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Catholic Church - Diocese of Wollongong

St. THOMAS MORE PARISH, RUSE

welcomes you

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Healy

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

19th JULY 2020

FIRST READING - Wisdom 12:13-16-19.

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

- O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call. Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice. **(R.)**
- All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord: for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God. **(R.)**
- But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me. **(R.)**

SECOND READING - Romans 8:26-27.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
 Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING - Matthew 13:24-43.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

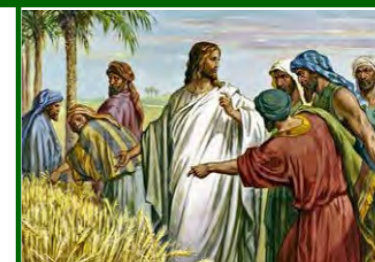
He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are



the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!

The Gospel of the Lord.

(R.) Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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.

One loves someone so much – a child, a parent, a spouse or partner – yet when one tries to pray for that person the words seem only a pale shadow of the intensity of feeling and total love one feels. Stop! Simply put the person or situation before God and say nothing. The Holy Spirit will express our heartfelt prayer for us.

One's heart is breaking with grief for someone close who is very ill or dying. Or one feels a terrible anxiety or anguish. Words don't come easily even though one wants to pray. Stop! Put the person or situation before God and say nothing. The Holy Spirit will express our heartfelt prayer for us.

Perhaps accentuated by the constant messaging of social media, when trying to pray we can get anxious when there is a lull in the noise and no words come. We could pause for a moment to relax and to allow the Spirit to express our plea in a way which could never be put into words. mtate@bigpond.com



'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'
 Matthew 13:31-32

MASS TIMES

TUESDAY 21st JULY
 9.30am. - Mass.

WEDNESDAY 22nd JULY
 9.30am. - Mass.

THURSDAY 23rd JULY
 9.30am. - Mass.

FRIDAY 24th JULY
 9.30am. - Mass.

RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

SATURDAY 25th JULY
 Saturday Vigil for 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
 6.00pm. - Mass.

SUNDAY 26th JULY
 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
 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

Email: ruse@dow.org.au

Website: www.stmruse.org.au

Facebook: St Thomas More Catholic Parish Church, Ruse.

STEWARDSHIP

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Good stewards in a parish are like the yeast in today's Gospel. Their selfless gifts of time and talent help the parish grow and thrive, and their example inspires others to become good stewards, too.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

26th JULY 2020
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

1st Reading:
1 Kings 3:5.7-12.

You have asked for wisdom.

2nd Reading:
Romans 8:28-30.

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

Gospel Reading:
Matthew 13:44-52.

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

HUMOUR CORNER

THE PREJUDICED JUROR

A man wanted to be dismissed from jury duty, but none of his excuses worked, So on the day of the trial, he asked to approach the bench.

"Your Honor," he said, "I must be excused from this trial because I am prejudiced against the defendant."

"Oh?" the judge asked.

"Yes!" the man replied. "I took one look at the man in the blue suit with those beady eyes and that dishonest face, and thought, 'He is a crook! He is 100% guilty' So, your honor, I couldn't possibly be on this jury!"

The Judge replied, "Get back in the jury box. You are just the kind of juror we are seeking - a good judge of character."

The man protested, "How can you say that?"

"Because," the Judge said, "that man is the defendant's lawyer."



ST MARY MAGDALENE

St Mary of Magdala was a disciple of Christ who was healed by him when he cast out seven devils. She stood at the foot of the cross as Jesus died, and went to the tomb to anoint his body on the morning of Easter Sunday. She was the first witness to Jesus' resurrection when she found his tomb empty.



In St Mark's Gospel, it is Mary Magdalene to whom the risen Jesus first appears and further to this, in St John's account, Jesus gives her a message to pass on to his brethren. Since the time of Pope Gregory the Great, a tradition in the Western church arose that identified Mary Magdalene as the unnamed sinner who anointed Christ's feet, and Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha and Lazarus. But since 1969 the new Roman calendar has rejected this belief entirely.

16th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME
Year A



19th July 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

PARISH MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL:



Dear Parishioners and friends of St Thomas More Parish

For Parish Masses please read main notices.

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

*May God bless keep you well and safe,
Fr Michael*

URGENTLY NEEDED:

MONITOR'S: Thank you to the Parishioner's who are currently being Monitor's – you are greatly appreciated and thank you also to those who have volunteered to help in this Parish Ministry.

The role of the Monitor is also to help people enter the Church safely and to ensure social distancing and not to congregate before or after Mass, and other similar things. Each Mass requires at least 3 Monitor's (our attendee numbers have increased)– if you would like to assist in this important role – please contact the Parish Office (during Office Hours – 4628 2967).

CLEANER'S: *The Church, where people have sat, and frequently touched surfaces, need to be cleaned after each Mass, to help ensure the safety of our parishioners-all materials are supplied. If you have a spare 2-3 minutes after each Mass to assist with this – it is greatly appreciated.*

UPDATES IN OUR PARISH:

Parish Bulletin: If you know of a parishioner who is not receiving these emails please encourage them to contact the parish office. There are hard copies available at the entrance to the Church.

Planned Giving Envelopes 2020/21: There are still a few to be collected from the Parish Office during Office Hours.

