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Catholic Church - Diocese of Wollongong

**St. THOMAS MORE PARISH, RUSE**

welcomes you

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Healy

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A**

**17th MAY 2020**



**FIRST READING - Acts 8:5-8, 14-17.**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy..

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,  
 O sing to the glory of his name.  
 O render him glorious praise.  
 Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! (R.)
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;  
 shall sing to you, sing to your name!  
 Come and see the works of God,  
 tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)
3. He turned the sea into dry land,  
 they passed through the river dry-shod.  
 Let our joy then be in him;  
 he rules for ever by his might. (R.)
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.  
 I will tell what he did for my soul:  
 Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer  
 nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

**SECOND READING - 1 Peter 3:15-18.**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,

and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL READING - John 14:15-21.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:  
 'If you love me you will keep my commandments.  
 I shall ask the Father,  
 and he will give you another Advocate  
 to be with you for ever,  
 that Spirit of truth  
 whom the world can never receive  
 since it neither sees nor knows him;  
 but you know him,  
 because he is with you, he is in you.  
 I will not leave you orphans:  
 I will come back to you.  
 In a short time the world will no longer see me;  
 but you will see me,  
 because I live and you will live.  
 On that day  
 you will understand that I am in my Father  
 and you in me and I in you.  
 Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them  
 will be one who loves me;  
 and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,  
 and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

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.**



**PRAYING 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.

**REFLECTION - by Fr Michael Tate.**

Today's Gospel speaks of an advocate. This translates a Greek word: 'paraclete'. Our Lord says: 'I will send you another Paraclete to be with you forever.' Our Lord was Paraclete, and he would send another.

What does this strange sounding word mean? Here is a hint. We all know that parallel lines run, well, parallel. They run alongside each other. A paraclete is a person who stands alongside someone and pleads their case.

That is how our Lord Jesus Christ saw himself. His role was not to condemn but to plead the case for mercy and compassion, to be the intercessor par excellence.

Our Lord promises another Paraclete dwelling within us, individually and as the body of Christ's disciples, the Holy Spirit advocating our cause, assisting us to live Truth-fully by the measure of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. This Paraclete particularly assists us by acting as the Spirit of Truth.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the two Paracletes, constantly pleading our case before the Throne of Mercy.

mtate@bigpond.com

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate



**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**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A**

*Those who obey the commandments, Jesus says in today's Gospel, are the ones who really love Him.*

*Does my stewardship reveal my love for Jesus?*

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**24th MAY 2020 THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR A**

**1st Reading:**

**Acts 1:1-11.**

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

**2nd Reading:**

**Ephesians 1:17-23.**

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

**Gospel Reading:**

**Matthew 28:16-20.**

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

**HUMOUR CORNER**

**A 5-YEAR OLD BOY WENT TO VISIT HIS GRANDMOTHER ONE DAY .....**

Playing with his toys in her bedroom while grandma was dusting, he looked up and said, 'Grandma, how come you don't have a boyfriend now that Grandpa went to heaven?'



Grandma replied, 'Honey, my TV is my boyfriend. I can sit in my bedroom and watch it all day long. The religious programs make me feel good and the comedies make me laugh. I'm happy with my TV as my boyfriend.'

Grandma turned on the TV, and the reception was terrible. She started adjusting the knobs, trying to get the picture in focus. Frustrated, she started hitting the backside of the TV hoping to fix the problem.

The little boy heard the doorbell ring, so he hurried to open the door and there stood Grandma's Parish Priest.

The Parish Priest said, 'Hello son, is your Grandma home?'

The little boy replied, 'Yeah, she's in the bedroom bangin' her boyfriend.'

The Parish Priest fainted.

**SAINT OF THE DAY**

**ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA**



St Bernardine was the son of the governor of Siena. He was orphaned at age six and was brought up by his aunt. He became a Franciscan friar at the age of twenty two and travelled all over Italy, preaching several sermons a day to large crowds. He is remembered for his devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus.

At the end of his sermons he would hold up for veneration a plaque on which he wrote IHS - the Greek translation of 'Jesus'.

Through his preaching, Bernardine was responsible for a vast number of conversions to Christianity.

In 1437 he became the vicar-general of the Observant branch of the friars, during which time the number of Observants rose tenfold due to his popularity. After establishing theology schools for the friars, he returned to his favourite task of preaching at the age of sixty three, but died a year later on the 20th of May.

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year A



### PARISH MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL:



Dear Parishioners,  
Like the rest of the world, we continue to “do our bit” in counteracting and minimising the effects of the scourge of CoronaVirus in Australia: We are looking forward to getting back to normal. As Catholics we miss being able to gather as a Church family. We feel like being deprived of our “comfort blanket” of Mass and the Sacraments. We feel a bit like our first Catholic Convicts of over 200 years ago.

It must be more than a coincidence, that Fr John Therry and Fr Philip Connolly arrived in Sydney on 3 May 1820 as the first of two Catholic Chaplains recognised by the Government of the time.

