

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A



23rd February 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."

Our Parish is wheelchair friendly. We have ramps going into the Church and into the Parish Hall. Please let your family and friends know. "Anymore who welcomes you, welcomes me and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." Matthew 10:40

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.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS: Can you please supervise your children in the Church courtyard and Chelsea House (Parish Hall). **They are not permitted to climb the brick walls, the hand rails both leading into the Church and Chelsea House (Parish Hall), the surrounding trees and the garden in the courtyard. Supervision is your responsibility. We cannot accept liability for a child hurting themselves if they engage in these activities.**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION 2020: For Baptised children in Year 3 (in 2020) and above. **The Parent/Carer Information and Enrolment Evening is this Monday 24th February at 7.00pm.**

LENTEN PROGRAM 2020 "Grace": The books are available for sale from the Parish Piety Stall @ \$6.00 each. These books bring to life the daily reflections that walk alongside the major themes of our Lenten Sunday Gospels. These reflections are an opportunity to help us benefit from this incredible time of retreat. Lent is a time of renewal in faith, hope and love so that we can enter more fully into the celebration of the Sacred Triduum of our Lord's last supper, his suffering and death on the cross, and his glorious resurrection.

2020 LENTEN GROUPS: If you would like to host or attend a Lenten Group, please put your name etc on the clipboard at the main entrance to the Church.

LENT: STATIONS of the CROSS: Will be held in the Church each Tuesday evening at 7.00pm. Commencing Tuesday 3rd March.

PASCHAL PRECEPT: Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be between **Ash Wednesday** (26 February) and **Trinity Sunday** (7 June) unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least one a year.

Days of Penance: Under 14: No abstaining or fasting obliged. **14-17:** Abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday **No fasting obliged.** **18-59:** Abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting obliged. **60+** No abstaining or fasting obliged, while maintaining the spirit of Lent

CONGRATULATIONS TO Most Rev BRIAN G MASCORD DD: On your Second Anniversary as Bishop of the Diocese of Wollongong.

MACARTHUR PARISHES LUNCHEON: Thank you to the 70 parishioners who attended this luncheon last Friday 14 February. We had representatives from every parish in the Macarthur area. It was great to see new friendships being formed and old friendships being rekindled.

PARISH GROUNDS THANKYOU: To the Gentleman who mowed the Parish grounds lawns Friday week ago, and the gentleman who offered to assist. As you are aware, we have received more much-needed rain and the lawns need mowing again. If you have a spare ½ hour, the gift of your time and talents would be greatly appreciated to help in tidying up the Parish Grounds. **Thank you in anticipation.**

REFRESHMENTS AFTER SUNDAY 9.00am MASS: If you would like to join this Parish Ministry, please put your name down on the clipboard on the table at the entrance to the Church. This is another great way to develop friendships with other parishioners. Currently this Ministry is once a month. If you would like more information regarding this Ministry please contact Cathy on: 4625 5449. Thank you to the Ladies that are already on the Roster, the gifts of your time and talents are greatly appreciated.

ST THOMAS MORE PARISH PLAYTIME 2020: Is held on Tuesday mornings in Chelsea House (Parish Hall): 9.30am – 11.30am. Mums, Dads, grandparents, carers etc come along with the children. Come for a cuppa and a chat while the children play, do craft, read stories etc. Gold coin donation. For further information please contact Catherine on 4627 1842.

PARISH CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Is during the 9.00am Mass, for school aged children (Kindergarten to Year 6 inclusive). It is held during the School Terms. For more information please contact Joanne on 0421802132. We are always on the search for more teachers/helpers.

VINNIES BUSHFIRE APPEAL: If you wish to donate online: <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw/vinnies-nsw-bushfire-appeal-nsw>. Thank you to those who have already contributed to support affected communities.

PARISH ROSARY STATUE: If you would like to have the Parish Rosary Statue in your home during 2020 please phone Bev on 4625 0659.

WE WELCOME INTO OUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY: **Hunter James Evans** who was Baptised last weekend.

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.

Parishioners' birthdays this coming week:
22nd: Michael Berbari

PLEASE PRAY FOR: The recently deceased and the anniversaries that occur at this time: Tolentino Enaje (R.D.), Beryl Ford, Peter Cochrane, Ken Churchill, David Burke, Olga Saulig, Jim McKenzie, Fr Tony Daly, John Read, Mary Writer, Bobby Cameron, Alice Harris, Marguerite (Marg) Davis, Maree Laming, Jay Jablonskis, Deborah Rix, Bernard Hoffmann, Maurya Hutton, Ladislav Feher and Maria Cabonara. **May they rest in peace**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: The **many** sick in our Parish Community including 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, Amity Seufatu, John Hill, Freda and Wilfred Miranda, Beryl Purcell, Jeannie and George Nicholson and Mary Fredericks.

