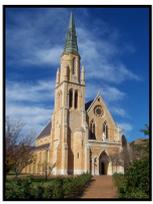


The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!



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 Ordinary Time - Year B Word of God Sunday 7th February 2021

First Reading: [Jb 7:1-4. 6-7](#)

I am filled with sorrow all day long.

Responsorial Psalm:

[Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3](#)

(R.) Alleluia!

Praise the Lord for he is good; sing to our God for he is loving; to him our praise is due. **(R.)**

The Lord builds up Jerusalem and brings back Israel's exiles, he heals the broken-hearted, he binds up all their wounds. He fixes the number of the stars; he calls each one by its name. **(R.)**

Our Lord is great and almighty; his wisdom can never be measured. The Lord raises the lowly; he humbles the wicked to the dust. **(R.)**

Second Reading [1 Cor 9:16-19. 22-23](#)

Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Mk 1:29-39](#)

He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.



Jesus took her by the hand.

We sometimes come to Mass poor, sick and troubled, much like the people who crowd around the door of Jesus in today's Gospel. In this Mass let us express our needs to Jesus. Let us ask him to take us by the hand and help us as he helped Simon's mother-in-law. Then, with our spirits uplifted, we will go out from Mass with a renewed desire to share God's love with others.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we see three snapshots from the photo album of life.

Suffering comes to everyone. It can take such a hold of us that the happiness of the past is swallowed up, the beauty of better days is forgotten, and the hope of a brighter future is imperilled. Life ceases to be an adventure and takes on the guise of drudgery. At such times suffering appears to be our permanent fate, and life seems too short for suffering to run its course. If we become identified with our distress, we will be tormented.

Jesus knew the harshness of life, because he was one of us. He saw it in the lives of those he loved, and he was touched by their torment. He came to release people from the demons that possess them, from the illness that undermined their lives. He came to bring the reign of God, the reign of peace and fulfilment. He came to heal the brokenhearted, to bind up their wounds.

Paul was a messenger of this gospel of salvation and fulfilment. He was so committed to his mission that he empathised with all those who heard his preaching – the slaves, the weak, the brokenhearted, all those who knew well the harshness of life. Now it is our turn. We are the disciples who must bring the good news to the brokenhearted, to those who are enslaved, to those who are weak. We are the ones who will then share in the blessings of this good news.

Parish Priest

Fr Owen Gibbons

Assistant Priest

Fr Dong Van Nguyen

Parish Deacon

Deacon Charles Applin

Parish Secretaries

Mrs Kristie Newman

Mrs Krista O'Brien

Postal Address: P.O Box 14 Mudgee
NSW 2850

Phone: 02 63722122

Fax: 02 6372 6700

Email: office.mudgee@cdob.org.au

Website: www.mudgee.catholic.org.au

Parish Office Hours

Mon, 10.00am - 4.00pm

Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri 9.00am - 4.00pm

Closed for Lunch 1.00pm - 2.00pm

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St Matthews Catholic School Mudgee:

Principal: Mrs Angela Myles

Ph 02 63721742

www.stmattsmudgee.catholic.edu.au/

All Hallows Catholic School Gulgong:

Principal: Mr Bradley Toole

Ph 02 63741582

www.allhallowsgulgong.catholic.edu.au

MASS TIMETABLE

MONDAY - 8th February

NO SERVICE

12 Noon Angelus

TUESDAY - 9th February

9.30am Mass Mudgee

12 Noon Angelus

2.00pm Funeral Nola Price - Mudgee

WEDNESDAY - 10th February

St Scholastica, virgin Memorial

9.30am Mass Mudgee

9.30am St Mary's Craft and Friendship Group

12 Noon Angelus

THURSDAY - 11th February

9.30am Mass Mudgee

12 Noon Angelus

FRIDAY - 12th February

12.00noon Reconciliation (Back of Church)

12.00noon Angelus and Rosary (Front of Church)

SATURDAY - 13th February

12 Noon Angelus

5.15-5.40pm Reconciliation (Back of Church)

6.00pm Vigil Mass Mudgee

SUNDAY - 14th December

Sixth Sunday on Ordinary Time

7.30am Mass Mudgee

9.00am Mass Mudgee

10.30am Gulgong

11.00am Rylstone

12 Noon Angelus

6.00pm Word & Faith Group

Anointing/ Home Communion: Please ring and make an appointment, Fr Owen and Fr Dong are available, and we can visit you at home.

