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Catholic Church - Diocese of Wollongong

**St. THOMAS MORE PARISH, RUSE**

welcomes you

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Healy

**PENTECOST - YEAR A**

**31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2020**



**FIRST READING - Acts 2:1-11.**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs: we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The Word of the Lord.

**(R.) Thanks be to God RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.**

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!  
 Lord God, how great you are, How many are your works, O Lord!  
 The earth is full of your riches. **(R.)**

2. You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. **(R.)**

3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever!  
 May the Lord rejoice in his works!  
 May my thoughts be pleasing to him.  
 I find my joy in the Lord. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING - 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13.**

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

The Word of the Lord.

**(R.) Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
 Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.  
 Alleluia!

**GOSPEL READING - John 20:19-23.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

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.**

**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. 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.**

As summer progresses in Australia, invariably great bushfires break out. Those who report the infernos speak not only of the flames, but often of a mighty roar like a great windstorm heralding the approaching fire.

The earth had quaked at the death of Jesus, but death had been conquered and the earth was supercharged with divine energy and vitality. Into all this the Risen Lord sent his Holy Spirit like a lightning strike. Divine energy was unleashed and St Luke portrays this particular event in our bushfire terms. The Holy Spirit, he says, was 'like tongues of fire' and 'like the sound of a mighty wind' accompanying the descent of the Holy Spirit on a gathering of a fearful group of followers of Our Lord.

The tangled undergrowth of fear, anxiety and timidity was cleared away. The new life of the church was germinated, took root and has been growing ever since, listening to the core message preached by St Peter: Jesus of Nazareth had conquered death and Peter and others were witnesses to the Risen Lord.

We could pause for a moment to pray for the successor of St Peter that he may preach the resurrection in a way which is understandable by people of every culture, every ethnicity, every language group around the world.  
 mtate@bigpond.com



**EXPLORE DIOCESAN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

During these times of uncertainty and isolation, nourishing our faith becomes even more important. Through spending time with God and with one another we find the hope, comfort, guidance and certainty that our loving God and Father wants to share with us. Jesus wants to be with us and care for us during these days.

Along with the list of livestreamed masses and devotions, we have put together the following resources to help support your own faith along with your children and family.

<https://www.dow.org.au/covid-19/nourish-your-faith-at-home/>

On this page you will find resources for:

- \* Participating in Masses and other liturgies and prayer gatherings.
- \* Sharing faith with others in the community.
- \* Nourishing your faith and that of your family.

**STEWARDSHIP**

**PENTECOST - YEAR A**

*In the second reading today, St. Paul reminds the Corinthians, "There are different gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different ministries, but the same Lord."*

*How am I using my gifts for the common good?*

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**7<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2020**

**THE MOST HOLY TRINITY - YEAR A**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:**

**Exodus 34:4-6. 8-9.**

*The Lord God, ruler of all, merciful and loving.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:**

**2 Corinthians 13:11-13.**

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

**Gospel Reading:**

**John 3:16-18.**

*God sent his Son to save the world through him.*

**SAINT OF THE DAY**

**CHARLES LWANGA AND HIS COMPANIONS**



Charles Lwanga and his companions were African Catholics who died for their faith in Uganda in the 1880s.

At the time Uganda was ruled by King Mwanga who persecuted Christians for their primary allegiance to God rather than their king.

Charles Lwanga was the head of the royal page boys, some of whom he had baptised.

One day all the pages were assembled and the Christians were separated from the group and arrested.

Charles and his companions, many only boys, were martyred for their belief. The example of these passionate young Africans inspired many people who then became converts to Christianity.



**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Secretary: Mrs Carmel Munro

**TUESDAY - FRIDAY**

**9.00am - 3.30pm**

Parish ☎: 4628 2967

Email: ruse@dow.org.au

School ☎: 4625 6561

**BANKING WITH DAD.....**

**HUMOUR CORNER**

I had spent an hour in the bank with my dad, as he had to transfer some money. I couldn't resist myself & asked...

"Dad, why don't we activate your internet banking?"

"Why would I do that?" He asked...

"Well, then you won't have to spend an hour here for things like transfer. You can even do your shopping online. Everything will be so easy!" I was so excited about initiating him into the world of Net banking.

He asked "If I do that, I won't have to step out of the house?"

"Yes, yes"! I said. I told him how even grocery can be delivered at door now and how amazon delivers everything! His answer left me tongue-tied.

He said "Since I entered this bank today, I have met four of my friends, I have chatted a while with the staff who know me very well by now.

You know I am alone...this is the company that I need. I like to get ready and come to the bank. I have enough time, it is the physical touch that I crave.

Two years back I got sick, The store owner from whom I buy fruits, came to see me and sat by my bedside and cried.

When your Mom fell down few days back while on her morning walk. Our local grocer saw her and immediately got his car to rush her home as he knows where I live. Would I have that 'human' touch if everything became online?

Why would I want everything delivered to me and force me to interact with just my computer? I like to know the person that I'm dealing with and not just the 'seller'. It creates bonds of Relationships.

Does Amazon deliver all this as well?"

