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**CATHOLIC CHURCH - DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG**

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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
- YEAR B  
20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020

**FIRST READING -**

**2.Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16.**  
*A reading from the second book of Samuel.*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The Word of the Lord.  
**(R.) Thanks be to God.**  
**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!  
**GOSPEL READING -**  
**Luke 1:26-38.**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called

my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
for him my covenant shall endure. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING -**

**Romans 16:25-27.**  
*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL READING -**

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*The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.'*

Luke 1:30-31.

barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

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

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

**REFLECTION - by Fr Michael Tate.**

St Luke's account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: "There was darkness over the deep and God's Spirit hovered over the water. God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.' (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow." The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfolded, embodied, in Mary's womb.

A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God's Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan. We could pause for a moment to ask whether now is the time for a Marian response: 'Be it done unto me according to your word.'

mtate@bigpond.com

**MASS TIMES**

- MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER**  
9.30am. - Mass.
- TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER**  
9.30am. - Mass.
- WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER**  
9.30am. - Mass.
- THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
**CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS**  
6.00pm. - Mass.
- FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
**Nativity of the Lord**  
**CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS**  
12.00Midnight. - Mass.  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
9.00am. - Mass.
- SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
**St Stephen**  
**Saturday Vigil for**  
**HOLY FAMILY - YEAR B**  
6.00pm. - Mass.
- SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
**HOLY FAMILY - 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.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**27<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020**  
**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,**  
**MARY AND JOSEPH - YEAR B**

**First Reading:**  
**Genesis: 15:1-6, 21: 1-3.**

**Second Reading:**  
**Hebrews: 11:8, 11-12, 17-19.**

**Gospel Reading:**  
**Luke 2:22-40.**

*The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.*



St Stephen was the first deacon chosen by the apostles soon after the death and resurrection of Jesus. He took care of the needs of Greek-speaking widows among the Christian community in Jerusalem, and he was also known as a zealous preacher. But his preaching was considered blasphemy by the Jewish council and he was stoned to death in c.35 AD. Stephen became the first martyr for Christ and even as they threw stones at him, he asked God to forgive his attackers for their sins.

**HUMOUR CORNER**

**TEN COMMANDMENTS TO FOLLOW IN LIFE ALL THE TIME .....**

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble; it is a "steering wheel" that directs us in the right path throughout life.
2. Do you know why a car's WINDSHIELD is so large & the rear view mirror is so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, look ahead and move on.
3. Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
4. All things in life are temporary. If going well enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong don't worry, they can't last long either.
5. Old friends are like Gold! New friends are Diamonds! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a base of Gold!
6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"
7. When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.
8. A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision."
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES; it takes away today's PEACE.



**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**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**- YEAR B**

*In the first reading,*  
*God promises King David*  
*that his house and his kingdom*  
*will endure forever.*

*It is through Mary's "Yes" —*  
*"I am the handmaid of the Lord.*  
*Let it be done to me as you say."*  
*— that the promise*  
*finds fulfillment*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year B**



20<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.**

When 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 (2 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:**

**Eli Michael Jioseva Turaganivolo** who was Baptised in our Parish last weekend.

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

21<sup>st</sup>: **Jeff Cross**, 23<sup>rd</sup>: **Christel Kohler** and 24<sup>th</sup>: **Daphne Pew** and **Abigail Minogue**

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

**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).



**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 (CAPACITY REACHED)

Midnight Mass: 12 midnight

Christmas Day: 9.00am Mass

**NEW YEAR’S DAY MASS:**

Friday: 1<sup>st</sup> January: 9.30am

**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.

**COLLECTION BASKETS ARE ON THE TABLES AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH.**

**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, BY WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**DECEMBER 12 NOON.**

**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:** Jim McKenzie (Anniv) Mary McInerney (Anniv), Ev McInerney (Anniv), Betty Shearman, Edmund Pew, Steven English, Thomas McVittie, Fr Tony Daly, John Read, 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, Brieger 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:** "For more than one reason, 2020 has been a difficult year. In the context of higher unemployment, we expect 2021 will also present challenges, not the least of which will be how to run appeals in a Covid environment.

For your St Vincent de Paul Conference, this year hasn't been especially busy and Covid has restricted the things we could do, especially given many of our most experienced members are also in the "high risk" category. Having said this, the last month or so have been quite busy and Christmas, as always, was especially so.

None of what we achieved in 2020 could have occurred without the support of our wonderful Parishioners.

While Covid rules prevented our usual Jesse Tree, the toys received this year were of high quality and will brighten Christmas for many families. We are encouraged in our work by such generous support. We thank you all!

**God bless and Merry Christmas on behalf of your St Vincent de Paul Society Ruse/ Airds conference."**

**PARISH CHURCH CLEANER’S:**

26<sup>th</sup> Dec: **CLEANER’S NEEDED**

2021:

2<sup>nd</sup> Jan: Group 2: **Cathy & Michael Bye, Kathy Donachie** and **Barry Daley**

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

Saturday Vigil Mass: 26<sup>th</sup> Dec: **James Munro & John Greene**

Sunday 9.00am Mass: 27<sup>th</sup> Dec: **Annette Read & Maureen Molland**

2021:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan: **Carmel & James Munro**  
Sunday 9.00am Mass: 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan: **Annette Read & 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.

**THANKYOU:** 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.**

**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 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)

**Bishop Brian Mascord DD:** I am very proud that as a diocese we have collectively worked to keep our communities safe as we have had to significantly disrupt the liturgical life of our Church and the faithful.

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:**

**Wishing all our Parishioners, their families and those visiting our Parish over the Christmas/New Year break, a very happy, and Holy Christmas and a peaceful 2021.**

*Fr Michael*