BANK DETAILS FOR DIRECT CREDIT PLANNED GIVING

Gulgong Parish

BSB - 066 781

Acc No 100006612

Ref: Your name

Kandos Parish

BSB - 066 781

Acc No 100005344

Ref: Your name

Mudgee Parish

BSB - 066 781

Acc No 100004583

Ref: Your name.

PRESBYTERY CAR PARK AT ST MARY'S

New signs have been placed in the Presbytery Car Park to allocate parking to Parish Staff, Parishioners and School Staff. Car parking on the Church grounds is limited and we ask that Parishioner only use the Car Park when visiting the Church or Parish Office. School Staff are also reminded that they can only park in the School Staff parking spaces. All spaces are available for parishioners on the weekends.

Note to Parents and student of St Matthews School

Children are not to be dropped off or picked up for school via the presbytery driveway except for those who have permission due to specific needs. All Students are to enter the school via Lewis Street.

Masses and prayers Requested for the following:

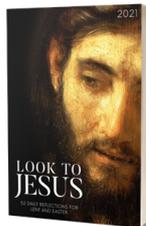
For the recently deceased especially Nola Price, Patricia Waterford (O'Brien) (Lightning Ridge)

We pray for the Souls of Fr Tim Cahill, Pat Hudson, Trong Phu Tran (Vietnam), John O'Brien, Sr Clarie Hopper.

We remember the anniversaries of Eve Gawthorne, Ted Hayman, Judy Roberts, Chris Wood, Reg McGrath, Valerie McGrath

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

Mike O'Shea, Jan Bailie, Bruce Eastburn, Rodrigo Jaboneta, Elizabeth Taylor (Newcastle), Allen Fenwick (Newcastle), Maria Leotta, Eliza and Elena Vasilis, Rebecca Fetcher, Enid Auld, Debbie Solti, Katherine Szulc (Poland), Judith Grant, Vicky Gaffney, Anthony Spina, Julie Collins, Elizabeth Donnelly, Ursula Smieszek, Jasmine Prada, Mary Cannon and those in our Nursing Homes.



A new Lent and Easter resource for individuals and groups

Look to Jesus will nourish and nurture parishioner's prayer, spirituality and discipleship each day during Lent and into the first week of Easter.

The daily reflections, written by Shane Dwyer, will invite the reader to contemplate a verse from the Scripture reading of the day. This reflection will be followed by a quote from Pope Francis and a simple prayer.

Lenten Books are \$5 each. You can purchase them at the back of the Church after Mass or from the Parish Office.

Pope's Universal Prayer for February Violence Against Women

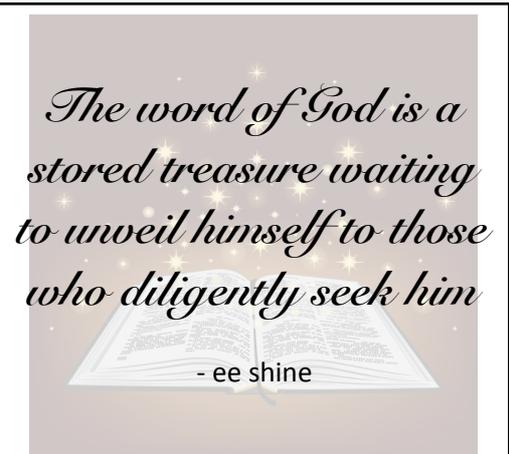
We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

Word and Faith Group

A small number of people gathering together to read and reflect on the readings for the following Sunday.