PARISH COLLECTIONS IN THE CHURCH: We depend on your generosity to make ends meet for the support of our Parish. If you are not part of our Parish Planned Giving Program, then please consider joining. If you are new to our Parish, please consider joining. You can join by the envelope system or Direct Debit. There are forms on the table at the main entrance of the Church. For more information, please contact the Parish Office or see Fr Michael.

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 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.

CALLING ALL BUSINESS PEOPLE: Catholic Business Connections (CBC) is an opportunity for business women and men in our diocese (active and retired) who share common values, to network and engage with each other and leaders representing the diocese. CBC gathers four times a year for lunch and to listen to guest speakers chosen to inspire with their unique story and share how they relate their work and spiritual life experience to the context of living in a modern world. **The first luncheon for 2020 will be held this Friday 28 February at Rydges Hotel, Campbelltown (11.45am-2pm).** For more information on CBC and how to join, visit www.cbc.dow.org.au or contact Debbie Gates, Diocesan Director of Development and Community Engagement (02) 4222 2446.

ST MARY'S TOWERS RETREAT CENTRE: 415 Douglas Park Drive, Douglas Park Ph: 4630 0233 or email: contact@towersretreat.org.au or website: <http://towersretreat.org.au>. St Mary's Towers is steeped in a spirituality of the heart, a spirituality of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. They offer a variety of retreat experiences throughout the year as well as day visits for individuals and groups. Retreats can be tailored to individual circumstances. **Retreat: 6th - 12th March:** The Gift of Aging, for more details please contact the above.

RELICS PILGRIMAGE As part of the National Pilgrimage, Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Rosemeadow, will be hosting the relics of the much loved **St. Therese of Lisieux, the "Little Flower"**, together with the relics of her recently canonised parents, **Ss. Louis and Zelig Martin** in our parish church on **Thursday 19 March from 4.30pm to 9.30pm.** People from all parishes in our region, and indeed anyone, are welcome to come and venerate these holy and unique relics of the only family to be canonised. **The schedule will be as follows:**
4.30pm: Solemn Liturgical Reception & Enthronement of Holy Relics in Sanctuary, **Reflection: A Family Bringing Blessings,** Silent Veneration, **5.45pm:** Reflection: *The Relics of Ss. Louis, Zelig, & Therese Martin,* Silent Veneration
6.30pm: Reflection: *St. Therese of Lisieux* Silent Veneration
7.30pm: Solemn Mass, **8.30pm:** Silent Veneration
9.00pm: Holy Rosary, **9.30pm:** Final Prayers & Departure of Holy Relics

DIARY DATES:

Monday 24th February: 7.00pm Reconciliation and Enrolment Evening for Reconciliation (see main notices).
Tuesday 25th February: 7.30pm St Vincent de Paul Conference. Meeting in the Parish Centre.
Monday 2nd March: 6.30pm Baptism Preparation Class in the Parish Centre
Monday 2nd March: 7.30pm Parish Ladies Group meeting in the Parish Centre
Thursday 5th March: after the 9.30am morning Mass Retiree's Social Group Gathering in Chelsea House, all Retiree's over 55 are most welcome

PARISH ROSTERS:

Saturday 29 th Vigil			
Usher	Readers	Communion	PowerPoint
Vicki Horne	Carmel Munro Raquel Villareal	Bev McKenzie Bertha Berbari	Joshua Star
Sunday 1 st /3 9:00am			
Chris Reddy	David Minogue May Michelutti	Annette Read Julie Writer	Gwen Harris
Saturday 7 th /3 rd Vigil			
Chantal Berbari	Raquel Villareal Julie McKenzie	Maureen Molland Glynis Smith	Chantal Berbari
Sunday 8 th /3 9:00am			
Barry Daley	Samoan Community	Loretta and Lafitaga Tuigamala	Gwen Harris

CHURCH CLEANING

Saturday 29th /2: Group 3: Christine Foreman, Christine Charlton, James and Carmel Munro
Saturday 7th/3: Group: 4: Maureen Molland, Faye Faamau, Colleen Jablonskis and Kerry Walker

