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Catholic Church - Diocese of Wollongong

St. THOMAS MORE PARISH, RUSE

welcomes you

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Healy



**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
- YEAR A**

19th APRIL 2020



GOD MAY BE CALLING YOU,
but probably not on your mobile phone.
PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE
during the celebration of the Holy Mass.

FIRST READING - Acts 2:42-47.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

- Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' **(R.)**

- I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper. The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour. There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. **(R.)**

- The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

SECOND READING - 1 Peter 1:3-9.

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ

from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoiled or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens.

Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING - John 20:19-31.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who

was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

(R.) Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

REFLECTION - by Fr Michael Tate.

Thomas was granted the gift of seeing the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was invited to touch them. Responding, he simply cries out: 'My Lord and my God.'

Thomas does not declare his belief in the Resurrection as such. That was all too apparent. Rather, he declares his faith in the identity of the risen Jesus Christ: 'My Lord and my God.'

Pope Francis says we can only join Thomas in this faith by touching the wounds of Christ. Those wounds are to be found in the body of someone wounded. This can be in a myriad of ways.

We have to bend down and touch those wounds in whatever means of healing is available to us. Otherwise we simply engage in philanthropy at a distance. We end up believing in a semblance of God, but not God embodied in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ always bearing his wounds.

Sometimes we struggle with our faith - after all, it is an astounding claim that Jesus of Nazareth is God embodied for us. You, or any other person intrigued by Jesus, are invited to touch the wounds of Christ and let the patience of God take care of the timing of the response of faith.

We could pause for a moment, praying to be counted amongst those who receive the Blessing promised to those who have not seen the Risen Lord as such, but who touch his wounds and proclaim, 'My Lord and my God.'

mtate@bigpond.com



MASS TIMES

PUBLIC MASSES AND LITURGIES— BOTH INDOOR AND OUTDOOR— ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

(The faithful can keep holy their Sunday by setting aside some time for prayer at home, reading the Scriptures of the day, watching Mass on television or online, and asking God for the graces they would normally receive in Holy Communion)

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.

STEWARDSHIP

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
YEAR A**

Jesus meets the need of each disciple. To the fearful in the upper room, He speaks words of peace. To doubting Thomas, He provides the tangible proof of His resurrection.

What do I need to become His disciple?

What do I have to share that might meet someone else's need?

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

**26th APRIL 2020
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A**

**1st Reading:
Acts 2:14, 22-33.**

It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.

**2nd Reading:
1 Peter 1:17-21.**

The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

**Gospel Reading:
Luke 24:13-35.**

They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

SAINT OF THE DAY

St Anselm



St. Anselm was born in Italy in 1033 and studied in Normandy with Lanfranc; a highly regarded teacher of that time. In his late twenties Anselm became a monk in Lanfranc's monastery and spent his time in prayer, meditation and study. Many years later he reluctantly succeeded Lanfranc as the archbishop of Canterbury. This appointment brought him into many conflicts with the English king over the rights of the church and eventually resulted in Anselm's exile in 1097. He was regarded highly as a philosopher and theologian, and was considered the most important Christian writer in the time between Augustine and Thomas Aquinas.

Anselm was named a doctor of the church in 1734.

HUMOUR CORNER



THIS ISOLATION IS MAKING SOME PEOPLE CRAZY

I'm glad I'm not one of those.

I've been talking about this with the microwave and toaster while drinking coffee and all of us agreed that things are getting bad.

I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she puts a different spin on everything.

Certainly not to the fridge as he is acting cold and distant.

The sink just said everything is going down the drain.

In the end the iron calmed me down as she said everything will be fine, the situation isn't that pressing.

The vacuum was very unsympathetic. Told me just to suck it up, but the fan was more optimistic and felt it would all soon blow over!

The toilet looked a bit flushed when I asked its opinion and didn't say anything, but the door knob told me to get a grip.

The front door said I was unhinged and then...

The curtains told me to pull myself together!