It is a very valuable tool for those who are reading at Mass on the following Sunday because they are more aware of the message and what God is saying to each of us in the readings. The Word and Faith Group is also great way to connect with others in our Parish.

St Mary's currently has a Word and Faith group on Sunday's at 6pm in the Parish Centre. If you would like to be apart of the Group or would like to find our more information, please contact the Parish Office.



- ee shine

Mudgee Roster Saturday 13th / Sunday 14th February 2021			
	Sat 6.00pm	Sun 7.30am	Sun 9.00am
First Reader	St Matthews Leaders	Paul Wilkinson	St Matthews Leaders
Second Reader	St Matthews Leaders		St Matthews Leaders
Prayers of the Faithful	St Matthews Leaders		St Matthews Leaders
Special Ministers of Communion	D. Cunningham		R.Gawthorne

Saturday 20th / Sunday 21st February 2021			
	Sat 6.00pm	Sun 7.30am	Sun 9.00am
Commentator	C. Furney		Help Needed
First Reader	I.Byrne	M.McLean	M.Dunnachie
Second Reader	J.Newman		C.Devitt
Special Ministers of Communion	L.Nicholson		M.Devitt

Gulgong Roster			
Date	Commentator	Reader	Sacristan
14th Feb	R. Saliba	o. O'Brien	M & E Carney
21st Feb	D. Kelly	J. Thatcher	E. Donnelly G. Ausburn
28th Feb	P. Leotta	E. Donnelly	C. Holland
7th Mar	C. Gaudry	B. Toole	R. Saliba

 **Contactless Mass Sign**

Given we will be required to sign in for a long period of time to come, the QR Code is a quicker and more efficient way in which to sign in when entering the church.

We are preparing individual cards for those who either don't have available a mobile phone or it is simply too difficult and a bit stressful. We strongly encourage you to place your name on the blue form at the back of the church to order your individual card, that a Welcomer will scan for you as you come into Mass each week. All information will be confidential. No information will be stored on any portable devices (eg. phones).

Congratulations to our parishioners who received an Australia Day Award.

Dr Alex Ghanem and **Dr Gary Moore** received Citizen of the Year

Des Kelly who received the Glen Johnston Memorial Award for Arts and Music

Charlotte Wilson received the Sports Award



Ministries in Our Parish

‘There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different people, it is working in all of them.’

1 Cor 12:3-7.12-13

Thank you to all who have participated in parish ministries over the past very challenging year. We are very grateful to have so many parishioners from a variety of age groups involved in various ministries.



We are asking for you to volunteer to help with one or more ministries in our parish. At the back of the church is an overview of some of the ministries within the parish that you may like to consider. There is something for everyone.

We thank everyone who has volunteered in the past and urge you to re-commit for another year. We also encourage anyone who is volunteering for the first time or looking at a different ministry, there will be training provided for some of the ministries and plenty of support from the Parish Office. Commitment is for one year.



Please take a sheet for each person, fill it out and return it to the Parish Office or place it in the Collections contains at the back of the Church.



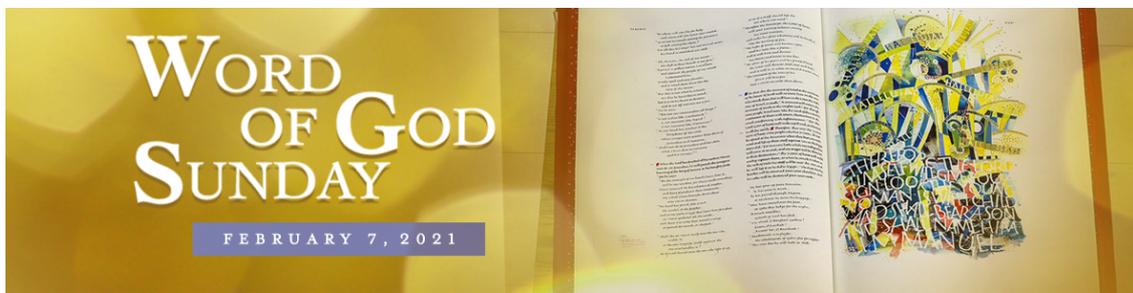
Baptism: We welcome to the parish community

