



18<sup>th</sup> December 2016

**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. “Anyone who welcomes you, welcome me and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me”. Matthew 10:40*

**GLUTEN FREE HOSTS:** If you require *Gluten Free Hosts* for Holy Communion please see Fr Mark *before* Mass and they will be available for you at Holy Communion.

**IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE IN OUR PARISH:** Who is ill/or unable to come to Mass and would like to have Holy Communion please either let Fr Mark or phone the Parish Office on 4628 2967. We have 2 Acolyte’s who take Communion to the ill/elderly and/or housebound.

**CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION TIMETABLE:**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am -10.30am  
 Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December: 7.30pm – 8.30pm: Rite of Reconciliation for Christmas  
 Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December: 10.00am – 10.30am  
 Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December: 10.00am – 10.30am  
 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December: 10.00am – 10.30am

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE:**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December:  
 5.30pm: Christmas Carols and Pageant  
 6.00pm: Christmas Eve Vigil Mass  
 11.30pm: Christmas Carols  
 12.00am: Midnight Mass  
 Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December:  
 8.30am: Christmas Carols  
 9.00am: Christmas Day Mass

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED:**

Jim McKenzie (Anniv), Mary McInerney (Anniv), Maurya Hutton (Anniv), Fr Tony Daly, Ken Dewick, Deborah Rix, Mary Writer, John Read, Josephine and Frank McKay, Ladislav Feher, Genie Lynch, Alice Harris and Maria Cabonara.

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

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** The *many* sick in our Parish Community *including:* Elaine Hoffmann, Cathy Bye, Natalie Dwyer, Aimiti Seufatu, Robert Berthaly, Ken Flemming, Bryce Smith, John Hill, Liban (Wako) Family, Maree and Noel Laming, Rita Jowsey, Freda and Wilfred Miranda, Beryl Purcell, Ellen Healy, John Donnelly, Ken Churchill, Jeannie and George Nicholson and Mary Fredericks.

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

21<sup>st</sup>: Jeff Cross  
 23<sup>rd</sup>: Crystal Fohler

*If any Parishioner/s would like to have their Birthdays and or Wedding Anniversaries included in the bulletin, please contact the Parish Office on 4628 2967 or [ruse@dow.org.au](mailto:ruse@dow.org.au)*

**PARISH LADIES GROUP CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:**

Thank you to everyone who supported this Parish Fundraiser and have continued to support the Parish Fundraising Raffles throughout the year. The winners of our Christmas raffle are: 1<sup>st</sup> Elena Langkilde, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Louisa Nelson, 3<sup>rd</sup>: Rosa Herrera, 4<sup>th</sup>: Fr Ross and 5<sup>th</sup>: Fr Mark *Wishing you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas and the very best for the coming year.*  
*The Parish Ladies Group*

**ROSE SUNDAY (last Sunday) (Parish Family Mass) THANKYOU:**

To the Parishioners who helped with the preparing of this Parish Mass, to the donations of food and to the ladies for the serving and cleaning up afterwards. A spirit of Parish Family community was felt. Your time and talents were greatly appreciated. Also a special thank you to Rod Hardwick (P & F representative of our Parish Primary School for the loan and distribution of the “slushies” for the young and old”.

**THANKYOU FORM ST THOMAS MORE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:**

As 2016 draws to a close, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Council members for their dedication and assistance in carrying out their Council and Ministry requirements. These sentiments I would like to extend to all participants in the Ministries for the enthusiasm and effort they put into carrying out their Stewardship. You all have the accolades of the 3 Priests that have served our needs as Custodians and Administrators since the unfortunate loss of Fr Tony Daly to our Parish. To these I add my esteem and sincere thanks. On behalf of the Pastoral Council I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Holy Christmas and may the New year bring you everything you wish for.  
*Mike Young – Chairperson – Parish Pastoral Council*

**MESSAGE FOR READERS:**

The new Readers’ Roster for 2017 is now available for collection on the main table of the Church entrance. Should you have any question regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me on 0451468931. *Thank you to the old readers for their loyalty and welcome to the new ones into this rewarding Parish Ministry. May*

**PARISH PLANNED GIVING:** Planned Giving is essential to the running costs of the Parish. Did you know that you can contribute in several ways:  
**Weekly Envelopes, Direct Debit** from your Bank Account, **Direct Credit** by electronically transferring funds (EFT) from your Bank Account direct to the St Thomas More Church Account and Irregular contributions. (The Direct Credit facility means that you control when you contribute but you need to join the Planned Giving Program to ensure that your contribution is recognized in our Finance System.) **If you would like to join the Planned Giving Program please contact the Parish Office on 4628 2967 or e-mail: [ruse@parish.woll.catholic.org.au](mailto:ruse@parish.woll.catholic.org.au). Thank you.**