**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.

**PENTECOST SUNDAY**  
Year A



31st May 2020

**PARISH MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL:**



**Dear Parishioners,**

It's Pentecost Sunday, the Birthday of the Church. The First Pentecost saw the birth of a New Community, the New People of God. The Apostles had been hiding in the Upper Room in Jerusalem for fear of the Jews, "isolated", with apprehension and uncertainty about their future and what to do next. Then God sent His Holy Spirit upon them. They went out fearlessly to preach the Gospel. They couldn't have done this without "power from on high" – that is the Holy Spirit.

I feel that in 2020, **we** are a bit like the early Apostles. For ten weeks now, we have been living in fear of a tiny "being" called CORONAVIRUS. We have been cut off in "isolation" and living the restrictions of COVID19. Under the direction and wisdom of our Australian Governments and medical authorities, we seem to be reaping the benefits of these safety procedures, making our Nation the Envy of the World.

We know that our COVID19 "Pentecost" day is still in the future. So, let's invite the Holy Spirit to come to us a new today with hope, courage, patience and perseverance.

The Government is slowly lifting some of the restrictions on Church gatherings, and we respect their wisdom in "hastening slowly". Presently they are introducing PHASE ONE. This allows a public Parish Mass, attended only by **10** people (excluding children, those unwell and those over 70 years). It implies very stringent regulations and restrictions. (Seems a nightmare to organise)!

Many Parish Priests and their Liturgy Committees, including ours at Ruse, have decided to delay the introduction of this PHASE ONE until later, until we are more prepared. Also, with PHASE ONE in OUR PARISH, it would entail finding an outside Priest to celebrate the Mass, as I, in my 70+ years, am not permitted even to be present at the Mass. More details for you in next week's Bulletin.

I invite you to join me this weekend in asking God to send the same Spirit of Pentecost on us, on our Church and on our World. "Lord send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth".

Happy Birthday to our "Church in isolation"

**Fr Michael**

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

**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:**

**Parish Carpark lines:** Thank you to the 5 gentlemen who during our Church "lock-down" came and did some much needed re-painting of our Parish Carpark lines. **THANK YOU.**

**Parish Bulletin:** If you know of any Parishioners or friends of our Parish that would like to have the Bulletin emailed to them, could you please ask them to email the Parish Office and it will be emailed to them. (thanking you in anticipation). There are hard copies available from the Parish Office (during Office Hours)

**Planned Giving Envelopes 2020/21:** Are ready for collection from the Parish Office during Office Hours.

**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: Cohan Alexander Boyd (Anniv), Alice Harris (Anniv), Wayne Berthon (R.D.), Anne Mogensen (R.D.), Marguerite Green (R.D.), Ellen Healy, Audrey Barsenbach, Mary Writer, Cathy Wiggins, Winifred Minogue, Fr Anthony (Tony) Daly, Ladislav Feher, Beryl Ford, Jim McKenzie, John Read, Bobby Cameron, 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: Shirley Starr, 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, Briege 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.

**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 Birthdays this coming week:**

**30<sup>th</sup>: Karin Daley**

**5<sup>th</sup> June: Bill George and Eugene Menzies**

**Parishioner's Wedding Anniversary this coming week:**

**4<sup>th</sup>: Maryanne and Ronald Fredericks (51 years)**

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

**ELECTRONIC PARISH PLANNED GIVING:** As most Parish 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. The 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 contact the CDF Wollongong: Trevor Kellam at [trevor.kellam@dow.org.au](mailto:trevor.kellam@dow.org.au)

**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.**

**PETITION TO THE NSW PREMIER | COVID-19**

**RESTRICTIONS:** The Archdiocese of Sydney, through Archbishop Anthony Fisher, has prepared a petition to be sent to Premier Gladys Berejiklian, calling for churches to be allowed to accommodate up to 50 people, just as restaurants and cafes can, from 1 June 2020. This initiative comes after Archbishop Fisher wrote a letter in early May, co-signed by NSW Bishops, Ordinariates and Eparchs, calling for the same rules that applied to public venues, to apply to churches; however, that letter was not acted upon by the Premier. The petition can be accessed at <https://www.openourchurches.com.au> if you wish to support the petition.

**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>

**UPDATE FROM THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG:**

**THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG WEEKLY PODCAST:** "The Journey": 31 May 2020: Listen in this week for as we hear from Bishop Brian Mascord for Pentecost Sunday, some great music and short talks from some of Australia's best Catholic presenters. Uploaded every Friday for free go to: [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au)

**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

**ADORATION LIVESTREAMED WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:** The NET Team host 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 for free: <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)

**CatholicCare** now offers the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) in the Macarthur region, helping seniors to access entry-level support services to live independently and safely at home. If you, or anyone you know requires aged care assistance at home, please ask them to call 4628 0044 and ask for Melissa or Colleen.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT:** The Church moves further into the Third Millennium of the Christian era as a pilgrim people, guided by Christ, the "great Shepherd". The Church continues to speak to all people and all nations, for it is only in the name of Christ that salvation is given to men and women. **Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church – Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.** Go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au)