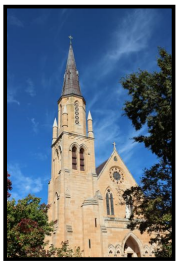


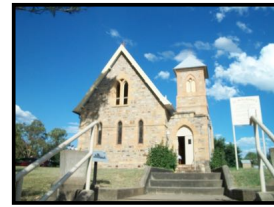
The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!



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.



Christmas and The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - Year C 25th/26th December 2021

CHRISTMAS 2021

May the celebration of Christmas this year bring you the gifts of healing and hope that we all need.

The harmful force of the pandemic that we have been living with for almost two years has affected everyone. Some of us have suffered physically; all of us have suffered mentally and socially. We need healing in our minds and in our relationships. We need to find the ways of patience and kindness with one another.

How can we hope to do that? The light shone to send the shepherds to Bethlehem and led the wise men to the same place and the same child. This child is Emmanuel, God among us, entering our broken world to heal us and make us whole.

This child started his earthly life as a refugee. In this year's Christmas Story art exhibition for senior primary students, I was struck by William Horton's painting of the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt. It brought back poignant memories of recent pictures from Afghanistan, with desperate people clinging to the wings of planes taxiing away without them.

Jesus is present in the eighty million people displaced from their homes in our world today. He is present in your family member, workmate or friend who is suffering. He is most present to you in your times of trouble.

May finding him, who can heal all our woe, be your best gift this Christmas; and may the compassion he will share with you be your best gift to others.

+Michael McKenna
Bishop of Bathurst



Bishop's Christmas Appeal 2021

This Christmas, give the gift of education to the children of Bongaon

The proceeds of Bishop McKenna's Special Christmas Missionary Appeal for 2021 will go to the completion of St Joseph's Primary School in Bongaon, St Joseph's Parish, Diocese of Calcutta, West Bengal. This is the second year that God's people in the Diocese of Bathurst have the opportunity to support this vital mission, giving much needed funds to complete the multi-staged school development, providing education for the children of the Diocese of Calcutta.

In addition to supporting the Appeal at all Christmas Masses in the Diocese, donations can also be made via:

In Person: At the Bathurst Chancery Office or any parish office

Post: PO Box 246, Bathurst NSW 2795

Online: www.bathurst.catholic.org.au

QR Code: scan the code on this flier to donate

Phone: 1800 451 760



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

PLEASE NOTE

SUNDAY 7.30AM MASS

With our sacramental programs now complete, there will be no 7.30am Mass on Sunday mornings.

DAY BY DAY

MONDAY - 27th December

12.00 Noon Angelus

TUESDAY - 28th December

9.30am Mass Mudgee

12 Noon Angelus

WEDNESDAY - 29th December

12.00 Noon Angelus

5.45pm Mass Mudgee

THURSDAY - 30th December

9.30am Mass Mudgee

12.00 Noon Angelus

FRIDAY - 31st December

11.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in
St. Mary's Mudgee

12.00 Noon Angelus and Rosary (Front of Church)

12.00 Noon Reconciliation (Back of Church)

12.30pm Mass Mudgee

SATURDAY - 1st January

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

9.30am Mass Mudgee

12.00 Noon Angelus

5.15-5.40pm Reconciliation (Back of Church)

6.00pm Vigil Mass Mudgee

SUNDAY - 2nd January

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR C

9.00am Mass Mudgee

10.30am Mass Gulgong

11.00am Mass Kandos

12.00 Noon Angelus

Anointing/ Home Communion:

If you know of anyone who would like Anointing/ Home Communion, please ring the office.

Fr Owen and Fr Dong are available, and can visit at home or in hospital.

