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CATHOLIC CHURCH - DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

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

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
 IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**
13th SEPTEMBER 2020

FIRST READING - Sirach 27:30 - 28:7.

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself,

can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name.
 My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion **(R.)**

3. His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **(R.)**

4. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. **(R.)**

SECOND READING - Romans 14:7-9.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
 I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.
 Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING -

Matthew 18:21-35.
 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt.

Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How precious is your mercy, O God!
 The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

PRAYER 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.



'So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'
Matthew 18:35.

MASS TIMES

TUESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER
 9.30am. - Mass.
WEDNESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER
 9.30am. - Mass.
THURSDAY 17th SEPTEMBER
 9.30am. - Mass.
FRIDAY 18th SEPTEMBER
 9.30am. - Mass.

RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

SATURDAY 19th SEPTEMBER
 Saturday Vigil for 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
 6.00pm. - Mass.
SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER
 25th 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-FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Stewardship is not optional!
"None of us lives as his own master and none of us dies as his own master," says St. Paul.
"While we live, we are responsible to the Lord, and when we die, we die as His servants."

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

20th SEPTEMBER 2020
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

1st Reading:
Isaiah 55:6-9.

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

2nd Reading:
Philippians 1:20-24. 27.

For me to live is Christ.

Gospel Reading:
Matthew 20:1-16.

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

HUMOUR CORNER

WHY WORRY

"There are only two things to worry about. Either you are healthy or you are sick. If you are healthy, then there is nothing to worry about!

But if you are sick there are only two things to worry about. Either you will get well or you will die.

If you get well, then there is nothing to worry about. But if you die there are only two things to worry about! Either you will go to Heaven or to Hell.

If you go to Heaven, then there is nothing to worry about! And if you go Hell, you'll be so darn busy shaking hands with your friends you won't have time to worry....

SO WHY WORRY AT ALL??"

ST CORNELIUS & CYPRIAN



St Cornelius was elected as pope in 251 AD; a time when Christians were being persecuted. He faced much opposition within the church over the issue of reconciling those who had distanced themselves from the church (apostates) during these dangerous times.

St Cyprian was the bishop of Carthage. He supported the pope's view that apostates should be pardoned and welcomed back into the church. A few letters written by Cornelius to Cyprian survive today, including those which were written after he was banished from Rome in 253 AD. Cornelius died in exile most probably from poor health, although it was Cyprian who called him a martyr to the faith.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



13th September 2020
(Child Protection 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*



PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS'S TO OUR PARISH THIS WEEKEND WOULD LIKE to congratulate the Holy Communion Candidates:



May you always know the Peace of Jesus, the Light of His Love and the joy of His LIFE.

For your First Communion Day May God give you....

For every storm, a rainbow, For every tear, a smile, For every care, a promise, And a blessing in each trial. For every problem life sends, A faithful friend to share, For every sigh, a sweet song. And an answer for each prayer.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE: We are celebrating the Sacrament of First Holy Communion commencing this weekend (12th/13th Sept), There will be 4 Candidates at each Mass up to and including the weekend of 3rd/4th October. *Please continue to keep in your prayers, these children, their families, their Teacher's and the Sacramental Team.* **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.

Parishioner's Birthdays this coming week: 14th: Col Davis

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.

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 we are celebrating First Holy Communion over the next three weekends, it is essential that you ring the Office during working hours, to book a place. We are unable to accommodate more than 70 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. 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: All the people who have died in this current pandemic, the recently deceased and whose anniversaries that occur at this time: Michael Hennessy (Anniv), Fr Anthony (Tony) Daly), Bernard Hoffmann, John Read, Alice Harris, Mary Writer, 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: Katy Carolan, 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 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:
19th September: Group 1: Syro-Malabar Indian Community
26th September: Group 6: Tongan 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>

AROUND THE DIOCESE:

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK: . This year marks 30 years for Child Protection Week (6-13 Sept 2020) , this year's theme being 'Putting Children First'. Is an opportunity for us to remember the importance of ensuring that the safety and protection of children remains a paramount consideration in all that we do

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIONS:
13 September: Child Protection Sunday
19/20 September: The Bishop's Annual Appeal
27 September: World Refugees & Migration Day

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' – **13th September 2020.** On the journey this week, Jude Hennessy interviews Beth Riolo about September celebrating the season of Creation. Plus a reflection on the cost of forgiveness in this week's gospel, plus much much more. Uploaded every Friday for free download – go to www.jcr.org.au

THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL: 19/20 September – To support the Retirement and Health of Clergy and Local parish Ministries. Our faith calls us to help one another through prayer and action. Your donation to this **appeal next weekend**, will enable me to provide a dignified retirement for our diocesan clergy and ensure that our parish communities stay connected during this time of pandemic. While I acknowledge the pressure that some households are facing at this time, if you are in a financial position to give, I would be very grateful if you would consider giving generously to this appeal.

Bishop Brian Mascord

For more information and how to donate online go to: dow.org.au/giving.

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 Alternatively contact Christine & Terry on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@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

YOUTH MINISTRY ONLINE: Catholic Youth Ministry Wollongong has launched LIVE -Check it out at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdC-Q7-OVY>. great way. To get in touch with the NET team and be part of this, simply follow the "CYMW" Facebook page or by Instagram at "wollongongnetteam".

FAITH RESOURCES FOR USE AT HOME: Diocesan website – go the new Section of DoW Website: www.dow.org.au/covid-19/nourish-your-faith-at-home.

VACANCY – COMMITTEE FOR THE AGED: The Diocesan Committee for the Aged is a volunteer committee that meets at least quarterly and online with other diocesan stake holders providing support and advice to the Bishop in the Ministry to the Aged within our Diocese. Members would bring experience and knowledge of the welfare of the ageing people or have other areas of expertise in ageing. We are inviting expressions of interest from parishioners from all over the diocese to be part of this committee for a term of 3 years. *If this interests you, please contact Jane Hollier Parish & Community Liaison Officer at Catholic Care Wollongong on 0417018152 or janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au to get an information pack including position description posted or emailed to you.*