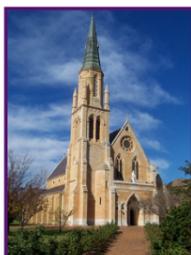


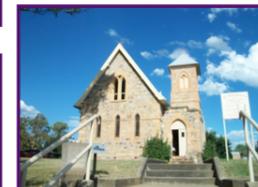
The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!



Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of St Mary's Mudgee, St John the Baptist Gulgong, St Dominic's Kandos/ St Malachy's Rylstone.



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, work and pray. We walk on Wiradjuri country. May we continue to love and respect the land as they have.



Second Sunday of Advent Year A: 8th December 2019

Parish Priest

Fr Owen Gibbons

Parish Deacons

Deacon Karl Sinclair

Deacon Charles Applin (Kandos)

Parish Secretaries

Mrs Patti Kiddle

Mrs Kristie Newman

Pastoral Council: Mrs Julie Keipert
(President)

Postal Address: P.O Box 14 Mudgee
NSW 2850

Phone: 02 6372 2122

Fax: 02 6372 6700

Email: office.mudgee@cdob.org.au

Website: www.mudgee.catholic.org.au

Parish Office Hours

Monday

10.00am - 1.00pm : 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri

9.00am - 1.00pm : 2.00pm - 4.00pm

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St Matthews Catholic School Mudgee:

Principal: Mr Jason Hanrahan

Ph 02 63721742

stmattsmudgee@bth.catholic.edu.au

All Hallows Catholic School Gulgong:

Principal: Ms Katrina Isbester

Ph 02 63741582

<https://ahcpsgulgong.schoolzine.com>

First Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10

He judges the poor with justice.

Responsorial Psalm:

71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

Response: *Justice shall flourish
in his time, and fullness of peace
for ever.*

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth's bounds. **(R.)**

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name.

(R.)

Second Reading: Romans 15 :4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 3: 12

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Memorial Acclamation:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

P. May this violet light remind us that we are waiting and longing for the coming of Jesus who is God's comfort in our lives, and the true light of our world.

**ALL: We wait and long for
Jesus, the light of the world.**

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Inaugurating a New Humanity

John proclaimed that the reign of God was 'at hand' as he immersed and plunged followers into the waters of the Jordan River. (His nickname was John the Immerser, or 'baptiser' in the Greek.) He used flowing water to symbolise the washing away of the past for those who repented so that they could be totally focused on the 'at hand' person who would inaugurate God's kingdom.

In this passage, John does not identify the 'Someone'! But he realised that this 'Someone' would have divine power to affect the future by immersing, baptising, his followers with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

At this stage of Advent, we should be like John's disciples, filled with a sense of anticipation, looking forward to the coming towards us ('Advent' in Latin) of the One who can flood our minds and bodies with the Holy Spirit and can immerse our hearts in Divine Fire.

We could pause for a moment to thank God that, even though we are unworthy to carry His sandals, there is One who is coming towards us wanting to transform us with Divine Power.



DAY BY DAY

Monday, 9th December

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
NO SERVICE MUDGE

Tuesday 10th December

**** 9.10am END OF YEAR THANKSGIVING MASS**

SMCS - O'DONOVAN CENTRE (GYM)

**** 11.00am Mass Opal Nursing Home**

(postponed from last Friday)

Wednesday 11th December

9.30am St Mary's Craft and Friendship Group

11.00am Kandos - Anointing & Remembrance Mass

followed by lunch.

4.00pm Holy Hour

5.00pm Mass Mudgee

Thursday, 12th December

9.10am Mass - SMCS Year 6 Graduation

11.00am Altar Server morning tea.

7.30pm All Hallows School Gulgong

Annual Presentation Night, Memorial Hall.

Friday, 13th December

Feast of St Lucy

10.30am Mass Pioneer House

12.00 noon Reconciliation

12.30pm Mass - Mudgee

Saturday 14th December

Feast of St John of the Cross

5.15pm- 5.45pm Reconciliation Mudgee

6:00pm Vigil Mass Mudgee

Sunday, 15th December

Third Sunday of Advent - Year A

9.00am Mass Mudgee - Remembrance Mass

10.30am Gulgong

Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion

10.30am Rosary Rylstone

11.00am Mass Rylstone

Liturgy Roster 14th/15th December 2019

Commentator	K.Fitzsimmons	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Readers	I.Byrne L.Ryan	L.Finter C.Devitt
Special Ministers of Communion	A.Fergus S.Murphy	R.McKeown P.O'Brien
Offertory Procession	K.Isbester J.Goodlet	L & J Bull
Welcomers	C.Carbery HELP NEEDED	J.Potts M.Dunnachie
Altar Servers	A.Neaverson-Smith S.Hawes	B. Newman B.Hanrahan E.Bourke
Counters	9/12 D.Holden D.Bennett	23/12 E.Goodlet D.Donnolly