Baptism: We welcome to the Parish community



*Grace & Flynn
Johnson*

child of Alex and Olivia

Masses and prayers requested for the following:

For the recently deceased: Robert Simpson (Turramurra), Ana Oros, Lucilla Balajadia Decena

We remember the anniversaries of: Fr Joe Dooley, Leanne Killer, Ashley Knight, Doreen Matthews, Brian Condon, Alileen Rogan, Colin Goldspink, Adeline McNally, Robert Cox, Michael Gibbins, Nicki Lynch, Ron Barry, Nancy Gaffney.

We also pray for: William James Gaffney, Annette Vile, Cliff Tindall, Varga and Blazevic families, Joy Gilbey, Michael Maloney, Bishop Bill Wright, Margaret Melinz, Melba Roberts, Jeff O'Brien, John Mahon, Joyce Jone, Janice Bryant, Bernie Stewart, Marie Robison, Wayne Morton, Mollie McGarth. Francis McDermott, Eruine McDermott, Jack and Norah Babbage, Alison Orth, Adriel Maloney, Jim & Doroty Betts, Michael Maloney, Alma & Cliff Thomas, Jack Bennett, Julie Bennett, Brian Bennett, Paul Bennett, Msgr John Fawley, Sr Mary Clement, Phil Darby, Pat & Bill Milton, Miriam Byers, Adrain Ryan, Joan Nangle, Rick Tompsett, Mallinson Family, Mario & Lucy Zaccaria, Benjamin Rayner, Joe Swientek, Swientek Family, Smieszek Family & friends, Jean & Ken Doorey, Ron & Pat Williams, Pauline Tindall, Arthur Lynch, Anne Lynch, John Lynch, Bonnie Lynch, Ron Lynch, Mai Robinson, Meg Gleeson, Ron Smith, Russ Smith, Dulice Smith, Olive Ryan, Hugh Cluff, Isabel Cluff, Keith Cluff, Elias Deeb, Tony Blazevic, David Kiddle, Boyd-Skinner Family, Betty and the Gibbons Family, Rita Ottley, Mervyn Costello, John Killer, Max Pilley, Lois Pilly and Kim Pilley, Daphne & Walter Cooper, Elli & Cooper Families and Holy Souls.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are sick at this time: Barry Slater, Dianne Brown, Alicia Knights, Eleni Roberts, Dyanna Thomeny, Marie Trounson, Howard Brady, Sue Kearins, John Cross, Carmel Thompson, Elizabeth Donnelly, Rodrigo Jaboneta, Molly Jenkins and all those in our Nursing Homes.

Thank you to the
St Mary's Church decorators
Jacob, Joshua, Michael, Oliver,
Rose, Carol and Iris

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. I he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it".

Pope Francis

Mudgee Roster
Saturday 1st / Sunday 2nd January 2022

	Sat 6.00pm	Sun 9.00am
Commentator	D. Cunningham	Help Needed
First Reader	C. Furney	M. Dunnachie
Second Reader		
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion		R. Gawthorne
Counter	4th Jan 2022	L. Nicholson

Saturday 8th / Sunday 9th January 2022

	Sat 6.00pm	Sun 9.00am
Commentator	C. Furney	
First Reader		J. O'Brien
Second Reader		
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion	D. Cunningham	P. O'Brien
Counters	10th Jan 2022	E. Goodlet

Volunteers Needed... Please let the Parish Office know if you are available during January to read at Mass or to be an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

Gulgong Roster

Date	Commentator	Reader	Sacristan
26th Dec	R. Saliba	C. Gaudry	R. Saliba
2nd Jan	P. Leotta	K. Ritar	M. & E. Carney
9th Jan	C. Gaudry	R. Saliba	E. Donnelly G. Ausburn
16 Jan	S. Parnell	D. Hudson	C. Holland

Historical Context – The Nativity scene

St Francis of Assisi is credited with setting up the first nativity scene and thus establishing a tradition that is carried on today in homes, churches and public spaces in Christian communities everywhere. In 1223, in the town of Greccio he created a life size tableau of the nativity scene to heighten the awareness of the celebration of the birth of Christ. It included statues of the holy family and a live ox and donkey. The inclusion of the livestock has no scriptural support and it is to Francis that we owe the array of sheep, oxen and donkeys that have become standard inclusions in our nativity scenes.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Adolescent Impatience

Forget the tinselly sentimentality of most depictions of the Holy Family. This Gospel is real life. Anyone who has temporarily lost their child in a crowd knows the stabbing pain of uncertainty and fear. Even more real, and occurring more often, is the adolescent impatience of Jesus: 'Did you not know I must be about my Father's business?'

