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CATHOLIC CHURCH - DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

St. THOMAS MORE PARISH, RUSE
WELCOMES YOU
Parish Priest: Fr Michael Healy

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**
20th SEPTEMBER 2020

FIRST READING - Isaiah 55:6-9.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord.
(R.) Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. the Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

SECOND READING - Philippians 1:20-24, 27.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me

to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
(R.) Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING - Matthew 20:1-16.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you

have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
(R.) Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

PRAYER 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.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT? EQUALITY OR EQUITY?

How would you feel if you had done a full day's work and were paid the same as someone who had only worked for one hour? Is the landowner in the parable being unjust? He pays the workers exactly what he promised them – but he promised everyone the same amount, regardless of when they started work. The workers who started at 6.00 am complain. How do you think the workers who started later in the day felt? The landowner claims the right to be generous – is generosity unfair? There is a difference between treating people equally and equitably. What has the landowner done here?



"Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 18:35.

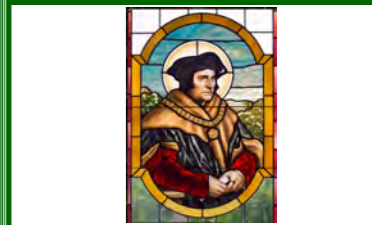


TUESDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER
9.30am. - Mass.
WEDNESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER
9.30am. - Mass.
THURSDAY 24th SEPTEMBER
9.30am. - Mass.
FRIDAY 25th SEPTEMBER
9.30am. - Mass.

RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER
Saturday Vigil for 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
6.00pm. - Mass.
SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER
26th 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

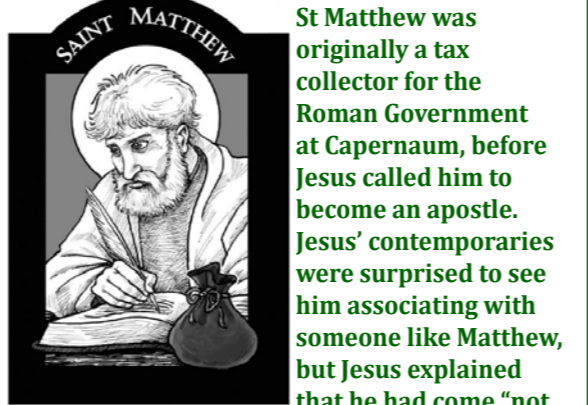
STEWARDSHIP TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

In today's Gospel, the vineyard owner says, "I am free to do as I please with my money, am I not?" We are likewise free.
Is a generous return to the Lord in thanksgiving for His many blessings among the choices we have made?

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
27th SEPTEMBER 2020
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

First Reading:
Ezekiel 18:25-28.
The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.
Second Reading:
Philippians 2:1-11.
In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.
Gospel Reading:
Matthew 21:28-32.
He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

ST. MATTHEW



St Matthew was originally a tax collector for the Roman Government at Capernaum, before Jesus called him to become an apostle. Jesus' contemporaries were surprised to see him associating with someone like Matthew, but Jesus explained that he had come "not to call the just, but the sinners". In the Gospels of Mark and Luke, Matthew is called Levi, and so it is thought that he may have had both names. The first Gospel was believed to have been written by Matthew. His account of Christ's life was written for his fellow Jews; to convince them that their anticipated Messiah had indeed come in the person of Jesus.

HUMOUR CORNER

WELCOME TO THE 21ST CENTURY
OUR PHONES ☎ Wireless
COOKING ☎ Fireless
CARS ☎ Keyless
FOOD ☎ Fatless
DRESS ☎ Sleeveless
YOUTH ☎ Jobless
GOVERNMENT ☎ Useless
LEADERS ☎ Shameless
RELATIONSHIP ☎ Meaningless
ATTITUDE ☎ Careless
WIVES ☎ Fearless
FEELINGS ☎ Heartless
EDUCATION ☎ Valueless
CHILDREN ☎ Mannerless
PARLIAMENT ☎ Clueless
MASSES ☎ Helpless
Everything is becoming LESS
but still,
OUR HOPE IN GOD IS ENDLESS.
In fact I am **SPEECHLESS** because
FRIENDSHIP REMAINS PRICELESS



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*

THE BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL: This Weekend: 19/20 September – To support the Retirement and Health of Clergy and Local parish Ministries. Our faith calls us to help one another through prayer and action. Your donation to this **appeal this weekend**, will enable me to provide a dignified retirement for our diocesan clergy and ensure that our parish communities stay connected during this time of pandemic. While I acknowledge the pressure that some households are facing at this time, if you are in a financial position to give, I would be very grateful if you would consider giving generously to this appeal.
Bishop Brian Mascord

Take a moment to consider a donation. To make a donation, donations can be made by credit card, EFT, cheque or money order. Please visit www.dow.org.au/giving to find out more. Call (02) 4222 2446 to make a donation over the phone.



PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS’S TO OUR PARISH THIS WEEKEND WOULD LIKE to congratulate the Holy Communion Candidates:



May you always know the Peace of Jesus, the Light of His Love and the joy of His LIFE.

For your First Communion Day May God give you.... For every storm, a rainbow, For every tear, a smile, For every care, a promise, And a blessing in each trial. For every problem life sends, A faithful friend to share, For every sigh, a sweet song. And an answer for each prayer.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE: We are celebrating the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, there will be 4 Candidates at each Mass up to and including the weekend of 3rd/4th October.
Please continue to keep in your prayers, these children, their families, their Teacher’s and the Sacramental Team.
Confirmation is scheduled for early November. The Information and Enrolment Form/s have been given out and have to be returned this Friday (25th September).

DO YOU WISH TO ATTEND A WEEKEND MASS? You cannot just turn up for Mass as previously!!

