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CATHOLIC CHURCH - DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

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

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A
16th AUGUST 2020

FIRST READING - Isaiah 56:1-6-7.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

- O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**
- Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. **(R.)**
- Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

SECOND READING - Romans 11:13-15, 29-32.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL READING - Matthew 15:21-28.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

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.

FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A DISCIPLE

As we passed through a little village near Sidon this Canaanite woman suddenly started calling on the master to help her daughter. We all expected the master to help her out as usual but he really put her in her place! He told her that his ministry was not for pagans like her. That should have stopped her, but she kept on and on, even turning the master's words back on him! She was so rude. We were about to push her out of the way so that the master could move on when he suddenly told her that her faith was great and that her daughter was better. Great faith? A Canaanite? He never ceases to surprise us! bumper sticker on your car.

REFLECTION - by Fr Michael Tate.

A pagan woman approaches a Jewish man and she begs Jesus to heal her daughter. Jesus gives a dismissive answer to the woman: 'It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the house dogs.' The children are obviously the Jewish people. This remarkable pagan woman stands her ground and engages in a verbal joust with Jesus! She argues: 'Yes, Lord, but even the house dogs get the crumbs that fall from their master's table.' Jesus recognises her faith and the daughter was healed. This story was put in the Gospels to show how Jesus extended his saving mission to non-Jews in Pagan territory. That is Good News for billions of non-Jewish people over the course of history since then and into the future. That is why we are truly 'Catholic', which, as you know, is the Greek for 'world-wide'. We could pause for a moment to celebrate this Canaanite woman as the first 'Catholic'!

mtate@bigpond.com

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

This passage in Chapter 15 of Matthew's Gospel, is 1 of 3 stories. The first story deals with Jesus challenging traditional views of cleanliness and uncleanness – one of the great separators between Jews and Gentiles. The story of this week's gospel follows with its account of the Canaanite woman's great faith being recognised. Finally, Matthew's gospel relates the story of the feeding of the four thousand – a dramatic sign by Jesus of the open invitation to receive his message and ministry. The 3 stories, taken together, form a powerful chapter that makes clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the Jews.



MASS TIMES

- TUESDAY 18th AUGUST**
9.30am. - Mass.
- WEDNESDAY 19th AUGUST**
9.30am. - Mass.
- THURSDAY 20th AUGUST**
9.30am. - Mass.
- FRIDAY 21st AUGUST**
9.30am. - Mass.

RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

- SATURDAY 22nd AUGUST**
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday Vigil for 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
6.00pm. - Mass.
- SUNDAY 23rd AUGUST**
21st 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.



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

Twentieth SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

In today's second reading, St. Paul tells the Romans, "God's gifts and his call are irrevocable."

To what is God calling me today?

What gifts are mine to share?

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

23rd AUGUST 2020
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

1st Reading:
Isaiah 22:19-23.

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

2nd Reading:
Romans 11:33-36.

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

Gospel Reading:
Matthew 16:13-20.

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

HUMOUR CORNER

THESE PARENTS ARE SHOCKED BY WHAT THEIR SON DOES.....

A man and his wife are discussing what they think their son will be when he grows up.

"I have an idea," says the father. He puts a ten dollar bill, a bottle of whisky, and a Bible on the coffee table.

"If he takes the money, he'll be a banker. If he takes the whisky, he'll be a wino, and if he takes the Bible, that means he'll be a preacher."

So the man and his wife hide just before their son comes in the door, and watch from where they are hiding.

The boy saunters over to the coffee table. He picks up the ten dollar bill, looks at it, then sets it down. He picks up the bottle of whisky, uncorks it, sniffs it, then sets it down. He picks up the Bible, leafs through it, and sets it down.

Then the boy takes the money and stuffs it into his pocket, grabs the whisky, and walks off with the Bible under his arm.

"Well, how do you like that!" exclaims the father....

....."He is going to be a politician!"

