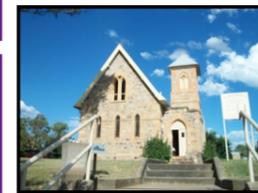
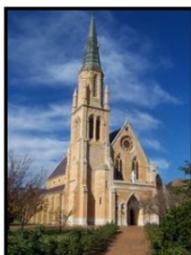


The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!



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 B 21st March 2021

First Reading: [Jer 31:31-34](#)

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

Responsorial Psalm:

[Ps 50:3-4, 12-15. R. v.12](#)

(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. (R.)

Second Reading: [Eph 2:4-10](#)

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: [Jn 3:14-21](#)

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.



THE HOUR HAS COME. Jesus was greatly troubled as the hour of his suffering and death approached. He was tempted to ask the Father to save him from this hour. But he knew that his death would be a source of new life for all. Today's liturgy invites us to share in Jesus' self-sacrificing love. For ourselves, as for Jesus, the grain of wheat must die in order to produce a rich harvest.

HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

Monday 29th March

5.45pm Chrism Mass Bathurst Cathedral

Tuesday 30th March

9.30am Mass Mudgee

6.00pm Second Rite of Reconciliation - Mudgee

Wednesday 31st March

9.30am Mass Mudgee

11.00am Anointing Mass Kandos followed by lunch.

EASTER TRIDUUM ST MARY'S MUDGEE

Holy Thursday 1st April 6.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 2nd April

11.00am Stations of the Cross

3.00pm Liturgy of the Passion

Holy Saturday 3rd April 6.00pm Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday 4th April

7.30am Mass

9.00am Mass

10.30am Mass

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, GULGONG

Good Friday 2nd April 3.00pm Liturgy of the Passion

Holy Saturday 3rd April 5.00pm Easter Vigil Mass

ST MALACHY'S RYLSTONE & ST DOMINIC'S KANDOS

Holy Thursday 1st April 5.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 2nd April 11.00am Stations of the Cross St Malachy's Rylstone

Easter Sunday 4th April 9.00am Mass St Dominic's Kandos

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 6372 2122

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 6372 1742

www.stmattsmudgee.catholic.edu.au/

All Hallows Catholic School Gulgong:

Principal: Mr Bradley Toole

Ph 02 6374 1582

www.allhallowsgulgong.catholic.edu.au

*Anointing Mass and Parish Luncheon
Friday 26th March*

Anointing Mass for the Sick and elderly will be on Friday 26th March at 12.30pm, followed by a light Parish Luncheon at 1.00pm in the Parish Centre. If you would like to come, please contact the Parish Office to assist with catering numbers by Tuesday 22nd March. Thank you.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The moment of eschatological fulfilment gathers together the sense of the past ('the days when Christ was in the flesh'), the future ('the days are coming'), and the present ('the hour has come'). We live in the time when the past and the future are made present; we live in the 'already-but-not-yet' time of anticipation/fulfilment. This is a moment of great ambiguity, of fear and trepidation but of electric excitement. It is a moment of decision. We hover at the edge of dawn, weighing whether or not to step forward into the new day or to return to the darkness of night.

This 'hour' brings a new covenant, a deep interior relationship with God that is not based on law but which overflows from a commitment of the heart. It brings an abundant harvest that springs from a simple grain of wheat. It brings a promise from God's own Son that those who serve him will be honoured by God, and those who obey him will enjoy eternal life.

Although the 'hour' brings all of these blessings, it only does so with a price. The new covenant could only be written on new hearts; the abundant harvest sprang from the dying grain of wheat; eternal salvation was won at the price of Christ's blood. As challenging as the message of these readings may be, the last note is one of hope. It can overcome the demons that control us, because it is the power of the almighty God. © Dianne Bergant

COVID-19 Update

Please be aware that we are still in a time of pandemic and social distancing and hygiene practices need to be maintained. If you are feeling unwell, please stay at home.

GULGONG NEWS

Street Stall Tuesday, 25th March. 100 Club and Raffle only. Covid Restrictions apply.

