

*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.



### Sixth Sunday Ordinary Time - Year B Catechist Sunday 14th February 2021

#### **First Reading: Lv 13:1-2. 44-46**

*As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.*

#### **Responsorial Psalm:**

**Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7**

**(R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted. O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. **(R.)**

But now I have acknowledged my sins; my guilt I did not hide. I said: 'I will confess my offence to the Lord.' And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin. **(R.)**

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just! O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart. **(R.)**

#### **Second Reading**

**1 Cor 10:31 – 11:1**

*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;

God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

#### **Gospel Mk 1:40-45**

*The leprosy left him and he was cured.*



**JESUS TOUCHED HIM.** Jesus included the healing of lepers among the list of miracles which would authenticate his mission. He also communicated this power to his disciples (MT 10:8). In today's Gospel, he not only heals a leper; he lays his hand upon him. It is a gesture of acceptance (and perhaps even of solidarity) with a social outcast.

#### **REFLECTION by Greg Sunter**

It is hard to imagine a person in 1st Century Palestine who would be more of an outcast from society than the leper. Unfortunately, any form of skin disease was categorised as leprosy (known as Hansen's disease today). It was regarded as one of the greatest forms of uncleanness and seen as a physical manifestation of God's punishment on the person.

For a person like this to even approach Jesus is a huge risk and an enormous act of faith. He trusts that Jesus will not reject him like everybody else in his life has done. His request to Jesus is almost a demand; it is certainly filled with an utter conviction of Jesus' ability and good will: 'if you want to, you can cure me'. Jesus' reaction is one of equally strong emotion – he is so moved by this man's plight that he reaches out his hand and touches the man. To touch a person with leprosy was to break every rule of the clean/unclean social structure that dominated Jewish society. In this one action, Jesus challenges the entire basis on which Jewish society is constructed – the purity code. For Jesus to touch this man, according to the purity code, is to become unclean himself. But Jesus ignores these social rules and responds out of love and heals the man with word and action. However, Jesus knows that if the man is to be accepted back into society he needs to conform to the rules that dominate his world. He must present himself to the local priest who is the only one with the authority to declare someone cured of their disease and thus able to become ritually clean and welcome back into worship and back into everyday life.

#### **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](mailto:office.mudgee@cdob.org.au)

**Website:** [www.mudgee.catholic.org.au](http://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/](http://www.stmattsmudgee.catholic.edu.au/)

##### **All Hallows Catholic School Gulgong:**

**Principal:** Mr Bradley Toole

Ph 02 63741582

[www.allhallowsgulgong.catholic.edu.au](http://www.allhallowsgulgong.catholic.edu.au)

## MASS TIMETABLE

### MONDAY - 15th February

#### NO SERVICE

12 Noon Angelus

### TUESDAY - 16th February

9.30am Mass Mudgee

12 Noon Angelus

### WEDNESDAY - 17th February

#### ASH WEDNESDAY

**9.15am** Mass St Matthews (Staff & Years 3 to 12 only)

**9.30am** St Mary's Craft and Friendship Group AGM

**10.00am** Mass Gulgong

**11.30am** Mass Rylstone

**12 Noon** Angelus

**12.30pm** Liturgy St Matthews (Staff & Kindergarten to Year 2)

**6.00pm** Mass Mudgee

### THURSDAY - 18th February

9.30am Mass Mudgee

10.30am Mass All Hallows Years 5 & 6

12 Noon Angelus

### FRIDAY - 19th February

12 Noon Reconciliation (Back of Church)

12 Noon Angelus and Rosary (Front of Church)

12.30pm Mass Mudgee

### SATURDAY - 20th February

12 Noon Angelus

5.15-5.40pm Reconciliation (Back of Church)

6.00pm Vigil Mass Mudgee

### SUNDAY - 21st December

#### First Sunday of Lent

7.30am Mass Mudgee

9.00am Mass Mudgee

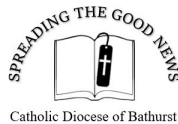
10.30am Gulgong

11.00am Kandos

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.



## SRE teachers and assistants required

*"Go therefore and make  
disciples of all nations,  
... And remember I am with  
you always to the end of the  
age."*

Mt 28:19-20

SRE teachers and assistants are required to assist in spreading the Good News of Jesus to students in Public Schools in our parish.

