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CATHOLIC CHURCH - DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

St. THOMAS MORE PARISH, RUSE
 WELCOMES YOU
 Parish Priest: Fr Michael Healy

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
 - YEAR B
 3rd JANUARY 2021

FIRST READING -

Isaiah 60:1-6.
A reading from the book of Genesis.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
(R.) Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**
2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R.)**
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **(R.)**
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

SECOND READING -

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6.
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord.
(R.) Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
 We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING -

Matthew 2:1-12.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over

the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.
(R.) Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

REFLECTION - by Fr Michael Tate.

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a starchild in Bethlehem.

They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control this infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him.

mtate@bigpond.com



When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. Matthew 2:9-10.

MASS TIMES

- TUESDAY 5th JANUARY**
9.30am. - Mass.
- WEDNESDAY 6th JANUARY**
9.30am. - Mass.
- THURSDAY 7th JANUARY**
9.30am. - Mass.
- FRIDAY 8th JANUARY**
9.30am. - Mass.
- SATURDAY 9th JANUARY**
Saturday Vigil for THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
6.00pm. - Mass.
- SUNDAY 10th JANUARY**
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
9.00am. - Mass.

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
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 Website: 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
 School ☎: 4625 6561

STEWARDSHIP
 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD -
 YEAR B

The three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the infant Jesus brought Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh as part of their worship.

What gifts have I brought to this celebration to offer to the newborn Savior?

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

10th JANUARY 2021
**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD YEAR -
 YEAR B**

First Reading:
Isaiah 55:1-11.

Come to the water; listen to my words and you shall have life.

Second Reading:
1 John 5:1-9.

Gospel Reading:
Mark 1:7-11.

You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

St Raymond of Penyafort



St Raymond of Penyafort was a Spanish born priest who became the master general of the Dominicans in 1238. He was involved in writing Church law and started a school that taught missionaries the language and culture of the people to be evangelised in Northern Africa and Spain. His compassion helped many people to return to God through Reconciliation. He is the patron saint of lawyers and canonists.

Help the three wise men to get to Bethlehem



The EPIPHANY of the LORD



3rd January 2021

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power." With these words, the Church proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfillment all the purposes of Advent. Epiphany, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the Advent-Christmas season. — Pius Parsch

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

DO YOU WISH TO ATTEND A WEEKEND MASS?

You cannot just turn up for Mass as previously!! YOU HAVE TO REGISTER WITH THE PARISH OFFICE BY the FRIDAY (12noon) BEFORE THE WEEKEND MASSES. We are unable to accommodate more than 90 in our Church, and it will not be possible to admit parishioners who have not pre-registered. Please arrive early for Mass (at least 15 minutes beforehand). Church doors are locked as Mass begins, No collections are taken up at Mass. Usual Parish Collection donations can be placed in the baskets provided on the table at the Church entrance door. If you are elderly (70 years +) or not feeling well, the ruling states that, (for your own safety) YOU MUST STAY AT HOME. Holy Communion (in a single file) must be Received in the hand Nobody will be permitted to socially assemble in the courtyard before, during and after Mass.

FATHER MICHAEL'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE:

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all those who gave me cards and gifts for Christmas. I am deeply touched by your generosity. Thank you to all who have worked for and been of service to our Parish in so many, many ways over the past year. Your sense of responsibility, regular service, generosity, support, hospitality, courtesy, integrity and deep faith are most appreciated especially during the trying times of 2020.

May the child Jesus touch all the hearts and the homes of the Parish with peace, happiness and good will throughout the New Year.

Also, that the Holy Spirit will lead us into the New Year with confidence to guide us forward in our journey with a sense of hope, peace and confidence.

God Bless you all.

Fr Michael

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: The recently deceased and the Anniversaries that occur at this time: Maria Ta Thi Tinh, Maria Tran Thi Diep, Gioan Nguyen Van Thanh, Jim McKenzie, Mary McInerney, Ev McInerney, Betty Shearman, Edmund Pew, Steven English, Thomas McVittie, Fr Tony Daly, John Read, Mary Writer, Maree Laming, Bobby Cameron, Jay Jablonskis, Alice Harris, Deborah Rix, Marg Davis, Bernard Hoffmann, Maurya Hutton and all the people who have died in this current pandemic. *May eternal rest grant to them O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR: For the *many* sick in our Parish Community including: Sue Boyd, Maria Byron, Chris Hayes, Tresora Wyer, Trish Spackman, Katy Carolan, Jan Vaughan, Peter Gabas, Ron Fredericks, Kathleen Sidebottom, Kerry Walker, Jessica Nilsson, David Jabour, Dennis Jabour, Samantha Glover, Shirley Starr, Kenny Wilson, Antonio David, Mary Dolan, Frank Byron, Sean Scanlon, Kellie Brandes, Brian Harris, Francisco Carmona, David Minogue, Daphne Pew, Steve Foreman, Luke Van Der Burg, Briege Glover, Fr John Whitty, Elaine Hoffmann, Betty Berthon, Moria Harris, Betty Byrne, Rosa Santos, Aimiti Seufatu, John Hill, Freda and Wilfred Miranda, Beryl Purcell, Jeannie and George Nicholson, Mary Fredericks and Flynn Griffiths.