A Cuppa after Mass on Sunday 28th March. Please do not bring any food. Covid Restriction apply.

KANDOS NEWS

Anointing Mass - Wednesday 31st March at 11am.

MUDGEE NEWS

Pastoral Council Meeting Wednesday 24th March at 6.00pm.

Second Rite of Reconciliation - Tuesday 30th March at 5.00pm.

**Pope's Universal Prayer for March
Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

**Masses and prayers requested
for the following:**

For the recently deceased especially
Madge Roughan

We remember the anniversaries of
Mona Café, Joe Swientek, David Lawson, Patricia Milton, Una Cunningham, Marie Thirtle, Shirley Turner, Marlene Ballard, Michael Power, Patricia Leonard, Brian Power.

We also pray for Elisa Fajarda, Bruce Eastburn, George and Eva Jozicic, Tony Blazavic, Varga & Blazavic Families.

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

Bev Darby, Stasia Rozenblatt, Carmel Thompson, John Carney (Rooty Hill), Mike O'Shea, Jan Bailie, Rodrigo Jaboneta, Elizabeth Taylor (Newcastle), Allen Fenwick (Newcastle), Maria Leotta, Eliza and Elena Vasilis, Rebecca Fetcher, Enid Auld, Debbie Solti, Vicky Gaffney, Anthony Spina, Julie Collins, Elizabeth Donnelly, Ursula Smieszek, Jasmine Prada, Mary Cannon and those in our Nursing Homes.

DAY BY DAY

MONDAY - 22nd March

NO SERVICE

12 Noon Angelus

TUESDAY - 23rd March

9.30am Mass Mudgee SMCS Year 7

12 Noon Angelus

WEDNESDAY - 24th March

9.30am Mass Mudgee

9.30am St Mary's Craft and Friendship Group

11.00am Mass Kandos

12 Noon Angelus

6.00pm Pastoral Council Meeting

THURSDAY - 25th March

ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

9.30am Mass Mudgee - SMCS Kinder & Yr 6

12 Noon Angelus

FRIDAY - 26th March

12 Noon Reconciliation (Back of Church)

12 Noon Angelus and Rosary (Front of Church)

12.30pm Mass Mudgee - Anointing Mass

1.00pm Parish Luncheon

SATURDAY - 27th March

12 Noon Angelus

5.15-5.40pm Reconciliation (Back of Church)

6.00pm Vigil Mass Mudgee

SUNDAY - 28th March

PALM SUNDAY

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.

Baptisms: We welcome to the Parish community



James Victor Unsworth
son of Mitchell and Jessica.

Eddie Mae Neil
daughter of Matthew and Belinda.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Is 50:4-7

Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.24

Phil 2:6-11

Mk 14:1 – 15:47

Mudgee Roster Saturday 27th / Sunday 28th March 2021			
	Sat 6.00pm	Sun 7.30am	Sun 9.00am
Commentator	C. Furney		S. Abbey
First Reader	L. Ryan	R. McKeown	R. Disher
Second Reader	J. Newman		J. O'Brien
Special Ministers of Communion	J. Vros		P. O'Brien
Altar Servers	P. Fitzgerald D. Fitzgerald		R. George

EASTER TRIDUUM MINISTRIES MUDGEE

If you will be available to assist with the ministries over Easter weekend could you please contact the Parish Office via email office.mudgee@cdob.org.au or by phone 63722122.

Gulgong Roster			
Date	Commentator	Reader	Sacristan
28th Mar	E. Donnelly	J. Ritar	C. Holland
4 Apr	R. Saliba	C. Gaudry	R. Saliba
11 Apr	C. Gaudry	K. Ritar	M.&E. Carney
18 Apr	S. Parnell	R. Saliba	E. Donnelly R. Saliba

Interpreting the Scriptures

As a community of love, grounded in the love of the Trinity, we are immersed in the scriptures. Our task here is guided by the question of:

1. How are the scriptures to be read?
2. How are we to interpret them?

Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst is facilitating an information session addressing these questions. Presented by Professor Gerard Moore, the day will explore a range of contemporary approaches, opening up various ways that scholars and believers have found allow the scriptures to speak into the reality of our world.

