



10th December 2017

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

Our Parish is wheelchair friendly. We have ramps going into the Church and into the Parish Hall. Please let your family and friends know. “Anymore who welcomes you, welcome me and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.” Matthew 10:40

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.

The Pope announced at 10pm on 30 November 2017 (Sydney time) that he accepted the resignation of our bishop, Peter Ingham, who has passed the age of retirement.

Congratulations to our new Bishop, Bishop-elect, Fr Brian Mascord, Vicar General of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Thank you to Bishop Peter Ingham for the many faithful years of service, a genuine pastor. Thank you

THANK YOU TO THE MANY PARISHIONERS IN THE VARIOUS PARISH MINISTRIES: for the giving of your time and talents for our Parish. Acolyte’s, Sacristans, Church Cleaners, Flower arrangers, Musicians (all Choir’s), Readers, Powerpoint Creator and operators, Extraordinary Ministers Of Communion, Ushers, Parish Counters, Catechists, Sacramental Team, Children’s Liturgy Teacher’s, Baptism Preparation, Parish Ladies Group, St Vincent de Paul, Refreshments after Mass groups, and the many other Parish Ministry Groups. You are greatly appreciated. *Thank you*

WE WELCOME: Into our Parish Community *Katarina Maria and Anna Jessica Morrison, Ameliya Juliana Spiteri, Indianah Esta and Adam Michael Gill* who were Baptised last weekend.

PARISHIONER’S BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK:

12th: *Melanie Webb*
13th: *Russell Goodall*
14th: *Aggie D’Sa*

PARISHIONER’S WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK:

14th: *Brian & Chris O’Brien (43 years)*

IF ANY PARISHIONER/S: 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

PLEASE PRAY FOR: The *many* sick in our Parish Community including: Fr David Catterall, Patricia McInerney, Helen Rawson, Colleen Keane, Betty Berthon, Faleniko Tiatele, Maureen Wyer, Brenda Baker, Moria Harris, Jessica Cartwright, Betty Byrne, Rosa Santos, Elaine Hoffmann, Natalie Dwyer, Aimiti Seufatu, Robert Berthaly, John Hill, Maree and Noel Laming, Rita Jowsey, Freda and Wilfred Miranda, Beryl Purcell, Jeannie and George Nicholson and Mary Fredericks.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED: Ralph Carmona (Anniv) Fr Tony Daly, Deborah Rix, Jim McKenzie, Mary Writer, John Read, Alice Harris, Maurya Hutton, Ladislav Feher, Bobby Cameron, Bernard Hoffmann and Maria Cabonara.

May internal rest grant to them O Lord and may perpetual Light shine upon them.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY: Is held during the 9.00am Sunday morning Mass (during School Terms) and is for *school aged children - Kindergarten to Year 6 (inclusive) This Sunday is the last for 2017.*

ST THOMAS MORE PARISH PLAYTIME: Will return in February 2018.

PARISH LADIES GROUP CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: Thank you to the many people who have supported these Parish Fundraising Raffles. Christmas is fast approaching and the Parish Ladies Group have 8 wonderful prizes for their Christmas Raffle. Tickets will be on sale before and after Masses this weekend (9/10th Dec). Tickets are \$1.00 each. *The raffle will be drawn next Sunday (Rose Sunday)(17th December after the 9.00am Mass).* Thank you for supporting this Parish Fundraiser.

PARISH GROUNDS WORKING BEE PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS: Is next Saturday 16th December from 8.30am. Please bring along, lawnmowers, whipper snippers, etc. Morning Tea will be provided. **The more hands the lighter the better.**

THE PARISH LADIES GROUP, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR VINNIES CONFERENCE: Is again seeking your help in helping making Christmas a little bit more joyful for some needy children in our Parish. Tags are on the Jesse Tree, you are invited to take as many as you are able, and purchase a gift suitable for a child whose age and gender is on the tag. **Please return unwrapped gifts during this week to the Parish Office (during Office hours).**

Your generosity is very much appreciated

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD: All Parishioner’s and Visitors are invited to the Parish celebration next Sunday 17th December (Rose Sunday - 3rd Sunday of Advent) at the 9.00am Mass followed by Refreshments in the Parish Hall. Rose Sunday is awaiting the coming of Jesus - and it provides **Us with the encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation For Christmas.**

If possible, it would be appreciated if you could please bring a plate of food to share.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: 5.30pm on Christmas Eve, prior to Vigil Mass. Any school children who would like to participate in this Liturgy please contact **Joanne Griffin on 0421 802 132.** for full details. **All children are encouraged to join.**

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE: The Parish is looking for a volunteer who will be willing to work on a regular basis each week in an effort to keep the Church grounds and surrounds neat and tidy. Hours would be flexible and any handyman skills would also be beneficial as there sometimes small tasks that need doing but it is expensive to bring a tradesman in. If you are able to assist please contact the Office on 46282967 your help would be greatly appreciated.