POPE PIUS X



Guiseppe Sarto was born into a poor family in 1835. From this humble beginning he was eventually elected pope in 1903. He took as his motto, "To restore all things in Christ". Pius X was remembered for many things including advocating the frequent reception of holy communion and the admission to it of children from the age of about seven; reform of church music and encouraging the use of Gregorian chant; the reform of Canon Law; the reorganization of the Roman curia; and the separation of church and state in France. He also promoted Bible reading for all Catholics and encouraged the use of clear and simple homilies. He found some aspects of the Vatican's wealth and ceremony distasteful. Before his death in 1914, Pius X wrote in his will, "I was born poor, I have lived poor, and I wish to die poor." known as the Order of St Clare. In 1958 Pope Pius XII named Clare as the patron saint of television based on the story that when she was sick and unable to attend mass she could reportedly see and hear it on the wall of her room.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



16th August 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

The ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: 15th

August: Celebrated every year on August 15th, the Feast of the



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary commemorates the death of Mary and her bodily assumption into Heaven, before her body could begin to decay - a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. Because it signifies the blessed Virgin's passing into eternal life, it is the most important of all Marian feasts as well as being a Holy Day of Obligation.

URGENTLY NEEDED:

MONITOR'S: Thank you to the Parishioner's who have joined this Parish Ministry, the gifts of your time, patience and talents is greatly appreciated. You are helping with keeping our Parishioner's and Visitor's to our Parish safe.

We are still asking for more volunteer's to help with this Parish Ministry as not all our current Monitor's can attend each weekday/end.

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: Thank you the Parishioner's and Visitor's to our Parish Masses both during the week and weekends, who help with the sanitising of their seats plus the many areas that are touched eg: door handles, the Lectern, Sanctuary etc.

UPDATES IN OUR PARISH:

Chelsea House (Parish Hall): The flooring will be replaced this coming week (due to weather damage).

DO YOU WISH TO ATTEND A WEEKEND MASS?

You cannot just turn up for Mass as previously!!

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 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.

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.

PARISH

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE: Please keep the Candidates, their families and teacher's in your prayers as they prepare for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.

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

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.

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:** Emily Vossen

PLEASE PRAY FOR: All the people who have died in this current pandemic, the recently deceased and whose anniversaries that occur at this time: Martin Goes (R.D.), Patricia McInerney, Rev Fr Larry Faraon, 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, 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 and Edmund 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.

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 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

PARISH CHURCH CLEANER'S:

22nd August: Group 2: Cathy and Michael Bye, Barry Daley, and Kathy Donachie
29th August: Group 3: Christine Foreman, Chris Charlton, James & Carmel Munro

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>

AROUND THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG:

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' – 16th August 2020. This week we have Fr Mark De Battista giving us a 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

REQUEST FOR PRAYER FOR CATECHIST MINISTRY IN THE DIOCESE:

Each week, hundreds of volunteers around the diocese answer the call to share our Catholic faith with Catholic children. Please keep in your prayers the work of Scripture Teacherhs, the children they teach in state schools and their families. If you would like to know more about the ministry, please go to www.ccdwollongong.com

LIVE Local is Back: LIVE Local is a youth group held at St John the Evangelist Hall, Campbelltown from 7pm -9pm/ LIVE Local is open to all high school students from year 7-12 and is run by local young adults with the NET Team. To find out more information email robbyn.bailey@dow.org.au

A VOCATION VIEW: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time: "The gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." Use the gifts that God has given you to stir into flame the gift of faith. (Romans 11:29) If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au or our new Vocations video at: <https://www.dow.org.au/cofid-19/Sunday-mass-online-with-bishop-brian/>

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.

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

YOUTH MINISTRY ONLINE: Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong has launched LIVE -Check it out at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdC-Q7-OVY>. This is a great way for young people to build not only your faith but to build lasting friendships. To get in touch with the NET team and be part of this, simply follow the "CYMW" Facebook page or by Instagram at "wollongongnetteam".

An Act 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 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 unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.*

Amen.