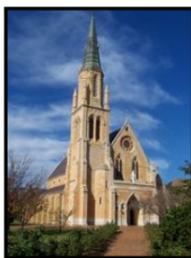


*The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!*



## 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 Easter - Year B 2nd May 2021



### **First Reading: Acts 9:26-31**

*He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.*

### **Responsorial Psalm: Ps 21:26-28, 30-32. R. v.26**

**(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.**

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.  
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.  
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.  
May their hearts live for ever and ever! **(R.)**

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,  
all families of the nations worship before him.  
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **(R.)**

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.  
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,  
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:  
'These things the Lord has done.' **(R.)**

### **Second Reading: 1 Jn 3:18-24**

*His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.*



### **Gospel Acclamation: Jn 15:4-5**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

### **Gospel: Jn 15:1-8**

*All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.*

### **REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate** *Spiritual Drink*

We are too familiar with today's gospel. Christ is the vine and we are the branches, sometimes in need of a good pruning. But God's purpose is not to produce a perfect vineyard. It is to produce a full-bodied wine at the end of history.

There is a foretaste of this at every Mass. The wine we offer – 'fruit of the earth and work of human hands' – becomes the spiritual drink which best serves the purpose of our Heavenly Father. How does this happen?

For the Jewish people observing an animal whose throat is cut, it is obvious that the life drains out with the blood. 'Life' and 'blood' became synonyms. So, when the Jewish Jesus says of the wine in the chalice at the Last Supper: 'This is my blood', amongst other things he is saying: 'This is my life force, this is my very life given unreservedly for you.'

So, when we drink from the chalice at Holy Communion, the life of the Risen Lord courses through our bodies just as the sap of the vine courses through its branches. We share the same ultimate vitality so that our bodily existence builds into the Body of Christ. He becomes truly 'full-bodied' as the Divine Vignerone desires.

We could take a moment to pray that we respond to the pruning and the tending and the pressing by our Heavenly Father so as to contribute our distinctive character to the vintage at the end of history, the spiritual drink of the Kingdom of Heaven.

#### **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](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 6372 1742

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

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

**Principal:** Mr Bradley Toole

Ph 02 6374 1582

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

**DAY BY DAY**

**MONDAY - 3rd May**

**Sts Philip and James, apostles**

**NO SERVICE**

12 Noon Angelus

**TUESDAY - 4th May**

9.30am Mass Mudgee

12 Noon Angelus

**WEDNESDAY - 5th May**

9.30am Mass Mudgee

9.30am St Mary's Craft and Friendship Group

12 Noon Angelus

**THURSDAY - 6th May**

9.30am Mass Mudgee - SMCS Yr4

12 Noon Angelus

**FRIDAY - 7th May**

10.30am Mass - Mudgee Grove (Residents only)

12 Noon Angelus and Rosary (Front of Church)

12 Noon Reconciliation (Back of Church)

12.30pm Mass Mudgee

4pm Art Exhibition, St Mary's Parish Centre

**SATURDAY - 8th May**

9am Art Exhibition, St Mary's Parish Centre

12 Noon Angelus

4.15-4.40pm Reconciliation (Back of Church)

5.00pm Vigil Mass Mudgee

**SUNDAY - 9th May**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Mother's Day**

7.30am Mass Mudgee

9.00am Mass Mudgee

10.30am Mass Gulgong

11.00am Mass Rylstone

12 Noon Angelus

5.00pm 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.



*St Mary's Parish Luncheon*

**CHANGE OF DATE**

Our next Parish luncheon will be after our 12.30pm Friday Mass on May **14th**.

For catering purposes, if you would like to attend, please write your name on the sheet provided at the back of the church or contact the Parish Office on 6372 2122.

**GULGONG NEWS**

**GCWG Meeting** - will be held Tuesday 4th May, 2pm in the convent. No afternoon tea required. New members are welcome.



**Companions of the Sisters of St Joseph**  
(Formerly Josephite Associates)

Josephite Companions participate in the life and mission of the church by living out the Josephite charism through friendship, prayer and service enriching your life as well as the lives of others by "doing the ordinary with a Josephite heart".

Our first gathering will be at 1pm, Friday 21st May in the Parish Centre. If you are interested in joining the group or would like to know more, please contact **Patti 0418517330**.



*Happy Birthday*

*Blessing and best wishes to Marg Curran who will celebrated her 99th Birthday this week.*

**Pope's Universal Prayer for May ....**

**The World of Finance**

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.