**CATHOLIC WEEKLY:** Great value for only \$2.00 each, many interesting articles for your perusal.

**TAKE A RISK AND GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH:** Did you know that in our Parish there is a faithful team of volunteers that take a risk and step out in faith? In State Government schools there are no school lessons that teach the basic message about Jesus, our faith and the great adventure that life can be with God. Each week of the school year they have a short 30-minute lesson where they use a step-by-step lesson plan that helps Catholic children understand their faith, grow in love and maturity and learn what it means to be Catholic. We were all given this gift by someone. Someone stepped up for us so that we would know. *So we invite you to take a risk and give the gift of faith. Become a Catechist as a teacher or helper today! For more information, ask our Parish Priest for more information or phone Colleen (our Parish Scripture Co-Ordinator) on: 0414284717. Thanking you in anticipation.*

**PARISH MAINTENANCE:** A reminder regarding the Parish Maintenance book that is 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.

**PARISH PIETY STALL:** For those last minute Christmas Cards, presents or 2017 Columban Calendars, please go and visit the Parish Piety Stall. *Thank you to everyone who has supported our Parish Piety Stall throughout the year. Wishing you God’s Blessings for this Christmas Season and 2017.*

**ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:** Please take home the last School Newsletter for 2016.

**WISHING** all our School students, staff and their families a very happy and restful Christmas the very best for the coming year.

**DIOCESAN “JOURNEY” SUMMER EDITION:** Is available on all the tables at the entrance of the Church. This edition has many articles and images for you digest over the coming weeks during the Christmas break, so take a few extra copies and give them out to your family and friends.

**LOVE AND MARRIAGE ACCORDING TO POPE FRANCIS**  
**10-12 February 2017 Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Rd Varroville.** Lead by Fr Elio Capra this retreat will explore the theology and the spirituality underpinning Pope Francis’ *The Joy of Love, Amoris Laetitia*. This retreat is for families, young people preparing for marriage and for all interested parishioners. Registration essential to the Retreat Centre on 8795 3400

**FEBRUARY 2017 LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING CALENDAR:** Registration essential to Helen Bennett 4222 2403 or [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au).  
**Saturday 11 February 2017:**  
*Acolytes and Adult Altar Servers, 10:00am - 4:00pm* St John the Evangelist, Campbelltown.  
*Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, 10:00am - 1:00pm:* St John the Evangelist, Campbelltown. *Led by Bishop Peter Ingham and members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission; morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided*  
**Saturday 25 February 2017: Communion of the Sick and Dying** (Pre-requisite of prior training as an Acolyte, Adult Altar Server or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion):  
**10:00am - 2:30pm:** St John the Evangelist, Campbelltown *Led by Members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission; morning tea and lunch provided.*

**PARISH ROSARY STATUE:** *During the Christmas Season and School holidays, the Rosary Statue will not be going to Parishioners Homes. I would like to thank the families of our Parish who had our Parish Rosary Statue in their homes this year. I wish you all a joyous Christmas and God’s Blessings. If you would like to join this prayerful Ministry in 2017 please phone Bev on: 4625 0659.*

**PARISH ROSTERS FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS:**

**EXTRADORDINARY MINISTERS’ OF COMMUNION FOR 31<sup>st</sup> December/1<sup>st</sup> January 2017:**  
 Vigil Mass: Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec: Winnie Cameron & Bertha Berbari

**2017**  
 9.00am Mass: Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan: Catherine Minogue & Julie Writer

**READERS’ FOR NEXT 2 WEEKENDS’:**  
**Christmas Eve Vigil Mass:**  
 Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec: Julie McKenzie & Pauline Menzies  
**Christmas Midnight Mass:**  
 Carmel Munro & Maureen Molland  
**Christmas Day 9.00am Mass: Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec:**  
 Pesio Aiga & Noelle Aiga

**New Year’s Eve Vigil Mass:**  
 Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec: Bev McKenzie & May Michelutti  
**2017:**  
 New Year’s Day 9.00am Mass: Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan:  
 Barry Daley & Christine Foreman

**CHURCH CLEANERS’ FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS**  
 Christmas Eve: Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec: Ruse Samoan Divine Mercy  
 New Year’s Day Eve: Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec: Tongan Youth Group



*Next to the yearly celebration of the paschal mystery, the Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ’s birth and early manifestations. Christmas Day is a holy day of obligation  
 This is the purpose of the CHRISTMAS SEASON  
 GNLYC 32-3*