They arrived 30 years after the first Catholic convicts arrived, scared and apprehensive of a vast empty continent. Fr Therry, the first Parish Priest of Campbelltown (and the rest of Australia!), was a man of great zeal and love for his flock, most of whom had been deprived of Mass and the Sacraments for years.

On arrival, he had 16,000 Catholics, mostly convicts, most longing for the comfort and strength of the Church’s Ministry and Sacramental life.

While our situation and conditions in 2020 are not as drastic as they were for our early Catholic forebearers, we can, like them, long for better days and continue to support each other while we journey. We are a bit like Moses and his Jewish people in Old Testament times, lost in the desert, but knowing that the Promised Land was ahead.

Please read today’s (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter) Gospel passage in the Bulletin, as we come to the end of Eastertime. It tells us, in 2020, that we are “tied up in the Trinity”. Lets take it a few words at a time:-

“I (Jesus) am in the Father .....**you** (in Ruse) are in me and I am in you.....I will not leave you orphans.....I will send you the Holy Spirit”. In other words, as we assist, we must remember we are not alone – He is with us. Lets together, (in isolation!) pray about that.

Let’s also pray for continued wisdom and guidance for our Government Leaders and health authorities as they lead us through confusing times. We commend to a rewarding God our Doctors, Nurses and Medial Staff in the most difficult and challenging phase of their professional lives.

*God Bless you all. I will continue to offer daily Mass for you.*

*Fr Michael*

### 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*

### UPDATES IN OUR PARISH:

The repairs are now completed on the Presbytery garage and pergola.

The concertina doors in Chelsea House are undergoing urgent repairs.

*Have you “checked in” on another parishioner this week to say “Hi!”?*

**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: Ellen Healy (R.D.), Audrey Barsenback (R.D.), Mary Writer, Cathy Wiggins, Winifred Minogue, Fr Anthony (Tony) Daly, Ladislav Feher, Beryl Ford, Jim McKenzie, John Read, 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: Kenny Wilson, Antonio David, 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, Briegle Glover, Fr John Whitty, Elaine Hoffmann, 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.

**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, Ruse.*

**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](http://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](mailto:trevor.kellam@dow.org.au)

**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).  
**Parishioner’s Wedding Anniversary this coming week:**  
**22<sup>nd</sup>: Pauline and Eugene Menzies ((27 years)**

**ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:** Please contact the School Office on 4625 6561, for information for School Enrolments for 2021. The link to read our Parish Catholic Primary School newsletter is: <https://stmdow.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=43>

**THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY:** Is available online at <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/catholic-weekly-newspaper-online/>

### UPDATE FROM THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG:

#### 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 (**read on front cover**).

**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

**THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG WEEKLY PODCAST:** “The Journey” – 17 May 2020: Listen in this week as we hear some of Australia’s best Catholic presenters as we celebrate the Easter Series of Gospel reflections in isolation. etc. Uploaded every Friday for free download: [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au)

**NOURISH YOUR FAITH AT HOME:** [www.dow.org.au/covid-19/nourish-your-faith-at-home](http://www.dow.org.au/covid-19/nourish-your-faith-at-home). On this page there is 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 are hosting Holy Hour every Wednesday at 6.30pm. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cymdow/> and Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wollongongnetteam/>

**CathFAMILY:** Brings you a selection of activities, eg: prayer rituals, crafts etc 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](http://www.cathfamily.org) especially during this time of COVID-19 social distancing especially if children are unable to attend school.

**FAITH CIRCLES:** The weekly Faith Circles resource is available free to download at [www.faithcircles.dow.org.au](http://www.faithcircles.dow.org.au) or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

**ALPHA: Refreshing our Vision and Practice.** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 7.30pm via Zoom Video Conferencing. This refresher training is run by Donna Brennan from Alpha Australia. To register via <https://www.dow.org.au/news-and-events> For further information email [darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au](mailto:darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au)

**THE EUCHARIST: Exploring our Catholic Faith:** Mondays 1<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> June or Fridays 5<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> June all at 4pm via Zoom Video Conferencing. You will explore Eucharist as Real Presence, as Sacrifice and as Meal and look at how we can prepare and get more out of our participation in this celebration. To register go to <https://www.dow.org.au/news-and-events>. For further information email [darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au](mailto:darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au)

**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PSALMS: A Songbook for Today:** Thursdays, 4<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> June at 4-5pm (repeated at 8-9pm) Fr Mark De Battista will lead on an introductory explanation of the Book of Psalms. For further information and registration email: [darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au](mailto:darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au)

**THE MONTH OF MAY:** Pray with Pope Francis throughout May for an end to the Pandemic. Pope Francis has asked Catholics to make a special effort in May to pray the Rosary, knowing that by doing so they would be united with believers around the world asking for Mary’s intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic.



*Prayer to recite at the end of the Rosary:*

**O Mary,**  
You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus’

suffering, and persevered in your faith. “Protectress of the Roman people”, you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen

*We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*