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**CATHOLIC CHURCH - DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG**

**St. THOMAS MORE PARISH, RUSE**

WELCOMES YOU

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Healy

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**2nd AUGUST 2020**



**FIRST READING - Isaiah 55:1-3.**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;  
though you have no money, come!  
Buy corn without money, and eat,  
and, at no cost, wine and milk.  
Why spend money on what is not bread,  
your wages on what fails to satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy.  
Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live.  
With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

The Word of the Lord.

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

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs..**

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING - Romans 8:35-37-39.**

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL READING - Matthew 14:13-21.**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

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.**

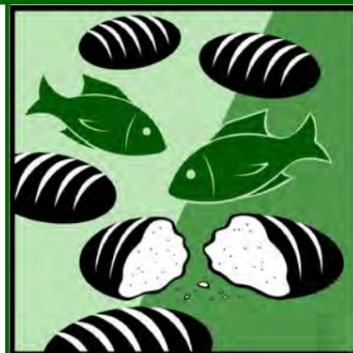
Note the disciples' reaction to the plight of the hungry crowd: 'Send the people away so that they can buy.' The disciples have gone for the fix which puts no responsibility on them. They are willing to entrust the hungry crowd to market forces. Those with money can eat: those without, can't. For the disciples, money and commerce are the answers to hunger.

Jesus rejects that solution. 'There is no need for them to go; give them something to eat yourselves.' The solution to the hunger of that crowd was to give generously what little the disciples had. What they could have kept for themselves was to become gift. Once the disciples were in Jesus' frame of mind, the hunger of the crowd was satisfied. How did this come about? The answer lay in human cooperation with the impulse of Divine generosity which knows no limits. The story simply says that Jesus blessed and broke the loaves 'and handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowd.' Jesus depended on the disciples to obey him: 'Give them something to eat yourselves.'

Jesus still looks with gut-wrenching compassion on those who are hungry in our own society and throughout the world. If we answer that market forces will suffice, Jesus will reject our answer as decisively as he rejected the answer of his earliest disciples. We have to take responsibility to share what we have, to be generous with what we have. After all, Jesus, Our Lord and Master, commands us: 'Give them something to eat yourselves'. Note how Jesus blessed those loaves and broke them before they were distributed, which reminds us of the words of Pedro Arrupe, former General of the Jesuits, 'Eucharist will never be complete so long as people still go hungry in the world.'

We could pause for a moment at Mass to ask: Who are those hungry people crowding in on us, and then pray that we may respond to them as our Lord commanded, so that the hungers of the crowd, and our hunger to really follow our Lord, will be satisfied.

mtate@bigpond.com



*'Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.'*

Matthew 14:19.

**MASS TIMES**

**TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
9.30am. - Mass.

**WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
9.30am. - Mass.

**THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
9.30am. - Mass.

**FRIDAY 7<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
9.30am. - Mass.

**RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

**SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
Saturday Vigil for 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A  
6.00pm. - Mass.

**SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
19<sup>th</sup> 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**

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

*In today's Gospel,  
Jesus feeds the five thousand  
with five loaves and two fish.  
The message of stewardship  
is that God's gifts, shared, will  
always be more than enough.*



**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**9<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020  
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:**  
**1 Kings 19:9.11-13.**

*Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:**  
**Romans 9:1-5.**

*I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.*

**Gospel Reading:**  
**Matthew 14:22-33.**

*Command me to come to you over the water.*

**ST MARY OF THE CROSS**

Mary MacKillop was born in Fitzroy, Melbourne, in 1842, the eldest child of Scottish immigrants. In 1861 she moved to the small town of Penola in South Australia, where she met Fr Julian Tenison Woods. Together they established Australia's first free Catholic school. In 1866 she co-founded Australia's first religious order, the Sisters of St



Joseph, and took a vow of poverty. Soon there were 17 schools under her care, but Mary's refusal to abide by the rules of the Bishop in Adelaide led to her excommunication from the church. She was accepted back a year later and eventually shown respect by the Bishops for her work with the poor. Mary was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1995, as a result of a woman who was cured of leukaemia in 1961 after a group offered prayers to Sister Mary. She was canonised by Pope Benedict XVI on 17 October 2010 and is now known as St Mary of the Cross.

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**CHURCH  
OFFICE HOURS**

Secretary: Mrs Carmel Munro

**TUESDAY - FRIDAY**  
9.00am - 3.30pm

Parish ☎: 4628 2967  
Email: ruse@dow.org.au  
School ☎: 4625 6561

**HUMOUR CORNER**

**PUNISHMENT .....**

An irritated father complained to his golf buddy, "When I was a kid, my parents sent me to my room without supper if I misbehaved. But my son has his own color TV, telephone, computer, every computer game and CD player in his room!"

"So how do you handle it?" his friend asked.

"I send him to MY room!"