Parishioner's Birthday this coming week:

1st: Chris Mawere 7th: Chris Vine

Parishioner's Wedding Anniversaries this coming week:

3rd: Theresa & Joe Berbari (51 years)
5th: Tresora & Brian Wyer (58 years)
5th: Chris & Rosalie Vine (48 years)
7th: Gwen & Brian Harris (54 years)
7th: Rosa & Manuel Herrera (56 years)

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.

PARISH READER'S: for the next fortnight:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 9th Jan: Annette Read & Carmel Munro
Sunday 9.00am Mass: 10th Jan: Julie Writer & Bill George
Saturday Vigil Mass: 16th Jan: Maureen Molland & Jessica Littlewood
Sunday 9.00am Mass: 17th Jan: Marian Cross & Bill George

PARISH CHURCH CLEANER'S:

9th Jan: Group 3: Christine Foreman, Christine Charlton, James & Carmel Munro
16th Jan: Group 1: Syro-Malabar Indian Community

THANKYOU: Parishioner's and Visitor's to our Parish Masses during the week and weekends, who help with the santising of their seats plus the many areas that are touched eg: door handles, the Lectern, Sactuary etc. *Also, to the Parishioners who have kindly donated: sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer and face masks.*

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY: "For more than one reason, 2020 was a difficult year. In the context of higher unemployment, we expect 2021 will also present challenges, not the least of which will be how to run appeals in a Covid environment.

For your St Vincent de Paul Conference, this year hasn't been especially busy and Covid has restricted the things we could do, especially given many of our most experienced members are also in the "high risk" category. Having said this, the last month or so have been quite busy and Christmas, as always, was especially so.

None of what we achieved in 2020 could have occurred without the support of our wonderful Parishioners. While Covid rules prevented our usual Jesse Tree, the toys received this year were of high quality and will brighten Christmas for many families. We are encouraged in our work by such generous support. We thank you all!

God bless and Merry Christmas on behalf of your St Vincent de Paul Society Ruse/ Airds conference."

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.

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 the 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.

ELECTRONIC PARISH PLANNED GIVING: 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 1st and 2nd collection baskets during Mass, we are encouraging all parishioners to join the electronic parish planned giving program. The Diocese has 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: <https://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

Bishop Brian Mascord DD: I am very proud that as a diocese we have collectively worked to keep our communities safe as we have had to significantly disrupt the liturgical life of our Church and the faithful.

DIOCESE of WOLLONGONG MASS ONLINE: For all of the online Mass options – please visit the DoW website <https://dow.sh/daily-mass>

A VOCATION VIEW: Epiphany: God's glory continues to shine in our world. Where do you need to carry the light of Christ? Consider being a light for the world as a Church minister. (Isaiah 60:1-6).

If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

CathFAMILY: CathFAMILY brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts and recipes from their website to assist parents and grandparents in being the first educators in faith for their kinds. <https://cathfamily.org/activities/>

CATHOLICCARE: We're always here, if you need... These are challenging times for everyone and CatholicCare are here to support you and your family to navigate the uncertainty. To find out more about CatholicCare's counselling services email intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au

SUMMER NIGHTS RETREAT at MT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE, VARROVILLE: JANUARY 2021: This is available for 16-35-year old's to participate in a retreat called Summer Nights. The retreat will feature excellent quality talks and teaching, night sessions with praise and worship, drama, preaching, testimonies and prayer. Mass, adoration and reconciliation will be available each day. COVID safe dinner will be provided each day. There are 2 options for young people to register: Monday 11 Jan – Wednesday 13 Jan (3pm – 9pm) and/or Thursday 14 Jan-Saturday 16 January (3pm-9pm). To register go to www.summerschool.org.au

Pope Francis 10 Suggestions for the New Year:

1. "Take care of your spiritual life, your relationship with God,"
2. "Take care of your family life,"
3. "Take care of your relationships with others,"
4. "Be careful how you speak."
5. "Heal wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness."
6. "Look after your work."
7. "Be careful of envy, lust, hatred and negative feelings."
8. Watch out for anger or pointing the finger at others."
9. "Watch out "for complaining continually."
10. "Take care of brothers and sisters who are weaker."