Gulgong Liturgy Roster	Sunday 15th December 2019	Kandos Liturgy Roster	Sunday 15th December 2019
<i>Leader</i>	J.Thatcher		
<i>Commentator</i>	R.Saliba		
<i>Reader</i>	C.Gaudry	<i>Readers</i>	M.Turner H.Roberts
<i>Offertory</i>		<i>Intercessions</i>	D.D'Ilio
<i>Special Minister of Communion</i>	C.Holland J.Thatcher	<i>Special Minister of Communion</i>	K.Morrissey
<i>Sacristan</i>	R.Saliba H.Seymour	<i>Sacristan</i>	L.McPherson

CHRISTMAS MINISTRY ROSTER:

We will require some assistance with ministries for the Christmas Masses in all three parishes.

Please contact Sr Kath for Kandos

Peter Leotta for Gulgong

Mudgee will have the whiteboard available in the church from next weekend. Please place your name on the board or contact the Parish Office.

MUDGE ALTAR SOCIETY: We would be most grateful for a few volunteers to assist with the flowers in the church to help those who have been doing this ministry for a long time. With a few more helpers we could organise on a rotating roster - it would be good to have someone who could just top up the fresh flowers during the week.

Pope's Universal Prayer Intention for December



The Future of the Very Young

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritise the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

GULGONG NEWS:

GCWG ladies are collecting recyclable bottles and cans. Please leave in the bin at the back of the Convent or contact Marlene O'Brien.

On behalf of the GCWG, we wish all our supporters a happy Christmas and a wonderful new year. Thank you for your support throughout the year.

KANDOS NEWS

Anointing and Remembrance Mass, Kandos, Wednesday, 11th December, at 11am.

During the Mass we will pray for all who have lost a loved one during the year. Following Mass all are invited to a **lunch to be held in the parish hall**. Cost \$5pp. Please RSVP to Carol or Sr Kath. Your early acceptance will help with catering.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL THIS WEEKEND. PLEASE GIVE WHAT YOU CAN.

Christmas Mass Times Kandos

Mass Christmas Eve at 6.00pm.



Mudgee Christmas Masses

**Christmas Eve:
6.30pm Children's Mass
9.00pm Mass**

**Christmas Day
7.30am & 9.00am**



Gulgong Mass

Mass Christmas Day 9.00am



MUDGEE NEWS:

Mudgee Combine Churches Christmas Lunch, Christmas Day 25th December, 12 noon Mudgee Baptist Church.

Volunteers required to help with setting up, and on the day to help organise meals etc. Please contact the Parish Office if you can help.

Names are being taken for those wishing to attend. If you know of anyone who is on their own at Christmas please invite them to attend. All welcome.

Please contact the Parish Office as numbers will assist with catering.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL MUDGEE.

Thank you to those who generously donated to the appeal last weekend. Donations accepted at the Parish Office, via the collection plates at Mass or at the St Vincent de Paul Centre.

St Vincent de Paul have for sale this weekend after Mass ...

Christmas Cards - Pack of 10 (mixed designs) - \$6.00

Columban Calendars - \$9.00

Also available at the St Vincent de Paul store in Market Street.

Masses and prayers requested for the following:

We pray for the recently deceased especially Mick Cooper, Dorothy Carey, Janet Millard.

We remember the anniversaries of Evica Knezevic, Paul Mackay, Norah Babbage, Mary Abbot, Russell Hundy, Syd and Rita Ottley, Anna Perini, Luciano Pagani and Gwen Wolf.

We also pray for Syd and Rita Ottley, Max and Kim Pilley, Joe Swientek, Swientek and Smieszek family and friends, Tony Blazeovic, Blazeovic and Varga families.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are sick at this time:

Barbara McCann (Blacktown), Brian Kurtz, Sylvia O'Brien, Jenny Bremner, Eliza Vasilis, Julie Collins, Lance Tito, Marg Doble, Dale Johnson (Melb), Margaret Melinz, Anna Swientek, Jennifer Ryan, Elizabeth Donnelly, TONY GILLHAM, Ursula Smieszek, Jasmine Prada, Jason Seis and

Mary Cannon and all those in our nursing homes. For all seeking special intentions.

