

## The Baptism of the Lord



12<sup>th</sup> January 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.**

**SPECIAL COLLECTION AT MASSES on the AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND:** (25<sup>th</sup> & 26 January): These funds will be donated to The St Vincent de Paul Bushfire Appeal NSW. Bishop Brian has asked that we all continue to pray for all in our Diocese as we all care for, and stand by, each other in this particular time of need. We also remember those who continue to fight fires and, may again face extraordinary weather conditions ahead. **We place these weeks and our circumstances in the hands of our loving God through the intercession of our Australia saint St Mary of the Cross MacKillop: pray for us and our parched country. May God pour on us the rain we need.**  
Bishop Brian Mascord.

**IF ANY PARISHIONER/S:** 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 Anniversaries this coming week:**  
12<sup>th</sup>: **Jim and Julie Writer (57 years)**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** The recently deceased and the Anniversaries that occur at this time: John (Jack) McInerney (Anniv), Jim McKenzie, Mary McInerney, Ev McInerney, 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: Mary Dolan, Frank Byron, Sean Scanlon, Kellie Brandes, Brian Harris, Francisco Carmona, David Minogue, Daphne and Edmund Pew, Luke Van Der Burg, Briege Glover, Steve Foreman, 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.

**2019 CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** Many Parishioners and Visitor’s to our Parish over Christmas passed on their congratulations to the organisers, Joanne and Catherine.

Because a lot of people were unable to go away due to the fires, our Church saw its biggest Christmas Vigil congregation in many years. How wonderful it was that we were able to showcase the talents of people like both of you, as well as the children and Carmen with the music. **Thank you both so much for all your gifts of time and talent.**

### THANK YOU FROM OUR PARISH PASTORAL AND FINANCE

**COUNCILS:** Wishing each and every one of our Parishioners and Visitor’s to our Parish the very best for 2020 and thank you for your continued support of our Parish.

**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 either contact the Parish Office or see Fr Michael.

**PARISH LADIES GROUP:** Wish to thank Parishioners and Visitors to our Parish for supporting our Parish Raffle Fundraisers during 2019. From the proceeds of the Christmas Raffle we have donated \$500.00 to the St Vincent de Paul Society Bushfire Appeal. Thank you all once again.

**RUSE ST VINCENT de PAUL CONFERENCE:** Your St Vincent de Paul Conference 2019 finished in a very busy manner. Much was achieved and many families helped but none of this could have occurred without the support of our wonderful Parishioners. We are encouraged in our work by your generous support for the Assist a Student and Winter Appeals etc. Our supporters throughout the St Thomas More Parish are too many to acknowledge in this brief note but we thank you all! **Thank you on behalf of the St Vincent de Paul Society Ruse/ Airs conference.**

**PARISH CHURCH CLEANER’S ROSTER:** If you would like to join this very important Parish Ministry or continue, it would be greatly appreciated. You are appreciated by all who come to worship in our Parish. Please put your details down on the Clip board on the main table at the Entrance to the Church. **Thanking you in advance.**

**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 either 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.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION 2020:** For Baptised children in Year 3 (in 2020) and above. The Parent/Carer Information and Enrolment Evening is **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.00pm.** Information for First Holy Communion and Confirmation will be available at a later date.

**PARISH ROSARY STATUE:** Thank you to the Parishioners who had the Rosary Statue in their homes during 2019. If you would like to have the Parish Rosary Statue in your home during 2020 please phone Bev on 4625 0659.

**THE RELICS of much-loved Carmelite Saint, St Therese of Lisieux** plus her parents, St’s Louis and Zelig Martin are coming to Australia for a national tour in 2020. They are coming to Varroville for a visit from 22 January until 1 February 2020, when the official tour begins. The relics will be in the Parish Church at Our Lady of Mt Carmel. From Sat 25 January until Tuesday 28 January for public veneration and all are most warmly invited to attend.

**THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO SHOW:** Will enter our Summer Series until early February. Go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) and to ensure that you never miss a show it can be sent to you each week as a podcast via email-for free.