WEEKDAY MASSES AT RUSE CHURCH: Those attending a Weekday Mass will NOT have to Register beforehand, only the first 70 Worshipers will be admitted.
We are in urgent need of Monitor's for Weekday Masses also.

DO YOU WISH TO ATTEND A WEEKEND MASS?

You cannot just turn up for Mass as previously!!

Note: emails and text messages cannot be accepted.

You can state the weekend date and time of the Mass you wish to attend and you must give the name and phone number of each person you wish to register. These details will be checked and ticked off at the Church door as you enter for Mass.

If you are elderly (70 years +) or not feeling well, the ruling states that, (for your own safety) YOU MUST STAY AT HOME.

After entering the Church for Mass, your hands will be sanitized and your temperature taken. (This is obligatory) then a Monitor will show you to your RESERVED seat, where **Social distancing (4 sq meters)** must be strictly observed, (except for people of the same house-hold)

No Holy Water fonts, No Votive Candles, No Offertory

Procession, no Sign of Peace

Holy Communion (in a single file) **must** be Received in the hand

Please arrive early for Mass (at least 10 minutes beforehand). Church doors must be locked as Mass begins, No collections can be taken up at Mass.

Usual Parish Collection donations can be placed in the baskets provided on the table at the Church door

You are to sanitize your hands again as you leave the Church and **Nobody** will be permitted to socially assemble in the courtyard before, during and after Mass.

SOME STATISTICS from 2016 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CENSUS FOR RUSE PARISH 2016: PARISH PROFILE:

Total Catholic Families:	1312
Median age of Catholics:	38 years
Catholics aged 65+	15.6%
Catholics aged 0-14	20.7%
Catholics born overseas:	694
Catholics living alone:	225

MORE TO COME

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.

20th: Naomi Cross (21)

22nd: Lee McKinnon

24th: Tresora Wyer & Carmel Bartolo

PLEASE PRAY FOR: All the people who have died in this current pandemic, the recently deceased and whose anniversaries that occur at this time: Ern Munro (Anniv), Fr Douglas Rheinberger, Rita D'Souza, Debbie Phillips, Dulcie Munro, John Read, Wanda Antao, Richard Garton, Fr Theophane (Theo) Rush ofm, Cohan Boyd, Alice Harris, Mary Writer, Cathy Wiggins, Fr Anthony (Tony) Daly, Ladislav Feher, Beryl Ford, Jim McKenzie, 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 the *many* sick in our Parish Community including: Kerry Walker, Jessica Nilsson, Samantha Glover, Shirley Starr, Kenny Wilson, Antonio David, Hannah Kavanagh, Mary Dolan, Frank Byron, Sean Scanlon, Kellie Brandes, Brian Harris, Francisco Carmona, David Minogue, Daphne and Edmund Pew, Steve Foreman, Luke Van Der Burg, Briega Glover, Fr John Whitty, Elaine Hoffmann, Patricia McNerney, 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.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY: Is available online at

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/catholic-weekly-newspaper-online/>

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.

Thank you once again for your continued support of our Parish of St Thomas More, Ruse.

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 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 contact the CDF Wollongong: Trevor Kellam at trevor.kellam@dow.org.au

VINNIES WINTER APPEAL: Your St Vincent de Paul Conference is unable to run a normal Winter Appeal in 2020 due to the current pandemic and associated risks. However, there remain many people in need and anyone able to make a cash donation is encouraged to do so. Simply, visit www.vinnies.org.au/donate or call **13 18 12** to make a secure donation. All donations of \$2 and over are tax-deductible.

PARISH CHURCH CLEANER'S:

25th July: Group 4: Maureen Molland, Faye Faamau and Colleen Jablonskis

1st August: Group 5: Ruse Samoan Divine Mercy Group (Maria Byron +)

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL: Please contact the School Office on 4625 6561 for School enquiries. To keep up-to-date with the happenings in our Parish Catholic Primary School please use this link to read their School newsletter:

<https://stmdow.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=50>

Wishing all our Parish School children the very best as they return to School for Term 3.

THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG WEEKLY PODCAST:

The Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast – 'The Journey' – 19th July 2020. This week on the Journey Fr Mark De Battista reflects on the parable of the wheat and weeds and Jesus recognizing good's co-existence with evil. As usual, there are some great short talks from some of Australia's best Catholic presenters. Uploaded every Friday for free download – go to 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 (**below**).

CatholicCare: We're always here, if you ever need...

These are challenging times for everyone and CatholicCare are here to support you and your family to navigate the uncertainty. We offer confidential online and phone counselling to support you with the frustration of managing family emotions, relationship pressures and employment changes. To find out more about CatholicCare's counselling service call us on 4254 9395 or email intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au

FAITH CIRCLES: is available free to download at www.faithcircles.dow.org.au or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

YOUTH MINISTRY ONLINE: Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong has launched LIVE- check it out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdC-Q7-OVY>.

FAITH RESOURCES FOR USE AT HOME: There are some new adult online faith formation opportunities available on the Diocesan website – go to the new Section on Dow Website. Visit: www.dow.org.au/covid-19/nourish-your-faith-at-home.

PRAYER RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES: Go to: liturgyhelp.com/aus/woll/pray and follow the prompts to access.

PRAYER OF 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 in 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 unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen

