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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 - Isaiah 50:4-7.**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue.  
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech.  
Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple.  
The Lord has opened my ear.  
For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away.  
I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.  
The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults.  
So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.  
The Word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

- All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads.  
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)
- Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. (R.)
- They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
- I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled.  
'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

**SECOND READING - Philippians 2:6-11.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.  
The Word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,

king of endless glory!  
Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**GOSPEL READING - Matthew 27:11-54.**

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?' But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns

into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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



The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'  
*Matthew 21:9.*

**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](mailto:ruse@dow.org.au)

Website: [www.stmruse.org.au](http://www.stmruse.org.au)  
Facebook: St Thomas More Catholic Parish Church, Ruse.



**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

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

Parish ☎: 4628 2967  
Email: [ruse@dow.org.au](mailto:ruse@dow.org.au)  
School ☎: 4625 6561

**STEWARDSHIP**

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - YEAR A**

*"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"*  
shout the crowds in today's Gospel.  
May we be always ready to share our blessings when we are sent in His name!



**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

5th APRIL 2020

**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

**1st Reading:**  
*Acts 10:34. 37-43.*

*We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead..*

**2nd Reading:**  
*Colossians 3:1-4.*

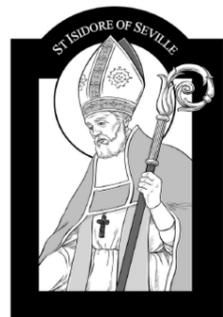
*Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.*

**Gospel Reading:**  
*John 20:1-9.*

*The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.*

**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.

**A SHEPHERD WAS HERDING HIS FLOCK ....**

**HUMOUR CORNER**

A shepherd was herding his flock in a remote pasture when suddenly a brand-new BMW advanced out of the dust cloud towards him. The driver, a young man in a Armani suit, Gucci shoes, Ray Ban sunglasses and YSL tie, leaned out the window and asked the shepherd, "If I tell you exactly how many sheep you have in your flock, will you give me one?"

The shepherd looked at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looked at his peacefully-grazing flock and calmly answered, "Sure." The yuppie parked his car, whipped out his notebook and connected it to a cell phone, then he surfed to a NASA page on the Internet where he called up a surveillance satellite system, scanned the area, and then opened up a database and an Excel spreadsheet with complex formulas. He sent an email on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, received a response.

Finally, he prints out a 150 page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized printer then turns to the shepherd and says, "You have exactly 1586 sheep." "That is correct; take one of the sheep," said the shepherd. He watches the young man select one of the animals and bundle it into his car.

Then the shepherd says: "If I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my sheep?" "OK, why not," answered the young man.

"Clearly, you are a consultant," said the shepherd. "That's correct," says the yuppie, "but how did you guess that?"

"No guessing required," answers the shepherd. "You turned up here although nobody called you. You want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked, and you don't know anything about my business. Now give me back my dog."

**PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of the LORD**  
Year A



5<sup>th</sup> April 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

**MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL:**

Peace, health, blessings and patience to all Parishioners. It’s incredible that such a tiny virus has so drastically changed the activities and life-style of all of us (including the whole world). Like me, you probably feel trapped at home, while getting used to expressions that are new to us – like “social isolation” “pandemic” “distancing” and “closed Churches”.

However, it is incredibly important that we ALL “do our bit” to help protect the health of others and ourselves, especially the most vulnerable.

Our Catholic faith in particular obliges us to do so. It is not so easy at present without our usual supports of Mass and the Sacraments. In the meantime we need to work harder to bolster our faith. Let’s all make sure to have a prayer time in our lives **each day**. A family prayer time would be better. We should Read the Scripture Mass Readings, found included in each week’s Parish Bulletin.

Also there are a number of live-streaming of Masses, including daily Mass celebrated by Pope Francis: [www.catholicv.org/shows/pope-francis-daily-mass](http://www.catholicv.org/shows/pope-francis-daily-mass). Also Mass each Sunday by our Bishop Brian: [www.dow.org.au](http://www.dow.org.au) and on the diocese’s Facebook page.

These can be especially helpful, as, today, Palm Sunday, we begin THE HOLY WEEK of the Year, leading us to EASTER. For the first time in living memory, we are unable to celebrate it in our local Parish.

Let’s prayerfully SUPPORT one another until we can do so again when we will be able to celebrate Mass and the Sacraments together.

We continue to pray for our government leaders, Medical professionals, hospital staff, police, ambulance and all essential services (teacher’s etc), all working under difficult conditions and pressure, to protect us from the power of a tiny, miniscule virus – CORUNNA.

