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Catholic Church - Diocese of Wollongong

St. THOMAS MORE PARISH, RUSE

welcomes you

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Healy



GOD MAY BE CALLING YOU,
but probably not on your mobile phone.
PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE
during the celebration of the Holy Mass.

FIRST READING - Ezekiel 37:12-14.

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) **With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. (R.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. (R.)
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (R.)

SECOND READING - Romans 8:8-11.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead

will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL READING - John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man,

could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him. The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION - by Fr Michael Tate.

This Gospel tells us that Our Lord was moved with compassion in an almost violent way, raging against the seeming finality of death. The raising of Lazarus was a demonstration of his power to rob death of its supposed supremacy.

But, Our Lord did not set Lazarus completely free! You may think that to be raised from the dead was not a bad start, but Lazarus was still shuffling: bound, constrained, constricted by the past. To those gathered around the tomb Jesus issued the command: 'Set him free, unbind him.' It was the collective effort of others which enabled Lazarus to walk as a liberated son of God.

You may find yourself commanded by the Lord to help unbind a person who has had a deadening experience which has drained them of life. We get the courage to respond because it is the command of the One who definitively conquered death.

We could pause for a moment to resolve to help liberate others already helped by the grace of Him whom we believe to be the Resurrection and the Life.

mtate@bigpond.com

5th SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

29th MARCH 2020



And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.'

John 11:41-42.

MASS TIMES

PUBLIC MASSES AND LITURGIES— BOTH INDOOR AND OUTDOOR— ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

(The faithful can keep holy their Sunday by setting aside some time for prayer at home, reading the Scriptures of the day, watching Mass on television or online, and asking God for the graces they would normally receive in Holy Communion)



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, "This illness is not to end in death; rather it is for God's glory, that through it the Son of God may be glorified." Every aspect of our lives — our gifts as well as our sufferings — can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessing for others and ourselves.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

**5th APRIL 2020
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - YEAR A**

1st Reading:
Isaiah 50:4-7.

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

2nd Reading:
Philippians 2:6-11.

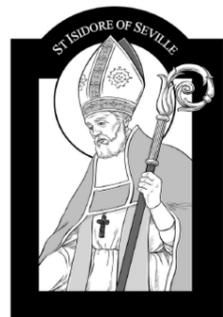
He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

Gospel Reading:
Matthew 26:14 - 27:66.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

SAINT OF THE DAY

St. Isidore of Seville



St Isidore of Seville was born in Spain in C. 560 AD to parents of high social rank. His elder brother, St Leander, served as Archbishop and was one of a body of learned men who taught Isidore at the Cathedral school of Seville. Following his brother's death in C. 600 AD, Isidore succeeded as Archbishop of Seville.

During his 32 years of service, he worked to assimilate the remaining Roman culture with the ruling barbarian culture of the Visigoths through education - introducing his countrymen to the Greek philosopher Aristotle. Regarded as one of the most learned men of his age, Isidore was the first Christian writer to attempt to compile an encyclopedia of universal knowledge. In 1997, he was nominated to be the patron saint of the internet by Pope John Paul II.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

Parish ☎: 4628 2967

Email: ruse@dow.org.au

School ☎: 4625 6561

DIFFERENCE BEFORE AND AFTER WEDDING:

Marriage is an exciting part of our life. The vows we made on our wedding days really did mean the world to us, and we thought the blessed joy of matrimony would never die. However, once we are married, that thrill does dip - let's be honest about it!

The hilarious joke below makes this truth perfectly clear!

- Husband:** At last! I can hardly wait!
Wife: Do you want me to leave?
Husband: No! Don't even think that.
Wife: Do you love me?
Husband: Of course! Always have and always will!
Wife: Have you ever cheated on me?
Husband: No! Why are you even asking?
Wife: Will you kiss me?
Husband: Every chance I get!
Wife: Will you hit me?
Husband: Hell no! Are you crazy?!
Wife: Can I trust you?
Husband: Yes.
Wife: Oh my Darling!

This was **BEFORE** the wedding.
To see what happens **AFTER** the wedding, read again from End (Bottom) to Start (Top).





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

MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL:

Our Parish and most Parishes throughout the World – along with most local communities, nations and world powers – have been thrown in disarray and confusion by a VIRUS: so tiny and miniscule – that it is invisible even to most of the world’s microscopes. And yet, it has brought the whole world to its knees.