Every parent, bewildered and saddened by the growing up and the growing distance of a son or daughter, knows what Mary and Joseph must have felt.

By the time Mary and Joseph found Jesus, he had found the words to express his unique identity. In this little scene so full of pathos and heartbreak, we hear the first words of Jesus in the Gospels: 'Did you not know I must be about my Father's business?'

What was his 'Father's business' which was so engaging for Jesus? To draw every human being into the same family relationship as He enjoys.

But did you note that it is our privilege to celebrate this realisation as a community? Only Jesus can say 'My Father'. We say 'Our Father'. We enter into the grace of intimate relationship with God, not as an atomised individual, but as a person within a society of baptised Christians – the Church.

We could take a moment to pray for the integrity which will enable us to express this sense of identity in the unfolding of our lives. We can pray also for those saddened or bewildered by our following of the One who taught us to pray 'Our Father'.

Covid Restrictions

New COVID regulations from 15/12/21:

- 1) No density limits apply to places of worship - including weddings and funerals, which may now also be attended by unvaccinated people.
- 2) QR Code or Manual Check-in must continue to be used.
- 3) Masks are mandatory (indoors)
- 4) Singing is permitted.

It is still important for everyone to practise COVID-safe behaviours, including social distancing where possible, staying home if unwell and getting tested if suffering from symptoms of COVID.

Pope's Universal Prayer for December Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR C

Is 60:1-6 Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11 Eph 3:2-3. 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

**CHRISTMAS VIGIL
24TH DECEMBER 2021**

First Reading: [Is 9:1-7](#)

A son is given to us.

Second Reading: [Ti 2:11-14](#)

Gospel Acclamation: [Lk 2: 10-11](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel: [Lk 2:1-14](#)

Today a saviour has been born for you.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11](#)

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. (R.)

**CHRISTMAS DAY
25TH DECEMBER 2021**

First Reading: [Is 62: 11-12](#)

Your Saviour is born

Second Reading: [Ti 3:4-7](#)

Gospel Acclamation: [Lk 2:14](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God in the highest,
peace to his people on earth.

Alleluia!

Gospel: [Lk 2:15-20](#)

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - YEAR C

26TH DECEMBER 2021

First Reading: [1 Sm 1:20-22. 24-28](#)

For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be lent to the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: [Ps 83:2-3. 5-6. 9-10. R. v.5](#)

(R.) How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.

My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God. (R.)

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

They are happy, whose strength is in you;
they walk with ever growing
strength. (R.)

O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,
gave ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed. (R.)

Second Reading: [1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24](#)

He calls you his own children, and that is what you are.

Gospel Acclamation: [Acts 16:14](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,

to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel: [Lk 2:41-52](#)

His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men, listening to them, the mother of my Lord?



At Christmas we celebrate the Word makes flesh and dwells among us. By taking up flesh, Jesus not only becomes one of us, but he also bears our weaknesses. He was born into this darkened world in order to save us from it, if we let him.

May the celebration of Christmas fill your heart with joy, peace and happiness.

Fr Dong Nguyen



I would like to wish you and you families every blessing and joy for Christmas and the coming year. It has been another challenging year for us all, but as Christians we continue to rejoice, celebrate and give thanks for God's every lasting love for us revealed, in Jesus Christ, son of God, son of Mary and our saviour and brother. Thank you for your support over the last twelve months.

May the light of Christ shine in our hearts and our homes in the sacred days and please travelling safely on our roads.

Fr Owen