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**CATHOLIC CHURCH - DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG**

**St. THOMAS MORE PARISH, RUSE**

WELCOMES YOU

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Healy

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- YEAR B

6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020



**FIRST READING -**

**Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11.**

*A reading from the prophet  
Isaiah.*

'Console my people, console them' says your God.  
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.'

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, bsay to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**

3. The Lord will make us

prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING -**

**2 Peter 3:8-14.**

*A reading from the second letter of St Peter*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL READING -**

**Mark 1:1-8.**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness:



Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

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

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.



**TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
9.30am. - Mass.

**WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
9.30am. - Mass.

**THURSDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
9.30am. - Mass.

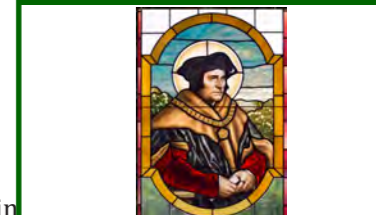
**FRIDAY 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
9.30am. - Mass.

**RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

**SATURDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
**Saturday Vigil for THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**  
6.00pm. - Mass.

**SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**  
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**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

*John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship:*

*"Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live — the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."*

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

**First Reading:**  
**Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11.**

*I exult for joy in the Lord.*

**Second Reading:**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24.**

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Gospel Reading:**

**John 1:6-8, 19-28.**

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.*

**HUMOUR CORNER**

**THE MENTAL PATIENT'S ANSWER .....**

A man starts his new job as the administrator of an insane asylum. While he is given his orientation, he was asked if he had any questions.

"Yes, how do we know if a patient is ready to leave the asylum?" He asks.

"Well," the director says. "We just ask them a simple question and based on their response determine if they need to stay longer."

The director then calls up three patients for a demonstration. He asks the first one, "What is 6 times 6?"

The patient is shaking and nervously says "1000?"  
The director shakes his head "no, give this one six more months."

He then turns to the next patient. This one jumps up and down and screams "February!"

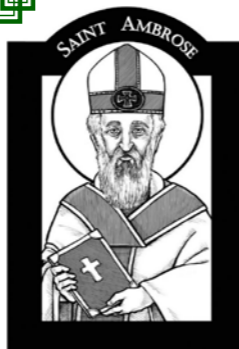
"Oh god no!" Says the director. "Another year for this one!"

Finally, he turns to the third patient who looks at him calmly and says, "Well, the answer is obviously 36."

"Yes!" Exclaims the director. "How did you know that?!"

"Easy, I just divided 1000 by February."

**ST AMBROSE**



St Ambrose was born at Trier in 334 AD. While practising law he was appointed governor of the province of Aemilia and Liguria. Four years later when the see of Milan became vacant, St Ambrose was chosen as the new bishop, despite the fact that he was not even

baptised. He reluctantly accepted the position, was baptised, ordained a priest and then installed as bishop. In 390 AD, after Emperor Theodosius ordered the savage massacre of many people, St Ambrose impressed upon the Emperor to perform a public penance for this act of cruelty. St Ambrose is listed as one of the four great Latin doctors of the church. He was a great orator who gave sermons that offered practical teachings for his people. He was also the first teacher in the West to make significant use of hymns as a popular means of praise.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year B**



6<sup>th</sup> December 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*

**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 (12noon) BEFORE THE WEEKEND MASSES.**

**We are unable to accommodate more than 90 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 a seat, where **Social distancing (4 sq meters)** must be strictly observed, (except for people of the same house-hold). Holy Communion (in a single file) **must** be Received in the hand **Nobody** will be permitted to socially assemble in the courtyard before, during and after Mass.



**WE WELCOME:** To our Parish Masses this weekend, Parishioners, visitors and those that have been absent from the Church, especially during these difficult times of COVID-19. **May God always be with you and keep you safe in the palms of his hands.**

**PARISH GROUNDS WORKING BEE FOR CHRISTMAS: Will be held next Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 8.30am to 11.00am.**

Thank you to the parishioners who have been keeping our Parish lawns mowed and gardens tidied, many have positively commented on how our Parish grounds have been kept. There are many jobs to be included in this working bee: eg: mowing, trimming etc. could you please bring mowers, brooms etc. Morning Tea will be provided. **Many hands make light work.** This is also a good opportunity to “catch-up” with those you have not seen in a while. **Thanking you all in anticipation**

**CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION and MASS TIMETABLE:**

**Reconciliation:**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec:** 10.30am – 11.30pm

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec:** 10.30am – 11.30am

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec:** 10.30am – 11.30am

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 10.30am – 11.30am

**CHRISTMAS WEEK MASS TIMETABLE:**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December:** 9.30am

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December:** 9.30am

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December:** 9.30am

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE:**

**Christmas Eve Vigil:** 6.00pm Mass

**Midnight Mass:** 12 midnight

**Christmas Day:** 9.00am Mass

**READER’S FOR CHRISTMAS:**

**Christmas Vigil Mass:**

Kerry Hennessy and Julie Gordon (McKenzie)

**Christmas Midnight Mass:**

May Michelutti and Carmel Munro

**Christmas Day Mass:**

Feyise and Tess Writer.

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS TAKING CHRISTMAS MASS REGISTRATIONS EITHER BY PHONE (DURING OFFICE HOURS), EMAIL TO THE PARISH OFFICE, OR CLIPBOARD AT WEEKEND MASSES.**

**LOW GLUTEN HOSTS:** If you require *Low-Gluten Hosts* for Holy Communion please see Fr Michael *before* Mass and they will be available for you at Holy Communion.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** to *Julie Maree McKenzie* and *Gregory Steven Gordon* who were Married in our Parish last weekend. We wish them a life time of Blessings.

**WE WELCOME into our Christian Community:**

*Piper Amanda Muiser* and *Elijah John McMurray* who were Baptised in our Parish last weekend.

**Parishioner’s Birthday this coming week:**

6<sup>th</sup>: *Joe Berbari*

**Parishioner’s Wedding Anniversary this week:**

5<sup>th</sup>: *Kerry and Maureen Hennessy (50 years)*

**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).

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** The recently deceased and the Anniversaries that occur at this time: Edmund Pew (R.D.), Steven English (R.D.), Thomas McVittie (R.D.), Fr Tony Daly, John Read, Jim McKenzie, Mary Writer, Maree Laming, Bobby Cameron, Jay Jablonskis, Alice Harris, Deborah Rix, Marg Davis, Bernard Hoffmann, Maurya Hutton and all the people who have died in this current pandemic. **May eternal rest grant to them O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** For the *many* sick in our Parish Community including: Chris Hayes, Tresora Wyer, Trish Spackman, Katy Carolan, Jan Vaughan, 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 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.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY TOY APPEAL:** While we are not running a Jesse Tree in the current pandemic, the need for (not wrapped) any age toys remains. **For this year, a box for toy donations is available in the Parish Office during office hours. Many thanks in anticipation of your generosity**

**PARISH CHURCH CLEANER’S:**

12<sup>th</sup> Dec: Group 5: Somoan Divine Mercy

19<sup>th</sup> Dec: Group 1: Syro-Malabar Indian Community

**PARISH READER’S: for the next fortnight:**

**Saturday Vigil Mass: 12<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Jessica Littlewood and Bev McKenzie

**Sunday 9.00am Mass: 13<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Julie Writer and Marian Cross

**Saturday Vigil Mass: 19<sup>th</sup> Dec:** John Greene and Jessica Littlewood

**Sunday 9.00am Mass: 20<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Marian Cross and Julie Writer

**ADVERTISING ON THE BACK COVER OF THE PARISH BULLETIN:**

If you would like to advertise your Business on the back cover of the Parish Bulletin please see/contact either Fr Michael, Barry Daley (Chairman Parish Finance Council) or the Parish Office. A business card size is \$275.00 (includes GST) or double business card size is \$550.00 (includes GST) this cost covers advertising for 12 months.

**THANK YOU!**

**THANK YOU:** Parishioners and Visitors 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. **Also, to the Parishioners who have kindly donated: sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer and face masks.**

**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.

**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 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> collection baskets during Mass, we are encouraging all parishioners to join the electronic parish planned giving program. The Diocese has 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: <https://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)

**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 OF WOLLONGONG**

**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’ – 6<sup>th</sup> December: Uploaded every Friday for free download – go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au)

**PRAYER RESOURCES for INDIVIDUALS and FAMILIES:** [liturgyhelp.com/aus/woll/pray](http://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](http://www.faithcircles.dow.org.au) or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

**YOUTH MINISTRY ONLINE:** <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”.