BATHURST - Friday 26 March

St Joseph's House, Tenison Woods Ave Perthville NSW 2795
There is no cost to attend and morning tea and lunch will be provided. To assist with planning and catering, please register by Wednesday 24 March by contacting Karen Burke or Angelo Belmonte at on 6338 3000 or email: k.burke@bth.catholic.edu.au or a.belmonte@bth.catholic.edu.au

**Having faith does not mean having no difficulties,
but having the strength to face them,
knowing we are not alone.**

Pope Francis

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2021
"Parish Based, Family Centred and School Supported"

We will again be offering our parish families the opportunity to celebrate the sacraments of First Holy Communion, Confirmation and First Reconciliation.

It is the wish of Bishop Michael that parishes celebrate the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation within the weekend Parish Masses.

One parent information session is planned for each of the sacraments - Confirmation, First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation.

The first of the sacraments to be celebrated this year will be **First Holy Communion**. The parent session is to take place shortly, two sessions are offered on this day either the day session from 1.30 -2.30pm or evening session 7.00pm - 8.00pm. The session is for parents/carers only, candidates do not attend.

Families of students in Year 3 are invited to register their **intention** to have their child **receive the sacrament** via an **online form** provided by the parish staff and available on the parish website. The enrolment form will follow at a later date, once the information session has taken place.

St Matthews students will be prepared by their teachers during RE lessons and supported by the Parish Sacramental Team. Children in the State schools will attend after school lessons in the Parish Centre - dates to be confirmed.

PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE FOR FURTHER DETAILS VIA OUR EMAIL: office.mudgee@cdob.org.au or Ph 63722122.



Halima is raising her two children in a refugee camp in Bangladesh while caring for her mother, who has a disability. Widowed at 21, Halima fled violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State and arrived at the camp with nothing.

Caritas Australia, through Caritas Bangladesh, helped Halima out with a shelter, cooking equipment, hygiene and sanitation training. She took on the role of community trainer herself, organising the cleaning of washrooms, wells and toilets.

Halima aspired to 'Be More'. She is proud that she is now able to earn a small income while maintaining the health of her family and the cleanliness of the camp community.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them.



You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Totals to date:
Mudgee - \$3499.05
Kandos /Rylstone - \$725



YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH

REFLECTION - MARCH 2021

The astonishing life of St Joseph – Spouse of Mary and Father of Jesus

Robert Falzon reflects on how St Joseph may have responded to his astonishing call to be the foster-father of Jesus and spouse of Mary. What does it mean for fathers and husbands in today's world?

Joseph, son of Jacob, was born in Bethlehem and was a descendant of King David (Matt 1). He lived in Nazareth in Galilee, where he worked as a craftsman/tradesman, often referred to as a carpenter. He was married to Mary, daughter of Joachim; he had been to the father of Mary and paid the “dower” with the promise of marriage, but had not taken her into his home yet, as was the custom.

Mary, a few months into her betrothal, rushed off to the high country in Judea just outside Jerusalem to visit her relative Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John. It was the first of several astonishing events.

The rumors started. Why had she gone during her time of waiting for Joseph to come for her? What had happened? Was something wrong? Mary returned about three months later and the lifechanging news was brought to Joseph. His betrothed spouse was pregnant!

Can you imagine what he was going through and thinking?

“How could she do this? What could have happened? Why? Who? What will I do?” He decided to divorce her quietly because he was unwilling to expose her to public disgrace and possible stoning (Matt 1:19).

Then, in the midst of this drama, an angel appeared to Joseph and told him that the child was the Son of God! Conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Remarkably, he obeys God's messenger and takes Mary as his spouse, into his home. Doing this, Joseph completes the marriage, gives Mary his name and becomes the father of the child in her womb.

Before the birth of their child, Caesar Augustus called a census for the whole land. Joseph was obliged to take the very pregnant Mary with him and travel to Bethlehem in Judea to fulfil the requirements. A son was born and Joseph, his father, gave him the name Jesus, in accordance with the angel's instructions.