If you would like to be a member of our parish SRE team so that you can help spread the Good News to these children who might otherwise not hear about Jesus please contact the Parish Office.



**Yes, RISE is  
back for 2021!**

**13-14 March  
10am Saturday**

until after lunch on Sunday

**Yes, it's in person! - St Joseph's  
House Perthville**

**Yes, there will be more music  
than last year!**

**Are you or do you know  
someone in Year 10 to Year 12  
who might like to come?**

#### We will be:

- Welcoming you into times of meditation and prayer throughout the weekend.
- Give you the opportunity to give back to the community through a practical service activity.
- Linking into Laudato Si through practical activity of decorating and potting a plant.
- Participating in a Mass and Reconciliation evening.
- Embarking on a pilgrimage up the Mount Panorama walking track.

The cost for the time is \$110 and if this is an issue, as usual, please speak to your school or parish.

Subscribe to our email list via this link <http://eepurl.com/hpJGbf> and that will send you an email with a link to the registration page. (If you're under 18 your parents also need to subscribe to the email list).

## WE NEED YOU...



Pastoral Council is a small group of people from the parish of St Mary's church community who meet monthly to plan for the future of our local parish. It gives each of us an opportunity to share the gifts and talents God has given us, to combine our creative ideas in developing initiatives and new directions to ensure the future growth of St Mary's. The pandemic has certainly changed how we do things and we need to begin this year with a strong team to support our Parish priest, to build on the good work we were doing and I would encourage anyone who might feel they have something to offer to nominate in our upcoming AGM. I have found my time on Pastoral council stimulating and rewarding, a chance to give a little and to receive a lot more back,

Julie Keipert, President

If you would like to know more about the Pastoral Council or would like to Nominate, please contact the Parish office.

**Pastoral Council AGM** will be on Wednesday 24th February, 6.00pm in the Parish Centre.

## Masses and prayers requested for the following:

### For the recently deceased

**We pray for the Souls of** Nola Price, Patricia Waterford, Kevin Haywood

### We remember the anniversaries of

Ted Hayman, Harry Price, Lorraine Smith, Joan McGowan, Vince Adams, Meryl Astill

### 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.

Those seeking Special Intentions and for all the Holy Souls.

## Mudgee Roster

### Saturday 20th / Sunday 21st February 2021

	Sat 6.00pm	Sun 7.30am	Sun 9.00am
<b>Commentator</b>	C. Furney		Help Needed
<b>First Reader</b>	I. Byrne	M. McLean	M. Dunnachie
<b>Second Reader</b>	J. Newman		C. Devitt
<b>Special Ministers of Communion</b>	L. Nicholson		M. Devitt

## Saturday 27th / Sunday 28th February 2021

	Sat 6.00pm	Sun 7.30am	Sun 9.00am
<b>Commentator</b>	D. Cunningham		S. Abbey
<b>First Reader</b>	L. Nicholson	P. Wilkinson	M. Dunnachie
<b>Second Reader</b>	J. Newman		R. Disher
<b>Special Ministers of Communion</b>	I. Bryne		M. Dunnachie

## Gulgong Roster

Date	Commentator	Reader	Sacristan
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
14th Mar	S. Parnell	C. Leotta	M&E Carney



## Compassion Sunday

### 14th February 2021

Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed **"Be More"**. Through your generosity and by aspiring to be more, you are assisting some of the world's most vulnerable people build better futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

**Baptism:** We welcome to the parish community



**Rowan Arthur Scott**

son of Alexander & Caitlin

## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: First Sunday of Lent

Gen 9:8-15

Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

1 Pt 3:18-22

Mk 1:12-15

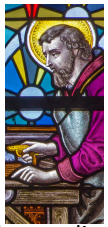




## YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH REFLECTION - FEBRUARY 2021

### Joseph, Attentive to the Word

*"When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord." Luke 2:22*



Luke 2:22 shows that Joseph and Mary saw to it that, in every possible way, Jesus' birth and early life were conducted according to the will of God. The Gospel of Luke focuses more strongly on Mary, the mother of Jesus, than on her betrothed husband, Joseph. Nevertheless, by the time we hear this verse, early in the Gospel, we have learned some important facts about Joseph.