YOU HAVE TO REGISTER WITH THE PARISH OFFICE BY the FRIDAY BEFORE THE WEEKEND MASSES.

As we are celebrating First Holy Communion over the next two weekends, it is essential that you ring the Office during Office working hours, to book a place. We are unable to accommodate more than 70 in our church, and it will not be possible to admit parishioners who have not pre registered.

Please arrive early for Mass (at least 15 minutes beforehand). Church doors are locked as Mass begins, No collections are taken up at Mass. Usual Parish Collection donations can be placed in the baskets provided on the table at the Church entrance door.

If you are elderly (70 years +) or not feeling well, the ruling states that, (for your own safety) YOU MUST STAY AT HOME. After entering the Church for Mass, your hands will be sanitized and your temperature taken. (This is obligatory) then a Monitor will show you to your RESERVED seat, where **Social distancing (4 sq meters)** must be strictly observed, (except for people of the same house-hold)

No Holy Water fonts, No Votive Candles, No Offertory Procession, no Sign of Peace, Holy Communion (in a single file) **must** be Received in the hand.

You are to sanitize your hands again as you leave the Church and **Nobody** will be permitted to socially assemble in the courtyard before, during and after Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: All the people who have died in this current pandemic, the recently deceased and whose anniversaries that occur at this time: Michael Hennessy, Fr Anthony (Tony) Daly), Bernard Hoffmann, John Read, Alice Harris, Mary Writer, Ladislav Feher, Beryl Ford, Jim McKenzie, Bobby Cameron, Marguerite (Marg) Davis, Maree Laming, Jay Jablonskis, Deborah Rix and Maurya Hutton. **May they Rest in Peace**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: For the **many** sick in our Parish Community including: Katy Carolan, Peter Gabas, Ron Fredericks, Kathleen Sidebottom, Kerry Walker, Jessica Nilsson, David Jabour, Dennis Jabour, Samantha Glover, Shirley Starr, Kenny Wilson, Antonio David, Mary Dolan, Frank Byron, Sean Scanlon, Kellie Brandes, Brian Harris, Francisco Carmona, David Minogue, Daphne and Edmund Pew, Steve Foreman, Luke Van Der Burg, Briege Glover, Fr John Whitty, Elaine Hoffmann, Betty Berthon, Moria Harris, Betty Byrne, Rosa Santos, Aimiti Seufatu, John Hill, Freda and Wilfred Miranda, Beryl Purcell, Jeannie and George Nicholson, Mary Fredericks and Flynn Griffiths.

BAPTISM: If you want your child Baptised in our Parish, please contact the Parish Office during Office Hours, so that a suitable date can be organized for the celebration. Due to COVID-19 we are currently having only 1 Baptism per Sunday

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. **Parishioner’s Birthdays this coming week: 19th: Marilyn Fabry, 21st: Brian Harris and 23rd: Maureen Hennessy**

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. If you have any questions about the form, please contact the CDF Wollongong: Trevor Kellam at trevor.kellam@dow.org.au

VINNIES APPEAL: Your St Vincent de Paul Conference was unable to run the Winter Appeal in 2020 due to 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 or call 13 18 12 to make a secure donation. All donations of \$2 and over are tax-deductible.

PARISH CHURCH CLEANER’S:
26th September: Group 6: Tongan Community
3rd Oct: Group 2: Cathy and Michael Bye, Kathy Donachie and Barry Daley

THANKYOU: Parishioner’s and Visitor’s to our Parish Masses during the week and weekends, who help with the santising of their seats plus the many areas that are touched eg: door handles, the Lecturn, Sactuary etc.

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>

AROUND THE DIOCESE:
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.

THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG WEEKLY PODCAST: The Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast – ‘The Journey’ – **20th September 2020.** On the journey this week, A Catholic Version of Q&A, Mother Hilda asks how many times has God put an act of kindness into your life after a rugged day? We hear also from Fr Mike Delaney and Darren McDowell. Uploaded every Friday for free download – go to www.jcr.org.au

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIONS:
27th September: World Refugees & Migration Day

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: Marriage Enrichment Weekend 20-22 November 2020 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Book online at www.wvme.org.au Alternatively contact Christine & Terry on 0490 774 419 or nswwbookings@wvme.org.au

REQUEST FOR PRAYER FOR CATECHIST MINISTRY IN THE DIOCESE: Please keep in your prayers the work of Scripture Teacers, the children they teach in state schools and their families. If you would like to know more about the ministry, please go to www.ccdwollongong.com

YOUTH MINISTRY ONLINE: Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong has launched LIVE -Check it out at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdC-Q7-OVY>. great way. To get in touch with the NET team and be part of this, simply follow the “CYMW” Facebook page or by Instagram at “wollongongnetteam”.

PRAYER RESOURCES for INDIVIDUALS and FAMILIES: these include daily prayers and readings, prayer services, the Sunday Office commentaries, homilies and reflections as well as Gospel based activities and resources to support personal and family prayer. Go to: liturgyhelp.com/aus/woll/pray and follow the prompts to access.

FAITH CIRCLES: free small group resource: Is available to download at www.faithcircles.dow.org.au or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

VACANCY – COMMITTEE FOR THE AGED: The Diocesan Committee for the Aged is a volunteer committee that meets at least quarterly and online with other diocesan stake holders providing support and advice to the Bishop in the Ministry to the Aged within our Diocese. Members would bring experience and knowledge of the welfare of the ageing people or have other areas of expertise in ageing.
We are inviting expressions of interest from parishioners from all over the diocese to be part of this committee for a term of 3 years. *If this interests you, please contact Jane Hollier Parish & Community Liaison Officer at Catholic Care Wollongong on 0417018152 or janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au to get an information pack including position description posted or emailed to you.*