Our Parish that we love is facing the effects of this tiny VIRUS on humanity.

We are all facing the unknown – we each face it differently. Not being able to experience and live together the Spiritual, Liturgical and active life of the Church in our Parish, has left a huge gap in our lives and in our hearts. But, we mustn’t forget that it is only a passing phase, and we will rise up even better and stronger, as has happened many times in the history of the Church.

In the meantime, we must persevere in keeping our faith and commitment strong by prayerfully supporting each other in our daily prayer for each other (not just for ourselves) and to pray for the gifts of patience and tolerance.

I earnestly look forward to celebrating the Mass and the Sacraments with you all again. I continue to offer my daily “private” Mass (alone) for you. By the way, I last celebrated “private” Masses in 1968 – in Latin.

Lets especially pray for the medial professionals, the government leaders and the other authorities of who battle to overcome “the unknown” as we try to ride out the devastating storm, awaiting the welcome calm

God Bless
Fr Michael

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, a well-established devotional practice of uniting one’s self in prayer with Christ’s sacrifice when circumstance prevent one from receiving holy Communion. Starting today Sunday 29 March, 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 (including the Paschal Triduum during Holy Week) giving parishioners the opportunity to make an act of Spiritual communion together as a diocese.

Other resources include:
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.
Livestreaming from our Diocesan Parishes: Saturdays 5pm and Sundays 10am Mass from St Mary MacKillop Catholic Church, Oran Park. Daily Mass from St John the Evangelist Catholic Parish, Campbelltown. Daily 7pm and Sunday Mass 10am from Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, Eagle Vale. Daily 1pm Mass and Sunday 11am Mass from the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

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

You are still able to drop off your Planned Giving Envelopes into either the Parish Office during Office Hours or the locked letterbox outside the Church in Acacia Ave. Thanking you all in anticipation

PARISH LADIES EASTER RAFFLE: Tickets are \$1.00 each and are on sale from the Parish Office during Office Hours. The raffle will be drawn Friday (3rd April). Please support this Parish Fundraiser, all funds raised go towards needs of our Parish Church.

WE WELCOME INTO OUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY: Tamaiya Louise and Cadence Joy Fredericks who were Baptised last weekend.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: The recently deceased and the anniversaries that occur at this time: Barbara Fetterplace (R.D.), Michael Bartley, Neville Ashton-Hay, 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: 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.

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.

ST THOMAS MORE PARISH PLAYTIME 2020: Is currently postponed indefinitely. For further information please contact Catherine on 4627 1842.

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

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO SHOW: Airs 29th March 2020: This week on the Journey, Bishop Brian Mascord proclaims the Gospel and Sr Anastasis Reeves provides some Spiritual Direction. You’ll hear some uplifting music and encouragement. It’s free - go to www.jcr.org.au to get it sent to you each week.

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

PLENARY POST: You can receive regular updates about Plenary Council by subscribing to Plenary Post. Plenary Council website plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Are taking enrolments for 2021. If you know any family, who have children beginning school next year, please let them know to contact the School Office, for further information etc on 4625 6561. As advised the link to read our Parish Catholic Primary School newsletter is: <https://stmdow.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=43> Save the date: **SCHOOL FETE: Sunday 2nd August, 2020.**

A CALL TO COMMIT TO PRAYER during the Pandemic every evening at 7pm: The faithful across the Diocese of Wollongong are urged to join with other members of the National Council of Churches, so that all Christians pray 7pm every night through until Easter Sunday during the Pandemic crisis.

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. W 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 pray 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**



Spiritual Direction Questions:

- If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live.
- God made us because he loves us and he desires to be our dearest friend now and for all eternity. How can this truth about God’s love change our lives? How does this effect the way we use our time?
 - Death, heaven, hell and judgement have been discussed for thousands of years. It is noted that many people are fearful of death. How can we respond to these fears?
 - Jesus promises us life after death. Why do we find it difficult to believe this promise? What can help us to trust Jesus’ promise of everlasting life?



Personal Reflection for the Week ahead:

Consider adding a time of personal examination to the end of your day. What happened today? What emotions did I experience? What do my emotions tell be about myself? How did I respond to my emotions? If I were to go through similar situations again, how would I want to respond differently?