Quote for the week...

"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'"

ST MARY'S PARISH ANNUAL PARISHIONER CHRISTMAS FUNCTION



THIS SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2019. IN THE CHURCH GROUNDS, 6.00pm.

All parishioners are invited to attend the annual Christmas function on this Sunday evening, 8th December as we celebrate and give thanks for all who have contributed to our parish. We have so much to be thankful for. The simplest things all contribute to making our parish a place of welcome - just a smile or hello to someone you didn't know, a visitor or new parishioner. Everyone contributes in some way - **ALL** are welcome to attend.

As in previous years we invite you to bring a salad/sweet or BBQ chicken. The parish will provide the ham/rolls/tea & coffee and drink for the children. Other beverages BYO.

We would be grateful for any assistance to set-up and clean-up. 'Many hands make light work', this way we all get to enjoy the night.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10

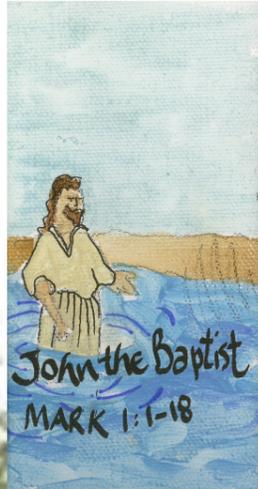
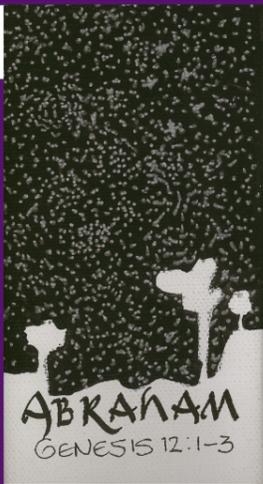
Psalm 145: 6-10.R. cf. Isa 35:4

St James 5: 7-10

Matthew 11: 2-11

Adraham:

Yahweh said to Abraham, 'Leave your country, your kindred and your father's house for a country which I shall show you; and I shall make you a great nation, I shall bless you and make your name famous; you are to be a blessing! I shall bless those who bless you, and shall curse those who curse you, and all clans on earth will bless themselves by you.'



John the Baptist:

John the Baptist was in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. In the course of his preaching he said, 'After me is coming someone who is more powerful than me, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised YOU with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Samuel:

I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for my self a king among his sons.



Joseph:

When Joseph reached his brothers, they pulled off his tunic, the decorated tunic which he was wearing, and catching hold of him, threw him into the well.

HYMN - PREPARE THE WAY

There was a man of God whose name was John.
He came to speak for the Light.
The voice of one in the wilderness.
Prepare the way of the Lord.

Refrain: Prepare the way of the Lord. (Repeat x 3)

Mountains and hills shall be brought to the ground.
The winding paths be straightened.
And all mankind shall see his face;
Prepare the way of the Lord.

He's the lamb of God and you must follow him
Who takes the sin of the world,
For he has come to give you life;
Prepare the way of the Lord.



Paul Gurr
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IN FOCUS

Prepare Ye

A group of friends talking about how easy it is to be hard on ourselves and others. One guy told how in high school he got caught skipping a class to smoke. The much-feared dean of discipline had called him to his office and was about to dish out just punishment when the school's wise principal intervened. "Can I talk with this gentleman for a minute?"

"Now I'm done for," thought my friend. The principal saw him down, smiled, and said, "We're starting a new program of peer counsellors, and I think you would be great at it. The other students admire you and look up to you. Can I count on your participation?"

"Sure," said my friend, stunned. As the principal walked him out, they stopped at the dean's office. "I think we've settled that business about skipping classes. This young man will be too busy to stoop to that kind of thing in the future".

John the Baptist was sure that the coming of the Messiah meant harsh and just punishment. Yet Jesus arrived, offering opportunities to love and serve and use our talents for the good of the world, even if we might deserve a good kick in the pants.

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Cudgegong Choir'

'Merry Little Christmas ' Concert

St Mary's Church,

Sunday 15th December at 5.00pm

ADULTS \$10 CHILDREN: Free

Tickets available at the door.