**May God bless and protect you all, 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 (read far column), a well-established devotional practice of uniting one’s self in prayer with Christ’s sacrifice when circumstance prevent one from receiving holy Communion. Mass online available at [www.dow.org.au](http://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 from** St John the Evangelist Catholic Parish, Campbelltown

**Daily Mass on demand** is available at CathNews YouTube channel

Saturdays 5pm and Sunday 10am Mass from St Mary MacKillop Catholic Church, Oran Park

**CHANNEL 7 will broadcast** the Lord’s Passion of Good Friday (10<sup>th</sup> April) at 3pm and the Easter Sunday Mass (12<sup>th</sup> April) at 10.30am live from St Mary’s Cathedral.

**BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD DD HOLY WEEK MESSAGE:**

As we prepare for Holy Week, I will be celebrating simplified online Masses and liturgies that will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel <https://dow.sh/YouTube> , Facebook page <https://facebook.com/WollongongCatholic> and website [www.dow.org.au](http://www.dow.org.au).

**7pm Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Supper**

**10am Good Friday – Stations of the Cross**

**3pm Good Friday – Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion**

**7pm Holy Saturday – Mass of the Easter Vigil**

**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)

**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**

**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.

**PARISH LADIES EASTER RAFFLE:** *Thank you to the Parishioners who supported this Parish Fundraiser. Even through these trying times we managed to sell a few. Congratulations to the following winners: Gwen Harris, Lina Nguyen, Sophia King, Cathy Bye, Rino Zamprognio, Mr Green, Jessica Littlewood, Maureen Crosland, Pearce Nelson and Vicki Horne.*

**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).

4<sup>th</sup>: Tess Writer 5<sup>th</sup>: Helen Rawson

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

**FRIDAY PENANCE:** Friday is a traditional day of penance and should be marked by:  
**prayer** – participating in family prayer, reading the scriptures, making the Way of the Cross, praying the rosary;  
**self denial** – abstaining from meat, sweets or dessert, giving up entertainment to spend time with the family, limiting food and drink in support of the poor;  
**helping others** – giving special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely, overburdened (phone to see how they are, chat and give reassurance)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** The recently deceased and the anniversaries that occur at this time: Cathy Wiggins (R.D.), Barbara Fetterplace, Michael Bartley, 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, Brieger 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.

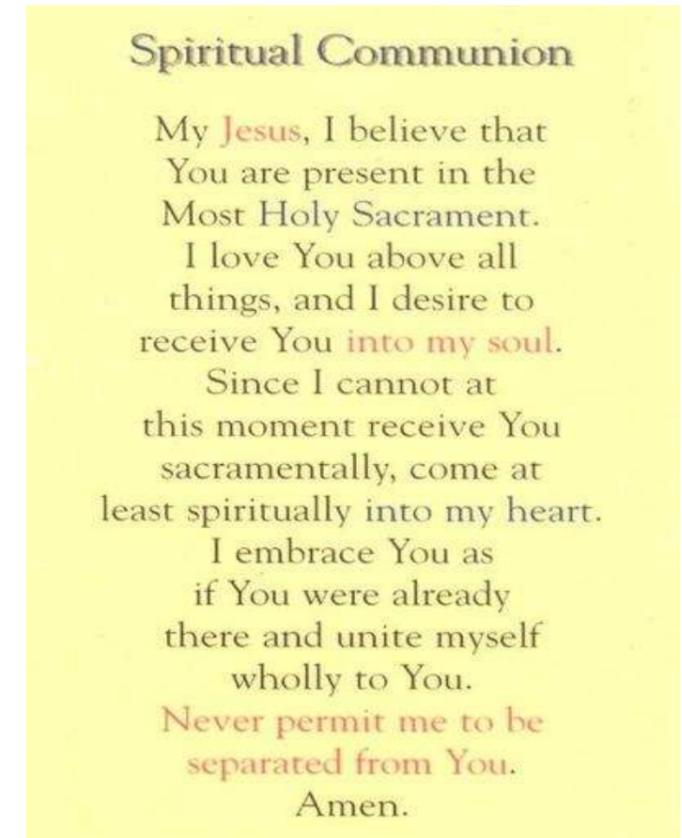
**ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:** Are taking enrolments for 2021. If you know any family, who have children beginning school next year, please let them know to contact the School Office, for further information etc on 4625 6561. As advised the link to read our Parish Catholic Primary School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

**THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO SHOW: Airs 5 April 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](http://www.jcr.org.au) to get it sent to you each week.

**PLENARY POST:** You can receive regular updates about Plenary Council by subscribing to Plenary Post. Plenary Council website [plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

A “spiritual Communion” can be made when a person cannot actually receive the Body and Blood of Christ.



**Personal Reflection for the Week ahead:** We have been invited to enter deeply into the Easter Triduum. In order to do this, schedule as few things as you can (without breaking any prior commitments) and organise your days so that you need not run or hurry to or from a liturgy or time of prayer. On Good Friday, we are instructed to abstain from meat and fast from all but one full meal – depending on age and wellness. What is one vice or bad habit that Jesus would invite you to leave with him at the cross this Good Friday? What is a virtue or good habit you would take up to replace it?

**Don’t forget to turn your clocks back this Saturday evening, as daylight saving ends.**