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Catholic Church - Diocese of Wollongong

St. THOMAS MORE PARISH, RUSE

welcomes you

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Healy

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

26th APRIL 2020



FIRST READING - Acts 2:14, 22-33.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.' **(R.)**

2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **(R.)**

3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

4. You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever. **(R.)**

SECOND READING - 1 Peter 1:17-21.
 A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason - so that you would have faith and hope in God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
 make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
 Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING - Luke 24:13-35.
 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were

talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and

returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

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

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My **Jesus**, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You **into my soul**. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unit myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.
 Amen.

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

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

The disciples on the road to Emmaus walked and talked with Jesus all day long, but it was not until they offered Him hospitality and He blessed and broke the bread that they recognized Him.

Simple acts of loving kindness still reveal the presence of God in our midst.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

**3rd MAY 2020
 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A**

1st Reading:
Acts 2:14, 36-41.

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

2nd Reading:
1 Peter 2:20-25.

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Reading:
John 10:1-10.

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

SAINT OF THE DAY
Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church



St. Athanasius was born in Alexandria to Christian parents in C.297. He was educated at a catechetical school and later went to the desert to spend time in retreat with St Anthony the hermit. He became Bishop of Alexandria in 328 and was a strong supporter of church orthodoxy.

Athanasius was equally strong in his condemnation of Arianism which denied the Divinity of Christ. In his time as bishop conflicts with Arians led to his going into exile on up to five occasions. During this time he continued his writings on theology, as well as a biography of his friend St Anthony. Athanasius is portrayed as one of the Four Eastern Doctors of the Church.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Secretary: Mrs Carmel Munro
TUESDAY - FRIDAY
9.00am - 3.30pm

Parish ☎: 4628 2967
 Email: ruse@dow.org.au
 School ☎: 4625 6561

HUMOUR CORNER

THE THIEF AND THE POLITICIAN

Once upon a time there was a thief and a politician who were friends.

One day, they entered a chocolate store. While they were busy looking around, the thief stole 3 chocolate bars. As they left the store, the thief said to the politician: "Man! I'm the best thief ever, I stole 3 chocolates and no one saw me. You can't beat that."

The politician replied: "You wanna see something better? Let's go back to the shop and I'll show you real stealing."

So they went to the counter and politician said to the shopkeeper: "Hey do you wanna see magic?"

The Shop keeper replied: "Sure!"
 The politician says: "Give me one chocolate bar!"
 The shop keeper gave him one, and he ate it.
 He asked for a second, and he ate that as well..
 He asked a third, and finished that one too.

The shop keeper asked: "But where's the magic?"

The politician replied: "Check in my friend's pocket here, and you'll find it!"

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
Year A



26th 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:

Prayerful good wishes and peace to all of you, as we plod on together, while still apart. I'm battling in myself to feel what should be a time of Easter Joy and Celebration, while in practice we are in the present state of flux, wondering if things will ever be the same again. But, even if we cannot gather together we must continue to love and support each other.

In the midst of all this social isolation, we celebrate ANZAC Day. I doubt if it is a coincidence that ANZAC Day each year falls in the middle of the Easter period.

At Easter, Christians celebrate that, by dying and rising, Jesus bought us from slavery to sin into the freedom and peace of His Kingdom. We celebrate that we are no longer slaves to sin and Satan but, by the Easter mysteries, are brought into the freedom and peace of God's life and His family in the Church.

On this ANZAC Day week-end, we celebrate and appreciate our Nation's freedom and peace, and THAT freedom and peace was bought for us a great price to some.

We remember and celebrate all Aussies who fought in all wars to protect that freedom and peace, especially those who died in war. We are reminded and challenged this weekend not to take our freedom and peace for granted.

While ANZAC Day Public celebrations cannot occur this year, it is important that each of us celebrate in our prayer and private thoughts the serenity and the security of our Country's freedom and peace. Equally important is that we make a special effort to be peaceful and loving to our family members at home.

Lets continue to prayerfully support each other while we wait until we celebrate together again at Mass. I will continue to offer my daily Mass for each and all of you.

May God Bless and comfort you all *Fr Michael*

UPDATE FROM THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG:

ANZAC DAY for the FAITHFUL in the DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG: Bishop Mascord has made available an online service that enables the faithful around the Diocese to appropriately and prayerfully mark the occasion of ANZAC Day this weekend. The material is available via www.dow.org.au

NOURISH YOUR FAITH AT HOME: New Section of DoW Website: www.dow.org.au/covid-19/nourish-your-faith-at-home. During these times of uncertainty, and isolation, nourishing our faith becomes even more important. Through spending time with God and with one another we find the hope, comfort, guidance and certainty that our loving God and Father wants to share with us. Jesus wants to be with us and care for us during these days. On this page you will find resources for: participating in Masses and other Liturgies and Prayer Gatherings, Sharing Faith with Others in the Community etc.

ADORATION LIVESTREAMED WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: The NET Team will be hosting a Holy Hour every Wednesday at 6.30pm. This will be time set aside for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. This will be broadcast via: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cymdow/> and Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wollongongnetteam/>

THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG WEEKLY PODCAST: 'The Journey' - 26 April 2020: Listen in this week as we hear from Sr Hilda Scott, Fr Mike Delaney (from Tasmania), Pete Gilmore (from Wollongong) and other inputs from some of Australia's best Catholic presenters etc. Uploaded every Friday for free download: www.jcr.org.au

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/>

CARITAS AUSTRALIA would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2020. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back this week or visit www.caritas.org.au to make your donation online. Through your generosity you will be empowering the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty. www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion #projectcompassion 1800 024 41

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:
27th: **Kristine George**
30th: **Bill Molland**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: All the people who have died in this current pandemic and the recently deceased and whose 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: For all the people who have coronavirus and 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, Briege 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>

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. 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.

SPIRITUAL PRAYER:



My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.