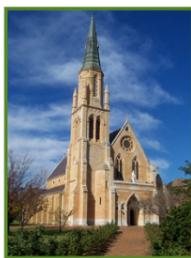


The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!



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.



Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year A: 29th March 2020

Parish Priest

Fr Owen Gibbons

Assistant Priest

Fr Dong Van Nguyen

Parish Deacon

Deacon Charles Applin

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

Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri

9.00am - 1.00pm : 2.00pm - 4.00pm

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St Matthews Catholic School Mudgee:

Principal: Mrs Angela Myles

Ph 02 63721742

stmattsmudgee@bth.catholic.edu.au

All Hallows Catholic School Gulgong:

Principal: Mr Bradley Toole

Ph 02 63741582

<https://ahcpsgulgong.schoolzine.com>

Message to Parishioners of Mudgee, Gulgong and Kandos from Fr Owen.

Dear Parishioners,

In these unprecedented times that are new to all of us, let us draw strength from our faith, the Lord says, *"Do not be afraid, I am with you always"*.

With our churches closed, let us make our homes our church. Make time to pray together with your family.

We are journeying through the season of Lent which calls us to deeper prayer, fasting (doing without) and care for others. These themes blend very well with our current Corona crisis.

We pray for each other, our communities, our nation and our world, and especially for those on the frontline of the crisis, our medical staff and for those most vulnerable. We also pray for our leaders who have to make difficult decisions for the benefit of us all.

For over a hundred years, our Catholic teaching has encourage us to think about and work towards the 'common good of all'.

In our current circumstances that are new and difficult for all, let us continue to care for each other, to look out for each other, to stay clam, keep smiling and be respectful and courteous.

If you are aware of anyone who may need assistance, please contact the Parish Office. If you know anyone in our parish who does not have access to a computer or internet, please let us know as we will print out a copy of our parish bulletin for them and leave it in their letterbox so that they can still be connected to our parish. Copies of the bulletin will also be available at the Parish Office each Friday after 1pm.

If you come across any good jokes or short funny video clips that we can share with others online to get them laughing and keep their spirits up, please forward them to us so we can share them.

Please check our webpage and the Diocesan webpage for helpful information and please share with others. With all parish masses cancelled, in the current circumstances, I encourage you to think about direct debit in your financial support of our parishes. Details are on page 4.

Let us always remember, we are in this together, so let us remember our blessing as we move through these challenging times. May the Holy Spirit inspire us through these times.

God bless, Fr  wen

There are many resources to help at this time. <https://www.bathurst.catholic.org.au/>

Sunday Mass is live streamed from the Cathedral of St Michael & St John Bathurst Sunday's at 10.00am on the address above.

On the right side of the Homepage about half way down on the right you will see '10am Sunday Mass' click on 'HERE'. This will open up the Facebook page. Choose 'Videos' then click on 10am Sunday Mass. You will also see a video linking to daily Mass. You can also do this on SmartTV as well as computer.

Take 2 with Jesus, Diocese of Rockhampton for daily reflection.
prayer@rok.catholic.net.au

3 Minute Retreats invite you to take a short prayer break right at your computer. Spend some quiet time reflecting on a Scripture passage.
<https://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer>

Liturgy Help is a great resource for the readings, reflections and commentaries. www.liturgyhelp.com/aus/bathurst/pray

First Reading: [Ez 37:12-14](#)

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm:

[Ps 129. R. v.7](#)

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you,
O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **(R.)**

If you, O Lord,
should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. **(R.)**

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on
daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) **(R.)**

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all
its iniquity. **(R.)**

Second Reading: [Rom 8:8-11](#)

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests,

however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: [Jn 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45](#)

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.'

Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father,
I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.



HOMILY by Fr Michael Tate

Rage against Death

When he heard of the fatal illness of Lazarus, Jesus decided to leave the safety of the far side of the Jordan and travel to Judea – a place of vulnerability and mortal danger.

Why? Why undertake such a perilous mission for Lazarus in the first instance, but also for you and for me, for the whole of humanity.

This Gospel tells us that Our Lord was moved with compassion in an almost violent way, bordering on anger. He is raging against something. What?

He is raging against the seeming finality of death, against that border marked by the grave, a border he intends to cross.

It was his mission to overcome the apparent final dominance of death. The raising of Lazarus is a demonstration of His power to rob death of its supposed supremacy. We hope eventually to share in the fruits of that power.

In the meantime there are at least two ways in which we can place ourselves in this Gospel passage.

At times, you and I are Lazarus. You and I and the whole of humanity need to be liberated, sometimes from the tombs which we construct for ourselves. At other times we need to be freed from grave situations, deadening experiences brought about by others.

At some stage, we will hear the voice of Our Lord. We will be, we are, called by name as was Lazarus: 'Michael, or Mary, emerge from your tomb!' Strangely enough, sometimes it is more comfortable to pretend not to hear that voice. Am I, are you, willing to take the risk of starting life afresh?