**Congratulations to**

*Grant James Bowditch & Jessica Elizabeth Stark*

who celebrated the sacrament of marriage this weekend in Mudgee and

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

**For the recently deceased especially**

Leo Egan

**We remember the anniversaries of**

Noel Dorney, Jacqueline Pithie

**We also pray for** Miriam Byers

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

Helen Roberts, Mario Giusti, John Cross, Cherylanne Adamson, John Vros, Karen Freebody, Stasia Rozenblatt, Carmel Thompson, John Carney (Rooty Hill), Mike O'Shea, 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 all those in our Nursing Homes.

Those seeking Special Intentions and for all the Holy Souls.

**The Month of May.** Within the cycle of a year, the Church unfolds the whole of the mystery of Christ, from his incarnation and birth until his ascension, the day of Pentecost, and the expectation of blessed hope and of Lord's return...

In celebrating this annual cycle of Christ's mysteries, the Church honours with special love **Mary, the Mother of God** who is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son. In her the Church holds up and admires the most excellent effect of the redemption and joyfully contemplates, as in a flawless image, that which the Church itself desires and hopes wholly to be.

SC 102, 103

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Fourth Sunday of Easter - Year B**

**Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48**

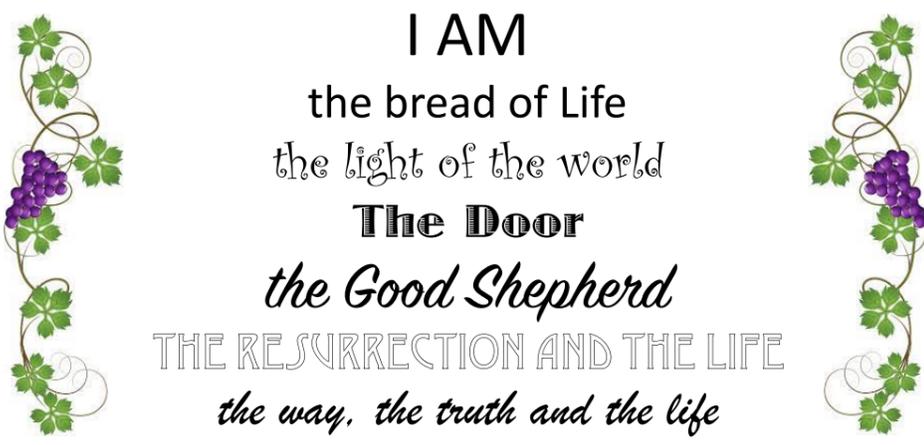
**Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2**

**1 Jn 4:7-10**

**Jn 15:9-17**

Mudgee Roster Saturday 8th / Sunday 9th May 2021			
	Sat 6.00pm	Sun 7.30am	Sun 9.00am
Commentator	D. Cunningham		S. Abbey
First Reader	L. Nicholson	M. McLean	L. Croake
Second Reader	J. Newman		M. Matthews
Special Ministers of Communion			M. Gilbert
Altar Servers	P. Fitzgerald		A. McFarlane
Counter	Mon 10th		
Saturday 15th / Sunday 16th May 2021			
	Sat 6.00pm	Sun 7.30am	Sun 9.00am
Commentator	St Matthews		St Matthews
First Reader	St Matthews	P. Robinson	St Matthews
Second Reader	St Matthews		St Matthews
Special Ministers of Communion	A. Baker		Kylie Scott
Altar Servers	A & H Portelli		M. Freebody
Counter	Mon 17th		

Gulgong Roster			
Date	Commentator	Reader	Sacristan
9th May	E. Donelly	M. McGregor	R. Saliba
16th May	R. Saliba	O. O'Brien	M & E. Carney
23rd May	D. Kelly	J. Thatcher	E. Donelly G. Ausburn
30th May	P. Leotta	F. McConville	C. Holland



**I AM**  
 the bread of Life  
 the light of the world  
**The Door**  
 the Good Shepherd  
 THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE  
 the way, the truth and the life  
**THE TRUE VINE**

**Mother's Day** is next Sunday. To help celebrate and remember our Mothers and Grandmothers who have past away, feel free to bring either flowers or a small memento to be placed at the front of the Altar.

**Word and Faith Group**

St Mary's currently has a Word and Faith group on Sunday's at 5pm in the Parish Centre. If you would like to be part of the Group or would like to find out more information, please contact the Parish Office.

