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**CATHOLIC CHURCH - DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG**

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

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY  
 IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**  
**30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020**

**FIRST READING - Jeremiah 20:7-9.**  
*A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.*

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

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

- (R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**
1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**
  2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**
  3. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**
  4. For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING - Romans 12:1-2.**  
*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly

pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

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

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL READING - Matthew 16:21-27.**  
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

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

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

**REFLECTION - by Fr Michael Tate.**

We have to get one terrible thought out of our heads, i.e. that the Heavenly Father of Jesus wanted him to suffer a tortured, agonising death. Yet we do say: 'It was necessary that Jesus suffer and die.' What can this mean? I believe this refers to the necessity of divine mission and the necessity of divine love.

First, it was the Father's will that Jesus remain true to the mission to preach and embody the gospel of mercy and forgiveness. It was inevitable that powerful elites would find this intolerable and have Jesus eliminated. Secondly, God so loved the world where death ravages human beings, that God determined to absorb the suffering and pangs of death. The temptation to avoid that dreadful necessity lead Jesus to rebuke Peter: 'Get behind me, Satan', a terrible variation of the initial call: 'Come, follow me.'

We could pause for a moment to very consciously make the sign of the Cross, the consequence of Jesus' mission and love for us.

mtate@bigpond.com

**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.*



*"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."*  
 Matthew 16:24-25.

**MASS TIMES**

- TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER**  
 9.30am. - Mass.
- WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST**  
 9.30am. - Mass.
- THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST**  
 9.30am. - Mass.
- FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
 9.30am. - Mass.

**RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

- SATURDAY 5<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
 Saturday Vigil for 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A  
 6.00pm. - Mass.
- SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
 23<sup>rd</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.



**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**  
**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY**  
**IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

*In today's second reading, St. Paul exhorts the Romans to total stewardship.*

*Brothers and sisters, he urges, "... offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God."*

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**  
**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN**  
**ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:**  
*Ezekiel 33:7-9.*

*If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:**  
*Romans 13:8-10.*

*Love is the fulfilment of the Law.*

**Gospel Reading:**  
*Matthew 18:15-20.*

*If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.*

**HUMOUR CORNER**

**NEW CEO .....**

A company, feeling it is time for a shakeup, hires a new CEO. This new boss is determined to rid the company of all slackers.

On a tour of the facilities, the CEO notices a guy leaning on a wall. The room is full of workers and he wants to let them know he means business! The CEO walks up to the guy and asks, "And how much money do you make a week?"

Undaunted, the young fellow looks at him and replies, "I make \$200 a week. Why?"

The CEO hands the guy \$200 in cash and screams, "Here's a week's pay, now GET OUT and don't come back!" Surprisingly, the guy takes the cash with a smile, says "Yes sir! Thank you, sir!" and leaves.

Feeling pretty good about his first firing, the CEO looks around the room and asks, "Does anyone want to tell me what that slacker did here?"

With a sheepish grin, one of the other workers mutters, "Pizza delivery guy from Domino's."

**GREGORY THE GREAT**



Gregory the Great was born in Rome in 540 AD. He used his own money to establish monasteries in Rome and Sicily, and eventually became a monk himself at the age of 35. In 590 AD, he became the first monk to be elected pope and the first pope to take the name Gregory.

He was known as a great statesman and is accounted the fourth of the great Latin doctors of the church. His influence on church music gave rise to plainsong becoming known as Gregorian chant.

Gregory the Great was the father of the medieval papacy, and he was instrumental in helping Western Europe rise from the ashes of the fallen Roman Empire. He referred to himself as "the servant of the servants of God", a term which the popes have used ever since.

22<sup>ND</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



30<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
(Social Justice Sunday)

**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*

**SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT: 30 August:** to Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today. The statement is aimed at inspiring reflection and action for the following 12 months, is now available as a free download at the Social Justice Website: [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au). You will also find downloadable prayer cards as well as liturgical resources.

**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 BEFORE THE WEEKEND MASSES.**

*As our Mass attendance numbers are increasing, please register ASAP for the weekend. Parish Office Hours are Tuesday to Friday 9.00am – 3.30pm. We are currently restricted to 70 worshippers per Mass.*

*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. 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.*

*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.*

**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).*

**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, Sanctuary etc.

**PARISH**

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE:** Please keep the 31 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](mailto:ruse@dow.org.au). **Parishioner's Birthdays this coming week: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept:** Dexter Harris 3<sup>rd</sup>: Neville Taylor 4<sup>th</sup>: Peter Barbari

**Parishioner's Anniversary for this coming week:** 31<sup>st</sup>: Bill and Marilyn Fabry (52 years)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** All the people who have died in this current pandemic, the recently deceased and whose anniversaries that occur at this time: Bernard Hoffmann (Anniv), Trish Noonan (R.D.), Martin Goes, Patricia McInerney, 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 and Maurya Hutton  
**May they Rest in Peace**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** For the *many* sick in our Parish Community including: 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 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](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:**

**5<sup>th</sup> September: Group 4: Maureen Molland, Colleen Jablonskis and Faye Faamau**

**12<sup>th</sup> September: Group 5: Ruse Samoan Divine Mercy**

**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>

**THE DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG WEEKLY PODCAST:**

The Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast – 'The Journey' – 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020. On the journey this week Jude Hennessy interviews John Ferguson from the Office of Social Justice about this Sunday's Social Justice statement on mental health by the Australia Bishops. Plus the Gospel reflection by Fr Mark De Battista and Sr Hilda remembering the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Mother Abbess Benedicta **Philips OSB**. Uploaded every Friday for free download – go to [www.jcr.org.au](http://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.

**SPECIAL COMMEMORATIONS:**

**1 September:** World Day of Prayer for the care of Creation

**13 September:** Child Protection Sunday

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:** Marriage Enrichment Weekend 20-22 November 2020 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Book online at [www.wvme.org.au](http://www.wvme.org.au) Alternatively contact Christine & Terry on 0490 774 419 or [nswwbookings@wvme.org.au](mailto:nswwbookings@wvme.org.au)

**REQUEST FOR PRAYER FOR CATECHIST MINISTRY IN THE**

**DIOCESE:** Please keep in your prayers the work of Scripture Teachers, 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](http://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. To find out more information email [robbyn.bailey@dow.org.au](mailto:robbyn.bailey@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".

**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). These are challenging times for everyone and CatholicCare are here to support you and your family to navigate the uncertainty.

**FAITH RESOURCES FOR USE AT HOME:** There are some new adult online faith formation opportunities available on the diocesan website – go the new Section of DoW Website: [www.dow.org.au/covid-19/nourish-your-faith-at-home](http://www.dow.org.au/covid-19/nourish-your-faith-at-home).

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER for the Care of Creation** is held each year on the 1<sup>st</sup> September. This day marks the beginning of the Season of Creation, annual event encourages prayer and action for our common home which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> September through to 4<sup>th</sup> October. Join with Christians around the world in joyful celebrations, prayer, formation and activities that focus on our common home at: <https://seasonofcreation.org/>  
**The celebration of the Season of Creation is especially this year, in the light of the coronavirus pandemic.**

