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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
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 - YEAR B

All of the people in today's readings — the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist — seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do.

Do I?

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

20th DECEMBER 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B

First Reading:

2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16.

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Second Reading:

Romans 16:25-27.

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Gospel Reading:

Luke 1:26-38.

You will conceive and bear a son.

HUMOUR CORNER

A VERY CLEVER DOG

As a butcher is shoeing a dog from his shop, he sees a \$10 and a note in his mouth, reading: "5 lamb chops, please." Amazed, he takes the money, puts a bag of chops in the dog's mouth, and quickly closes the shop.

He follows the dog and watches him wait for a green light, look both ways, and trot across the road to a bus stop. The dog checks the timetable and sits on the bench. When a bus arrives, he walks around to the front and looks at the number, then boards the bus.

The butcher follows, dumbstruck. As the bus travels out into the suburbs, the dog takes in the scenery. After a while, he stands on his back paws to push the "stop" bell, then the butcher follows him off.

The dog runs up to a house and drops his bag on the step. He goes back down the path, takes a big run, and throws himself -Whap!- against the door. He does this again and again. No answer. So he jumps on a wall, walks around the garden, beats his head against a window, jumps off, and waits at the front door.

A big guy opens it and starts cursing and shouting at the dog. The butcher runs up and screams at the guy: "What the hell are you doing?"

This dog's a genius!"

"Genius, my butt - It's the second time this week he's forgotten his keys!"

ST JOHN OF THE CROSS



St John of the Cross was born into a poor Spanish family in 1542. After attending a Jesuit college, he joined the Carmelite Order, studied theology and was the ordained a priest at the age of 25. St Teresa of Avila encouraged him to join the Discalced Carmelite Reform, which provided

two houses for friars. But after several years he was seized and imprisoned by the Calced Carmelite friars, who rejected the reform. St John of the Cross was a mystic and poet, and it was during his captivity that he wrote some of his finest work. He eventually escaped and founded a college at Baeza. St John is regarded as a Doctor of Mystical Theology, and was officially declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926



CATHOLIC CHURCH - DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 - YEAR B
 13th DECEMBER 2020

FIRST READING -

Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **(R.)**

2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **(R.)**

3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **(R.)**

SECOND READING -

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING -

John 1:6-8. 19-28.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you - unknown to you - the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.



There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.'

John 1:6-7.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

REFLECTION - by Fr Michael Tate.

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb.

We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

mtate@bigpond.com



TUESDAY 15th DECEMBER
 9.30am. - Mass.

WEDNESDAY 16th DECEMBER
 9.30am. - Mass.

THURSDAY 17th DECEMBER
 9.30am. - Mass.

FRIDAY 18th DECEMBER
 9.30am. - Mass.

RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

SATURDAY 19th DECEMBER
Saturday Vigil for
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT -
YEAR B
 6.00pm. - Mass.

SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER
FOURTH 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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year B
(Rose Sunday)



13th 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, visitor’s 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.*

WE WELCOME into our Christian Community:

Liyon Heesara Fernando and Charlotte Elizabeth Little who were Baptised in our Parish last weekend.

Parishioner’s Birthday this coming week:

13th: *Russell Goodall*

14th: *Aggie D’Sa*

Parishioner’s Wedding Anniversary this coming week:

14th: *Chris and Brian O’Brien (46 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.

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION and MASS TIMETABLE:

Reconciliation:

Monday 21st Dec: 10.30am – 11.30pm

Tuesday 22nd Dec: 10.30am – 11.30am

Wednesday 23rd Dec: 10.30am – 11.30am

Thursday 24th Dec: 10.30am – 11.30am

CHRISTMAS WEEK MASS

TIMETABLE:

Monday 21st December: 9.30am

Tuesday 22nd December: 9.30am

Wednesday 23rd December: 9.30am

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE:

Christmas Eve Vigil: 6.00pm Mass
(CAPACITY REACHED)

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 (MIDNIGHT MASS and CHRISTMAS DAY ONLY (6.00pm VIGIL MASS BOOKED OUT) EITHER BY PHONE (DURING OFFICE HOURS) OR EMAIL TO THE PARISH OFFICE.

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: The recently deceased and the Anniversaries that occur at this time: Betty Shearman (R.D.), Edmund Pew, Steven English, Thomas McVittie, 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: Sue Boyd, Maria Byron, 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. **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:

19th Dec: Group 1: Syro-Malabar Indian Community

26th Dec: **CLEANER’S NEEDED**

PARISH READER’S: for the next fortnight:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 19th Dec: John Greene & Jessica Littlewood

Sunday 9.00am Mass: 20th Dec: Marian Cross & Julie Writer

Saturday Vigil Mass: 26th Dec: James Munro & John Greene

Sunday 9.00am Mass: 27th Dec: Annette Read & Maureen Molland

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!

THANKYOU: Parishioners and Visitors to our Parish Masses during the week and weekends, who help with the sanitising of their seats plus the many areas that are touched eg: door handles, the Lectern, Sactuary etc. **Also, to the Parishioners who have kindly donated: sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer and face masks.**

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Please contact the School Office on 4625 6561 for School enquiries.

Wishing all our Parish School Children, their families and Teacher’s a very happy, restful, Holy and Blessed Christmas and the very best for 2021.

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 2nd 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

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’ – 13th December: Uploaded every Friday for free download – go to www.jcr.org.au



ROSE SUNDAY: The Third Sunday of Advent, is the midpoint of our preparation for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus. It is a Time to encourage each other in our spiritual preparation for Christmas. **The Third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday or Rejoice Sunday. The Third Sunday of Advent indicates** that

the season of penance is coming to an end and soon we will be rejoicing in the celebration of Christmas. **Priests wear Rose Vestments on the Third Sunday of Advent** because: Baudete is the Latin word that means rejoice. This is why Priests have the option of wearing Rose on this particular Sunday.