**CHURCH
OFFICE HOURS**

Secretary: Mrs Carmel Munro

**TUESDAY - FRIDAY
9.00am - 3.30pm**

Parish ☎: 4628 2967

Email: ruse@dow.org.au

School ☎: 4625 6561

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
Year A



19th April 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:

Just a few weeks ago, the name COVID19 would have meant nothing to us. Not so now, a tiny VIRUS has turned the life-style and way of living of the whole world on its head, including the life and Ministry of the Universal Church and our local Parish.

This is the fourth weekend that, as a Parish, we have been unable to celebrate together. While it was lovely to view Good Friday and Easter Ceremonies on channel 7 T.V. the absence of our usual "Family Meal and Get-together" left a big gap in our parish. And this absence is not going to finish for some time.

So, we have to "hang-in-there" spiritually together and pray for each other.

Even though COVID19 may physically **ISOLATE** us from each other, it must not **ALIENATE** us from each other and from our Lord **COVID19 WILL END.**

We need more than ever to pray **DAILY** to our God, to strengthen our faith, our patience, our perseverance and to become more aware of HIS presence and HIS closeness to us and to that parish bond that unites us together. I will continue to offer my daily Mass for you – even if it is a "private" Mass!

Christ's loud Easter Message to all of us is that He is Risen – He is here – WE ARE NOT ALONE.

The Aussie current expression "We are all in this together" must have special significance for us, as a Parish.
God Bless for now
Fr Michael

I invite you to join me each day also in praying Bishop Brian's prayer for our Diocese: **God of Love, we the people of the Diocese of Wollongong turn to you with prayerful hearts and with confidence in your loving presence among us now and in every moment of our lives. We stand before you as people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. May we be comforted by your love in these anxious times.**

MASS ONLINE AND OTHER SPIRITUAL RESOURCES: During This period of time where Masses in the diocese are suspended, it is important to know that you have not been abandoned by the Church. Members of the faithful are urged to keep holy the Lord's Day by making an act of Spiritual Communion (read far column), a well-established devotional practice of uniting one's self in prayer with Christ's sacrifice when circumstance prevent one from receiving holy Communion. Mass online available at www.dow.org.au and on the diocese's Facebook page with Bishop Brian Mascord and other priests from the diocese. These online Masses will continue every Sunday giving parishioners the opportunity to make an act of Spiritual communion together as a diocese.

Other resources include:

Daily Mass from St John the Evangelist Catholic Parish, Campbelltown, Tuesday-Sunday Masses from Our Lady Help of Christians, Rosemeadow, 7pm Mass and Sunday 10am from Mary Immaculate, Eagle Vale, All Saints, Shellharbour at 7am and Tuesday-Fridays, St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong at 12.10pm, St Pauls', Moss Vale, Tuesday-Sundays at 8am Mary Mother of the Church, Macquarie Fields. Saturdays 5pm and Sunday 10am Mass from St Mary MacKillop Catholic Church, Oran Park

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

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 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.

ELECTRONIC PARISH PLANNED GIVING: During this period of time where Masses in the diocese are suspended, parishes are urgently needing the ongoing financial support of parishioners more than ever, as their overhead costs will not change. As the vast 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 don't hesitate to contact the CDF Wollongong: Trevor Kellam at trevor.kellam@dow.org.au

THE PARISH BULLETIN: If you know of anyone that would like to have a copy of the Parish Weekly Bulletin **emailed** to them, could you please ask them to contact the Parish Office.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY: Because of the closure of churches the Catholic Weekly has temporarily stopped its printed edition. However, it is still available online at <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/catholic-weekly-newspaper-online/>

PROJECT COMPASSION (CARITAS Australia): Since the Church cannot be opened at the moment, please return your Project Compassion Boxes and/or envelopes to the Parish Office (during Office Hours) ASAP.