PARISH MAINTENANCE: Like anywhere, from time to time little things need ‘doing’ in the Church, Parish Hall, toilets etc. It’s good to keep on top of things. If you happen to notice eg: kneelers need mending, or anything that is need of repair, please write in the Maintenance book on the main table at the entrance of the Church. You can either write in the book or phone/email the Parish Office, if you are aware or notice anything that is in need of repair.

TAKE A RISK AND GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH: In our Parish there is a team of volunteers what take a risk and step out in faith. Each week of the school year Catechists present 30 minute lessons using a step-by-step lesson plan that helps Catholic children (in the State Schools) Understand their faith, grow in love and maturity And learn what it means to be Catholic. If you would Like to join this Ministry or have any questions please Contact our Parish Scripture Co-Ordinator: Colleen on 0414284717.

PARISH PIETY STALL: Come and have a look at our Parish Piety Stall eg: Rosary Beads, 2018 Calendars etc. **The Piety Stall also has many Christmas present ideas. Come and have a look at what is also available.**

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Please take a copy of the School Newsletter and keep up to date with what is happening in our Parish Catholic Primary School.

MASS IN FRENCH is celebrated at St John’s Parish, Campbelltown, every second Sunday of the month. The next one will be tonight (Sunday 10th of December) at 6:00 pm.

JOURNEY MAGAZINE: News from the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong - Summer 2017 edition. Please take home this latest edition. The main feature being an interview with Bishop Peter Ingham as he prepares to say farewell (it was announced 3 days after this went to print that Pape Frances announced our new Bishop-elect for the Diocese). Christmas Mass and Reconciliation Times 2017; and many other great articles. **Copies are available from all the tables at the entrance to the Church.**

PARISH DIARY DATES:

12th December: - Vinnies final meeting for year and Christmas get together at Essen restaurant at 7pm. **First meeting for 2018 will be Tuesday 13 February 2018.** New members always welcome to attend.

14th December: after 9.30am Mass Retiree Social Group Gathering (Retiree’s over 55 are most welcome)- Parish Hall (last for 2017)

20th December: 7.30pm Parish Finance Council Meeting in the Parish Centre (last for 2017)

CHRISTMAS DAY THIS YEAR: Falls on a Monday and this is a holy day of obligation. The Sunday obligation will be covered by the Saturday Vigil and Sunday 9.00am Mass (23/24th Dec). The Christmas Day obligation (holy day) is covered by the Sunday evening Vigil (for Christmas), Midnight Mass and Christmas Day Mass.

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION TIMETABLE:
Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd 10.00am - 11.00am (after the 9.30am weekday Morning Mass). **Saturday 23rd:** 11.00-12.30pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE:

Sunday 24th December:
5.30pm: Christmas Pageant and Carols
6.00pm: Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
11.30pm: Christmas Carols
Monday 25th December:
12.00am: Midnight Mass
8.30am: Christmas Carols
9.00am: Christmas Day Mass

READER’S FOR CHRISTMAS:

Sunday 24th December: Christmas Eve Vigil Mass: Julie McKenzie and May Michelutti
Monday 25th December:
Midnight Mass: Carmel and James Munro
Christmas Day Mass: Alison Hourigan and Christine Foreman

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER’S OF COMMUNION:

Sunday 24th December: Christmas Eve Vigil Mass: Mavon Vaughan & Catherine Minogue
Monday 25th December:
Midnight Mass: Annette Read & Bertha Barbari
Christmas Day Mass: Bertha Barbari

PARISH ROSARY STATUE: *“When you prayer the Rosary, you have our Lady’s hand in your hand. When you pray the Holy Rosary you have the power of God in your hand”.* If you would like to have the Parish Rosary Statue in your home, **please phone Bev on: 4625 0659.**

PARISH ROSTERS FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS:

- **EXTRADORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:**

16th December: Saturday Vigil Mass: Bertha Barbari & Bev McKenzie
17th December (Rose Sunday): Sunday 9.00am Mass: Fay & Junior Faamau
23rd December: Saturday Vigil Mass: Bev McKenzie & Bertha Barbari
24th December: Sunday 9.00am Mass: Mavon Vaughan & Julie Writer
(Christmas: see notices)

- **READERS FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:**

16th December: Saturday Vigil Mass: James Munro & May Michelutti
17th December (Rose Sunday): Sunday 9.00am Mass: Feyise & Jim Writer
23rd December: Saturday Vigil Mass: Marisel King & David Minogue
24th December: Sunday 9.00am Mass: Bill George & Marian Cross
(Christmas: see notices)

- **USHERS FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKENDS:**

16th December: Saturday Vigil Mass: Vicki Horne
17th December (Rose Sunday): Sunday 9.00am Mass: Barry Daley
23rd December: Saturday Vigil Mass: HELP REQUIRED
24th December: Sunday 9.00am Mass: Chris Reddy

- **CHURCH CLEANERS’ FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS:**

Saturday 16th December: Group 1: Syro-Malabar Indian Community, Saturday 23rd December: Elisapeta Misinale