The second situation in which we can place ourselves in the Gospel story is with those gathered around the tomb.

Did you notice that our Lord himself did not set Lazarus completely free? You may think that to be raised from the dead was not a bad start, but it is only the start.

Lazarus was still shuffling: bound, constrained, constricted by the past.

This is where Our Lord needs assistants. To those gathered around the tomb Jesus issued the command: 'Set him free, unbind him.' It was the collective effort of *others* which enabled Lazarus to walk, not shuffle, to walk as a liberated son of God.

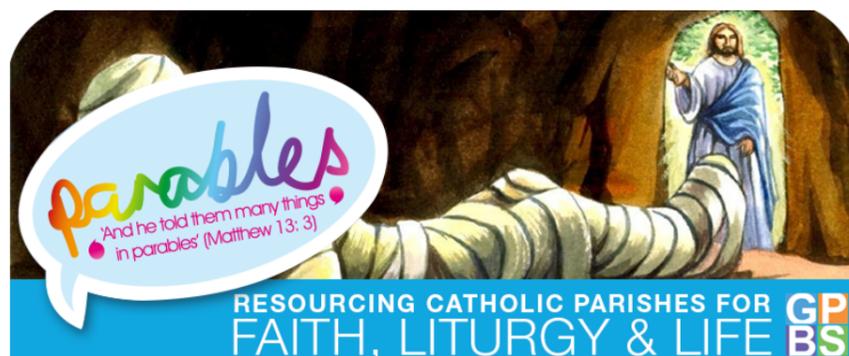
You may find yourself commanded by the Lord to help unbind a person who has had a deadening experience, who has suffered some event which has drained them of life.

So, at any particular moment we may be summoned like Lazarus, or commanded like those gathered around the tomb of someone else.

We get the courage to respond because it is the summons or command of the One who definitively conquered death, the One who in today's Gospel proclaims: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life, the one who believes in me, even if they die, will live.'

Lord, we believe in you. We will take the step from the situation in which we find ourselves entombed. We will help liberate others already helped by your grace. We are your faithful people moving towards the celebration of your victory over death. We believe that you are the Resurrection and the Life.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com



THE GOSPEL CONNECTION

Look what happened when Jesus showed up late

The loss of a loved one is final and heartbreaking. Mary and Martha's loss is compounded by the fact that Jesus had missed the funeral. When he arrives, Mary and Martha cry out that if he had come earlier, Lazarus would not have died. And then, the impossible occurs: Jesus restores life to a dead man.

How we long to hear these words of Jesus when those we love become ill: *'This sickness is not fatal'*. How we want to believe our loved ones will not leave us, and how betrayed we may feel when our loving arms are not enough to hold them in life. Human life is a passing shadow. We're not called mortal for nothing.

The two hopeless sisters were witness to the moment when hope was restored. The message for us as we come to celebrate resurrection on Easter is that everyone can live forever. We are a people full of hope in things unseen. The hope is rooted in a belief that Jesus loves us as much as he loved Lazarus. That love won eternal life for us. Being Catholic brings that hope into focus. Our funeral rite is a little Easter. There should be no dirges or sorrowful eulogies. We wear white and sing Alleluia. Jesus means it when he says we will never die. Thinking about our own death is a fearful thing in earthly terms. Yet our faith assures us that our personal death will be no less than the events in Bethany when Jesus showed up late.

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For our sisters and brothers around the world, we pray ...

Let us pray together for doctors, hospital staff and volunteers who are giving their own lives to save others. And for civil leaders, for those who have to make decisions at this time. All these people are the pillars defending us in this crisis ... The God of tenderness will heal us of all life's wounds and of all the bad things we have done. Returning to God means returning to an embrace, the embrace of the Creator.

(Pope Francis , homily, 20 March 2020)

Breaking News:

- Music - not cancelled
- Family - not cancelled
- Reading - not cancelled
- Pets - not cancelled
- Singing - not cancelled
- Laughing - not cancelled
- Hope - not cancelled
- Prayer - not cancelled

Let's embrace what we have and support each other through these most difficult times, family and friends and neighbours who may need assistance - It's amazing what a phone call will do for those isolated in their homes alone.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Tawonga is a 10-year-old girl living with a disability, and struggling with food insecurity and discrimination in Malawi. Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

For those who are able and wish to continue to assist the parish financially. You can Direct Debit to parishes and return to envelope when this terrible crisis is over.

For:

Gulgong Parish BSB - 066 781 Acc No 100006612 Reference: Your name.	Mudgee Parish BSB - 066 781 Acc No 100004583 Reference: Your name.
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Kandos Parish
BSB - 066 781
Acc No 100005344
Reference: Your name.

Out of the mouths of God's kids

- A woman invited some people to dinner.
- At the table, she turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"
- "I wouldn't know what to say," the little girl replied.
- "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the mother said.
- The little girl bowed her head and said: "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Isaiah 50: 4-7

Ps21: 8-9, 17-20, 23-24. R. v. 2

Philippians 2:6-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66