support you with the frustration of managing family emotions, relationship pressures and employment changes. To find out more about CatholicCare's counselling service call us on 4254 9395 or email [intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au](mailto:intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au)

**FAITH CIRCLES:** is available free to download at [www.faithcircles.dow.org.au](http://www.faithcircles.dow.org.au) or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

**YOUTH MINISTRY ONLINE:** Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong has launched LIVE- check it out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdC-Q7-0VY>.

**FAITH RESOURCES FOR USE AT HOME:** There are some new adult online faith formation opportunities available on the Diocesan website - go to the new Section on DoW Website. Visit: [www.dow.org.au/covid-19/nourish-your-faith-at-home](http://www.dow.org.au/covid-19/nourish-your-faith-at-home).

**PRAYER RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES:** Go to: [liturgyhelp.com/aus/woll/pray](http://liturgyhelp.com/aus/woll/pray) and follow the prompts to access.

#### PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.*

*Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen*