**Monster  
ART EXHIBITION**

**"Plein Air"**  
**Unframed Local Art Scenes for SALE**  
 by a wide range of local & visiting ARTISTS

**Painter's @ MUDGE**

Opening Friday 7th May 4pm & Saturday 8th May, 2021  
 9am till late afternoon at St Mary's Parish Centre, MUDGE

**Tap and Go Credit Card Facility**

We have installed a Tap and Go Credit Card facility. Many of us no longer carry cash and this is a very convenient way to donate to the parish. Donations are in \$10 or \$20 lots - if you wish to donate more than \$10 or \$20 just re tap your card for the amount you wish to donate.

The machine is located at the back of the church during Mass times.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING REMINDERS...**

As we are still in a time of pandemic, we are still required to maintain our social distancing. Please be aware of this when sitting, kneeling or moving around the church.

**COVID restrictions from Monday 29 March:**

- The number of people allowed in a place of worship is still limited to 1 person per 2 square metres. While there is no upper limit on the number of people attending a funeral or wedding, if the service is held within a place of worship (a building), the number of people able to attend is still restricted by the 1 person per 2 square metre rule.
- Restrictions on singing in places of worship has be lifted
- All organisations must continue to ensure they keep accurate records of all attendances, including through [QR Codes](#), to enable fast contact tracing in the event of any community transmission.
- It is critical everyone continues to practise COVID-safe behaviours, practising social distancing, staying home if unwell and getting tested if suffering from the mildest of symptoms.

## God Is Greater than Our Hearts

“He must increase; I must decrease”. John the Baptist once used these words to describe his relationship to Jesus. John, we understand, was a pretty impressive character. He was such a charismatic speaker that multitudes sought his baptism, listened to his levelling criticisms of popular culture and values, and vowed radical changes as a result of encountering him. John was a prophet and guru with his own circle of disciples. When Jesus appeared on the scene, John might have viewed him as a rival.

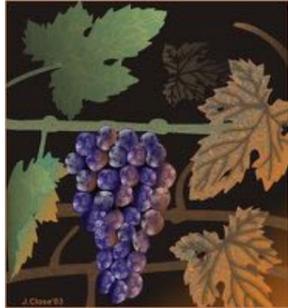
Instead, John responds with extraordinary humility. He acknowledges that Jesus is greater. And not only greater: John admits that Jesus replaces him altogether. John’s mission is complete the hour Jesus arrives. As Jesus ascends, John will fade away. John doesn’t lament this. He states this fact as obvious and right.

This is the relationship of the vine to the branches. The vine survives the trimming of its branches, but the branches do not survive without the vine. The vine is more enduring, the very source of life. The branches play their part in relationship to the vine. It’s folly for a branch to forget what it is. But in service to the vine, it bears much fruit.

**Define yourself as a branch attached to Jesus the vine. Name the fruit you bear in this relationship.**

Consider your attachment to Jesus the vine: is it weak, strong, in need of support?

Resolve to strengthen the bond in prayer and imitation.



**NATIONAL MASS COUNT** will take place over the next four weekends. This gives us valuable data about our parishes and helps us plan for our future. We appreciate your help and patience at this time.

*Lest we forget*  
**RISE  
YOUTH  
FESTIVAL**



THURSDAY TO FRIDAY 1-2 JULY  
EARLY BIRD PRICE \$110 BEFORE APRIL 30TH  
PRICE \$120 AFTER APRIL 30TH



## Living the Gospel – Bearing fruit

The vinedresser of this passage cuts away the dead branches and prunes back those that are not bearing fruit. In what way do we bear fruit? When we strive to reach our fullest potential in whatever we do, we bear fruit. When we act out of motivation for the other person rather than ourselves, we bear fruit. When we strive to bring about the reign of God in our small part of the world, we bear fruit. Sometimes we too need to have some of our thoughts and actions pruned so that we might better bear the fruit that we are truly capable of producing.



“They were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other Apostles,  
Brothers - what then must we do?” Acts 2:37

The National Catholic Men’s Gathering for 2021 will be launched online on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July.  
Join a diocesan group with your Bishop, or with your Men’s Ministry/Parish group or individually.  
Three sessions will be provided online, along with reflection questions for group discussion or individual reflection.

**Aim:** To inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish/diocese and the world.  
**Cost:** FREE  
**Registration:** [www.catholicmensgathering.com.au](http://www.catholicmensgathering.com.au)  
**Program:** Available from Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021

## Year of St Joseph

“Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life”