**A VOCATION VIEW:** Isaiah says: “The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord.” Who taught you knowledge of the Lord, and who are you teaching today? If anyone would like to know more, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez, at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au)

**JOIN THE ADVENTURE:** CatholiCare is holding a fundraising trek to the iconic Larapinta Trail (near Alice Springs) on 28 Sept – 4 Oct 2020. CatholicCare is seeking participants to undertake the trek and help raise \$100,000 to help children in need throughout the Illawarra, Shoalhaven, Macarthur and Southern Highlands areas.  
For more information: <http://tiny.cc/CatholicCareLarapinta>

**BAPTISM:** Is the first of the seven sacraments, (first of initiation) and a celebration common to all Christian traditions.

Through Baptism Christians are washed in the waters of rebirth and given a share in God’s own life. Reborn in Christ and supported by the community of faith, all the baptised are offered the promise of eternal life.

Baptism gives the grace needed to become disciples of Christ. In the celebration of the sacrament, the Church is following Jesus’ command to go and baptise in his name. In Baptism the Church passes from the death of sin into new life with the risen Christ. By water and the Holy Spirit, Baptism imprints a special character on the soul.

The celebration of the Sacrament includes a number of ritual actions. Central is the immersion in water (or the pouring of water on the head) as the ancient formula of the Trinity is invoked: I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The rite includes two separate anointings and the presentation of the baptismal candle, the light of Christ. A white garment is worn, symbolising new life in Christ.

Sunday, the day of the resurrection, is the preferred day for Baptism of infants. It may be celebrated during the parish Sunday Mass in the presence of the local Christian community. Please speak with Fr Michael for arrangements.

### DIARY DATES:

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February: 6.00pm: Baptism Preparation Class** in the Parish Centre  
**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February: 7.30pm Parish Ladies Group** meeting (1<sup>st</sup> for 2020) in the Parish Centre  
**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February: after the 9.30am morning Mass Parish Retiree’s Social Group Gathering** in Chelsea House (Parish Hall)  
**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February: 7.30pm St Vincent de Paul Society** meeting (1<sup>st</sup> for 2020) in the Parish Centre

### PARISH ROSTERS FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS:

#### USHERS

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January: Vigil Mass: Maureen Molland**  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January: 9.00am Mass: Gwen Harris**  
**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January: Vigil Mass: Carmel Munro**  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January: 9.00am Mass: Christine Foreman**

#### READERS:

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January: Vigil Mass: Bev McKenzie and John Greene**  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January: 9.00am Mass: Alison Hourigan and Christine Foreman**  
**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January: Vigil Mass: John Greene and Bev McKenzie**  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January: 9.00am Mass: Christine Foreman and Allison Hourigan**

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January: Vigil Mass: Winnie Cameron and Julie McKenzie**  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January: 9.00am Mass: Faye Faamau and Mavon Vaughan**  
**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January: Vigil Mass: Bev McKenzie and Maureen Molland**  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January: 9.00am Mass: Catherine Minogue and Annette Read**

#### POWERPOINT OPERATOR’S:

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January: Vigil Mass: Gwen H**  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January: 9.00am Mass: Gwen Harris**  
**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January: Vigil Mass: Chantal Berbari**  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January: 9.00am Mass: Gwen Harris**

#### CHURCH CLEANERS:

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January: Group 1: Syro-Malabar Indian Community**  
**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January: Group 4: Maureen Molland, Colleen Jablonskis, Faye Faamau and Kerry Walker**

#### Prayer

God our loving Father, we are subject to the whims and impulses of our natural world. You are the God of the plains, the hills, the rivers and the mountains of our country and we come before you to pray for those who fight fire; a good servant, but a terrifying master. Lord, our volunteer fire fighters leave families, loved ones and their homes to protect us from the fires that ravage our land. We earnestly pray for them as they work so tirelessly against such a deadly foe. We remember and pray for the volunteers and residents who have been killed, and we commend them to your merciful love. We pray for the volunteers and all who have been injured and we pray that you will stretch out your healing hands over them. Father, be with all victims who have lost their homes, their animals, their crops and their livelihood. Bless the many volunteers who support our fire fighters with food and drink, and all those who give to those left with nothing. We pray too for killed or injured wild life; both native and domestic, and for trees and plant life that have been destroyed. St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, **pray for us.** St. Florian, Patron Saint of Fire Fighters, **pray for us. Amen**