**SEEN THIS? .....**

I had trouble with the idea of turning 30 and was oversensitive to any signs of advancing age. When I found a prominent gray hair in my fringe. I pointed to my forehead and asked my husband, "Oh no, have you seen this?"

"What?" he asked. "The wrinkles?"

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020  
(2-9<sup>th</sup> Vocations Awareness Week)

**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*

Every crisis in life is also an opportunity to turn to our beloved Saviour in trust and complete abandonment so as to rest in His merciful hands. To rest in the hands of God means we are secure, despite the uncertainty of life. It means we are free to love God and others, despite the challenges we face. It means we raise our eyes to Heaven, rather than look down in fear.

*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.

**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.**

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 entrance 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.

**BAPTISM:** If you want your child Baptised in our Parish, please contact the Parish Office during Office Hours, so that a suitable date can be organized for the celebration. Due to COVID-19 we are currently having only 1 Baptism per Sunday.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE:** First Holy Communion program lessons will commence on Sunday 9th August. All families whose children recently completed their Reconciliation Program have been notified via Email the FHC details. If you have not yet responded, please contact the Office during normal working hours, or the Sacramental Coordinator, Annette Read on 0404112335, to enrol in the program.

**Confirmation is scheduled for early November, and details will be available later in the term.**

**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 Birthday this coming week: 7<sup>th</sup>: Rosa Herrera**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** All the people who have died in this current pandemic, the recently deceased and whose anniversaries that occur at this time: Rev Fr Larry Faraon (R.D.), Joe White, Rita D'Souza, Debbie Phillips, John Read, 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: Ron Fredericks, Patricia McInerney, Kathleen Sidebottom, Kerry Walker, Jessica Nilsson, Samantha Glover, Shirley Starr, Kenny Wilson, Antonio David, 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, 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.

**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](http://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 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](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 CHURCH CLEANER'S:**

**8<sup>th</sup> August: Group 6: Tongan Community**

**15<sup>th</sup> August: Group 1: Syro-Malabar Indian Community**

**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>



**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.

**THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG WEEKLY PODCAST:**

The Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast – 'The Journey' – 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020. This week we have Bishop Mascord giving us the Gospel reflection for this Sunday, some brilliant music, and short talks from some of Australia's best Catholic presenters. Uploaded every Friday for free download – go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au)

**A VOCATION VIEW:** This week marks "National Vocations Awareness Week". It is an opportunity for all of us to deepen our awareness of being personally called by Jesus to the ways of loving service, particularly through marriage, priesthood, consecrated life, or a single life of service. This week the 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus multiplies the gifts we give to Him. Share your talents with Him and many blessings will surge. If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at [vocations@dow.org.au](mailto:vocations@dow.org.au) or our new Vocations video at: <https://www.dow.org.au/cofid-19/Sunday-mass-online-with-bishop-brian/>

**THE FEAST OF MARY MACKILLOP:** Mass in the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel will be livestreamed at 10.00am August 8<sup>th</sup> followed by a time of prayer at the tomb. The details will be posted on the website [marymackillopplace.org.au](http://marymackillopplace.org.au). **PRAYER REFLECTIONS:** suitable for prayers at home will also be posted on the website for 3 days 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> August. **Mary MacKillop's words: God is good and has brought light and help when all was very dark. 1899**

**FEAST DAY MASS OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS MacKILLOP – 8 August 2020:** On the feast day of St Mary MacKillop (8 August) Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions and limitations arising from that, this year our Diocese will be filming a special Liturgy of the Word for the feast day. You are invited to view the liturgy on the diocesan YouTube channel <http://dow.sh/YouTube> or website [www.dow.org.au](http://www.dow.org.au) on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August.

**DATES LOCKED IN FOR PLENARY COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES:** The 2 assemblies for the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia will be held in Adelaide from October 3-10, 2021, and in Sydney from July 4-9, 2022. The new dates mean that the celebration of the Plenary Council has effectively moved 12 months from the original plan of a first assembly in October 2020 and a second assembly in June/July 2021.

**AUGUST 15 VIRTUAL NATIONAL CATHOLIC MEN'S GATHERING:** This free half day gathering, will look to inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship 4 sessions with inputs from Australia Bishops and lay leaders to inspire and renew men in the Church for mission. Participate individually but also in around 30 locations around Australia, 4 in the diocese of Wollongong. Simply register at [www.catholicmensgathering.com.au](http://www.catholicmensgathering.com.au). The Diocese will bring men together in 4 locations on Saturday 15 August from 9.30am-2.30pm. Wollongong: Xavier Centre 38 Harbour St, Host: Peter 0407913696, Macarthur: Venue TBC: Host: Eddie Ferry:0417049, Southern Highlands Venue TBC: Host James Glynn 0431636027

**CatholicCare:** To find out more about CatholicCare's counselling service call us on 4254 9395 or email [intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au](mailto:intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au)