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 Birthday this coming week:

21st: **Eddy Radzieta**

23rd: **Chris Charlton**

24th: **Richard Martin**

Parishioner's Wedding Anniversary this coming week:

24th: **Maria and Frank Byron (34 years)**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: The recently deceased and the anniversaries that occur at this time: Marie Pollard, Cathy Wiggins, Barbara Fetterplace, Michael Bartley, Winifred Minogue, Fr Anthony (Tony) Daly, Ladislav Feher, Beryl Ford, Olga Saulig, Jim McKenzie, John Read, Mary Writer, Bobby Cameron, Alice Harris, Marguerite (Marg) Davis, Maree Laming, Jay Jablonskis, Deborah Rix, Bernard Hoffmann, Maurya Hutton and Maria Cabonara. **May they rest in peace**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: The **many** sick in our Parish Community including: Hannah Kavanagh, Eileen Hughes, Mary Dolan, Frank Byron, Sean Scanlon, Kellie Brandes, Brian Harris, Francisco Carmona, David Minogue, Daphne and Edmund Pew, Steve Foreman, Luke Van Der Burg, Briegle Glover, Fr John Whitty, Elaine Hoffmann, Ellen Healy, 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 and Mary Fredericks.

THANKYOU: To the Parishioners, who have been ensuring our Parish Grounds and gardens are maintained. Your continued support of our Parish is greatly appreciated by all. **Thank you**

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Are taking enrolments for 2021. Please contact the School Office, for further information on 4625 6561. The link to read our Parish Catholic Primary School newsletter is: <https://stmdow.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=43>
Save the date: SCHOOL FETE: HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR 2020.

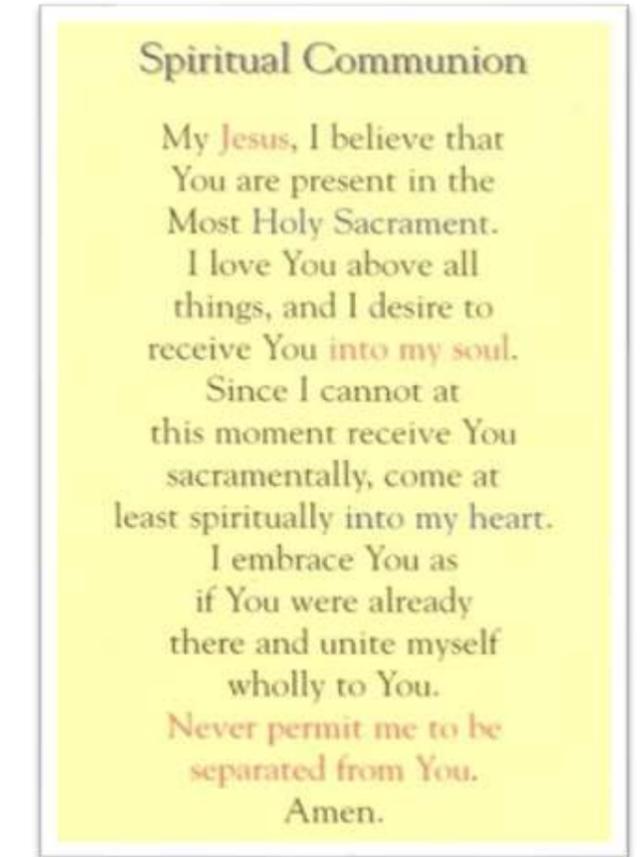
Wishing all our Parish School Children and their families a very safe, healthy and enjoyable holiday break in these difficult times.

CATHFAMILY: Brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts and recipes for free from their website. <https://cathfamily.org/cathkids-faith-unlimited/> A weekly interactive experience with a 2-minute animated reflection on

the Sunday reading, questions to stimulate discussion, a simple activity and prayer. Visit www.cathfamily.org especially during this time of COVID-19 social distancing especially if children are unable to attend school.

FAITH CIRCLES: free small group resource. During this period of Pandemic isolation, you are encouraged to spend time in prayer and spiritual reading and faith Circles is one way that you do this. The weekly Faith Circles resource is available free to download at www.faithcircles.dow.org.au or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

A "spiritual Communion" can be made when a person cannot actually receive the Body and Blood of 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