So, this son was born in a manger in Bethlehem because there was no room in the town, to Joseph and Mary in the line of David, in accordance with the ancient prophecies.

If the actions of Joseph and the birth of Jesus weren't astonishing enough, after the birth there were some amazing events. The shepherds came to visit, proclaiming the vision and the words of the angels. Then three rulers (Magi) visited this newborn “King” of the Jews.

Can you imagine what was going on in Joseph's mind and heart? Having walked for 10 days, with no sleep that night and all the strange happenings, he must have been confused, awestruck, amazed and, in his quiet moments, wondering what he had got himself into.

“I don't understand. Who is this woman? What about the mysterious son who is supposed to be the saviour of the world?! What were the shepherds going on about? Why did these rulers visit, prostrate themselves before my baby son and give us such incredible gifts?”

Soon after, Joseph took the child and mother to the temple in Jerusalem and presented their first-born son, in accordance with the law. They encountered Simeon and Anna, who again disturbed Joseph and Mary. “What a strange prophecy! Who is this son and what will he be?”

It is already evident that this family is not destined for a settled life and, as if this is not enough, an angel wakes Joseph up again and tells him to take his wife and baby and escape to Egypt because the most powerful man in the land wants to kill Jesus!

Anyone would be forgiven for thinking: “Come on! Give me a break here. I did not sign up for this!” This good man gets up, wakes his wife Mary, explains the drama and the necessary urgency. He loads up the family and heads off on a flight into Egypt – except it was a long walk of hundreds of kilometres and would have taken weeks.

As he walks, he wonders: “How will I provide and protect my precious family? How will I know which way to go? Did I really hear an angel, or was this just my lack of sleep? But it was the same angel that came earlier and told me to take Mary as my wife.”

So many questions.

As they walk in silence, he prays. He repeats the psalms in rhythm with the steps. Possibly he remembers Isaiah 7:14: “The Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Emmanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).”

This was no holiday journey and no ordinary life. The terrain was difficult and the danger imminent from bandits, brigands and wild animals. Joseph listens, discerns and makes decisions with the objective of guarding, protecting, providing for this precious family. He listens to the voice for guidance.

Some years later, the angel appears again and tells him to pack up and go home to Nazareth. All is well; Herod is dead. He obeys like many times before. Another long journey is embarked on. They settle in Nazareth and then all is mostly quiet for nearly 30 years, except for one story about Jesus getting lost on a visit to Jerusalem. These are the “hidden” years. We know almost nothing of Joseph, Mary and Jesus during this time.

There is so much to be learned from St Joseph – so much we need right now in this present age! It is prophetic that Pope Francis calls us back to St Joseph with his apostolic letter *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart).

Being a husband and father is possibly the hardest and greatest task I have been given. St Joseph teaches me, and us, much about these noble roles. Below are some of my reflections:

1. **Listening** — God speaks often and has much guidance for me. I/we need to find silence and stillness everyday so I/we can hear from the sacred that resides in our soul. We call this prayer. I need this time with Jesus every day.
2. **Obedience/Action** — The need to understand/know is often an obstacle to faith. Doing what is right leads to righteousness. Do what you are told and take the appropriate action. Reject the pervading passivity of our culture and accept responsibility. Then do something. Say "yes, because you say so, I will".
3. **Selflessness** — Live for the other (wife/mother/child). Give your life away for the benefit of your spouse and family. Your life is for them. This is heroic love. This will change the world. Grow up.
4. **Courage** — Manage yourself; find ways to be calm in the chaos and stress of life. Avoid the strong pressure to reactivity, anger, uncharitable responses and immaturity. I can have faith in my fears, frailty and weakness. God is with me/us.
5. **Humility** — Be prepared to live through the small hidden years, the time when mostly what you do is serve, love, provide and protect. This is the martyrdom of waiting for God to act/speak. These years are the home of holiness.

Go on an astonishing journey with this great man.

St Joseph, Pray for us. AMEN