Georgia Lee Crowe
daughter of Samuel & Kirsty and
James Patrick Burns
son of John & Kayla



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

[Lv 13:1-2. 44-46](#) [Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7](#) [1 Cor 10:31 – 11:1](#) [Mk 1:40-45](#)



Setting our Hearts on the Word

“He opened their minds to understand the scriptures.” (Luke 24:45)

Pope Francis begins his apostolic letter *Aperuit Illis*[1] with this quote from Luke, which resounds so appropriately to instituting the Sunday of the Word of God in this time. Immediately we are transported to the road to Emmaus, walking with those disciples going away from Jerusalem in the aftermath of the death of Jesus.

Here in Australia we are emerging into a COVID-normal following a time when so many have been unable to pray and celebrate Eucharist together in the way we have been accustomed. This wonderful invitation of Pope Francis is timely for us to set our hearts on the Word on the first Sunday in February.

In making his declaration, Pope Francis encourages that this would be “a celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God” and, at the same time, an opportunity “to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and pray for Christian unity.”[2] In these words there is an invitation to return to our home with God, gathered “as one” around the sacred Scripture (Neh 8:1) just as those returning after the Babylonian exile, and just as those disciples on the road to Emmaus who on hearing the scriptures and breaking the bread returned to Jerusalem (Luke 24:33).

In many parts of world and in Australia, perhaps especially in Victoria through the long lockdown, we have been dispersed. Opportunities to join livestream Mass, *Lectio Divina* and Liturgy of the Word via audio or shared-video options have assisted us to be connected to the nourishment of our souls through the Word. At a time when it was hard to remain hopeful, praying with the Word and with each other revealed the invitation of God.

The constancy of those who offered the Word daily, and especially on Sunday, has brought that hope and invitation into our exile. To dwell on a passage of Scripture such as in the Letter to the Ephesians “Be strong in the Lord... Take up the whole armour of God. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace” (Eph 6:10, 13a, 15) is to renew your inner strength and resolve to answer the call of your Baptism. Pope Francis affirms this in saying: “The Bible is a book of the Lord’s people, who in listening to it, move from dispersion and division to unity. The word of God unites believers and makes them one people.”[3]

There will be many ways in which communities decide to celebrate this Sunday of the Word of God. Some of the suggestions include giving additional reverence to the table of the Word or commissioning proclaimers of the Word. At the time of writing, there are still only 20 people allowed to attend Sunday Eucharistic celebrations. By February there should be a greater COVID-normal, yet I hope that communities might make some resolve on that Sunday for ongoing engagement and outreach of the Word through *Lectio Divina*, Bible study, Liturgy of the Word or by whatever means to keep in touch with those who are unable to come to weekend liturgy, who are homebound, lonely and ill.

The dispersion and separation caused through the pandemic restrictions are also the opportunity to renew ourselves. I recently put my name down to be at Mass among the 20 and offered to proclaim the Word. It was the first time since March, and in proclaiming the Word I found myself unexpectedly emotional to be sharing in my community again. It reminded me of another reflection in the dispersion from Titus: “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour” (Titus 3:4-6).

May our celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God embrace the Spirit being so generously poured out over us. As Pope Francis says: “The Holy Spirit, then, makes sacred Scripture the living word of God, experienced and handed down in the faith of the people.”[4]

Dr Rosemary Canavan President of the Australian Catholic Biblical Association

[1] Francis, “*Aperuit Illis*” Apostolic Letter (2019), 1.

[2] Francis, “*Aperuit Illis*”, 3.

[3] Francis, “*Aperuit Illis*”, 4.

[4] Francis, “*Aperuit Illis*” 9