First, Joseph, who was betrothed to Mary, a virgin, was of the house and family of David (see Lk 1:27; 2:4). This means that Joseph traced his family tree back to the divinely chosen, anointed king of Israel: David. As an anointed king, David was, in the Hebrew language, a "messiah". As a result, any son of Joseph would be counted not only as a descendant of David, but potentially a messiah.

However, six centuries before the time of Jesus, David's messianic line had been exterminated. Since that time, the people of Israel had been waiting for God to provide them with another messiah who would bring a new time of great peace (see Isa 11:1-18). For this reason, Luke and the three other Gospels work very hard to show that Jesus is a legitimate son of David and thus the long-awaited messiah.

Second, Luke does not explain as the Gospel of Matthew does (see Matt 1:18-25) why Joseph decides to stay with Mary, who is pregnant before they are formally married. He simply states that Joseph went to Bethlehem to be registered in a census, going "with Mary to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child" (Lk 2:5). A few verses later (Lk 2:16), we are told that the shepherds found Joseph with Mary following the birth of Jesus. Culturally, a child was honourable when it was recognised and named by the father. Joseph, who Luke says was thought to be the baby's father (see Luke 3:23), allows the child to be named "Jesus" (Lk 2:21) as the angel who appeared to Mary had instructed (Lk 1:31).

All these actions by Joseph show that he is a man of his word who has remained with the woman to whom he is engaged, despite a pregnancy for which he is not responsible. More than that, he has seen that woman through childbirth in hard circumstances and has given her and her son a respectable identity in the world.

All these small pieces of information, when put into the larger, divine scheme of events that Luke offers us, also suggest that Joseph is a man with a distinct role in God's desire to restore the world to right relationship with Godself. Joseph's descent from King David, the anointed one, makes it possible for Jesus, despite his humble birth, to be truly the long-awaited Messiah of the Jewish people. While he does not know the full picture, by choosing generously and courageously to accept Mary as his betrothed in difficult circumstances, Joseph enables God's will to be fulfilled.

More than this, Luke 2:22 indicates that Joseph is, in fact, a devout Jewish man who intentionally lives by God's word. The verse states that Joseph and Mary deliberately made an arduous journey to Jerusalem to complete the requirements of the law of Moses for a newborn son.

To understand this verse we need to do two things. First, we need to read it in context, as part of a long sentence that goes to the end of v. 24. Second, to receive the rich meaning of these verses we need to be aware of Old Testament texts, the Word of God, that are referred to in Luke 2:22-24.

First, then, although the sentence of verses 22-24 begins and ends talking about the religious purification of a mother after giving birth as required by the Jewish law (see Lev 12:6), the main statement of the sentence is that Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, according to a particular law of the Lord (Exod 13:2, 12, 13), which is quoted for us in the middle of the sentence. There are also other Old Testament texts that may be echoed in this presentation of Jesus to the Lord, especially the story of Hannah presenting her son Samuel to the Lord in 1 Sam 1:24-28 (but see also Exod 22:29; Neh 10:35-36).

Thus, Joseph and Mary perform two religious acts when they take Jesus to Jerusalem: they present Jesus to the Lord and they also offer a sacrifice for the purification of the mother of Jesus. Both of these acts are based in the Word of God. In fact, in the course of verses 22-24, Luke refers three times to God's Word, calling it "the law of Moses," and twice "the law of the Lord." Clearly, Joseph is presented as responding most attentively to the Word of God as expressed in the Scriptures.

The most important result of Mary and Joseph's actions is that, from his very birth and introduction into the world, Jesus is fully righteous according to God's Word and is shown to be, potentially, the Messiah. Joseph, our point of interest, is presented as responding most attentively to the Word of God as stated in the Scriptures. Moreover, in his decision to stay faithful to Mary and her child, Joseph is portrayed for us in the Gospel of Luke as a man who cooperates courageously with God's will, by discerning it in the events occurring around him, about which he has to make real-life decisions.

Joseph is a wonderful model for Christians as we live in the world. The Word of God spoken in the Scriptures guides us, but many times we have to apply that Word in everyday situations where we must see the reality around us, decide what God desires us to do and then act courageously, justly and with compassion. Joseph shows us how to be persons of the Word of God, whether it is written in books or in the face of God's creation, unfolding in history.

Michele A. Connolly RSJ is a Scripture scholar who teaches New Testament Studies at the Catholic Institute of Sydney