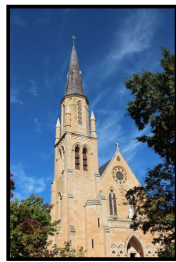


The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A 11TH DECEMBER 2022

First Reading: [Is 35:1-6, 10](#)

God himself will come and save us.

Responsorial Psalm: [Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4](#)

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading: [Jas 5:7-10](#)

*You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the
Lord's coming will be soon.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel: [Mt 11:2-11](#)

*Are you the one who is to
come, or must we wait for
someone else?*



BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

PRIEST: May this rose-coloured light remind us
that as we wait and prepare for Jesus' birth,
our hearts feel the joy of knowing that soon we
will be celebrating the gift of God's love and the
light of the world.



ALL: We wait and long for Jesus, the light of the world.

This third candle is pink and symbolizes rejoicing. During the
third week of Advent we are filled with joy for the near arrival
of Jesus on Christmas day. This Sunday is often called
"Gaudete Sunday" as we reflect on the joy the shepherd's felt
at the birth of Jesus.

ALL: Amen

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

The Right Question

John was languishing in prison, held captive by the local agent of the
Roman Empire. Perhaps he was looking for evidence that Jesus was
the One who would throw off Roman despotism. In answer to his
questing, Jesus replied that John should rather look at what was
happening on the ground in His healing ministry and orientation to
the poor. Those are the signs that the reign of God has begun.

I admire John the Baptist because he was prepared to seek and
accept the answer to the question which was crucial to him, even
though the answer might upset his preconceptions. He was a true
seeker after Truth.

All our activities as a parish in building community, forming faith,
serving the poor, participating in the liturgy, should be undertaken so
that a seeker after Truth might see and hear the evidence of the
presence and mission of the risen Lord Jesus Christ amongst us.

We could pause for a moment to simply pray in the spirit of Advent:
'Come, Lord Jesus' to satisfy the restlessness of the questing heart.

Parish Priest

Fr Owen Gibbons

Assistant Priest

Fr Thao Van Nguyen

Parish Deacon

Deacon Charles Applin

Parish Secretaries

Mrs Kristie Newman

Ms 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

Mudgee Roster Saturday 17th / Sunday 18th December 2022		
	Saturday	Sunday
Commentator	D. Cunningham	M. McLean
First Reader	L. Nicholson	L. Croake
Second Reader	S. Walker	J. Wilkinson
Extraordinary Minister of Communion	A. Fergus	R. Croake
Altar Server		
Music	Rue & Choir	Jerry & Choir
Welcomer	HELP NEEDED	S. Walker
Offertory	HELP NEEDED	Children's Liturgy
Counter	Mon 12th Dec.	P. O'Brien

Mudgee Roster Saturday 24th/ Sunday 25th December 2022				
	Saturday	Sunday		
Commentator	<p>Christmas Eve Masses 6pm at St Matthews School 9pm St Mary's Church</p> <p>Christmas Day Masses 7.30am 9am</p> <p>To volunteer to help, please see the roster on the Whiteboard at the back of the Church.</p>			
First Reader				
Second Reader				
Extraordinary Minister of Communion				
Altar Server				
Music				
Welcomer				
Offertory				
Counter			Mon 19th Dec.	E. Goodlet

Gulgong Roster			
Date	Commentator	Reader	Sacristan
18th Dec	D. Kelly	M. McGregor	R. Saliba
25th Dec	P. Leotta	D. Kelly	M.&E. Carney
1st Jan	S. Parnell	J. Ritar	E. Donnelly

Pope's Intentions for December...
Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organisations
 We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

"At this Christmas when Christ comes,
 will He find a warm heart?"

Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others
 with God's own love and concern." Mother Teresa

Gulgong News

On Monday 5th December, the members of Gulgong Catholic Women's Group farewelled Father Thao who will transfer to Coonamble in February. A relaxed morning tea followed with photos taken by Fr Thao. A great time was had by all.

**Mudgee News
 Volunteers Needed...**

If you are available and would like to help with the Christmas Masses in Mudgee, please put your name on the Mass Volunteer sheet at the back of the church on the Whiteboard.

DAY BY DAY

MONDAY - 12th December 2022

12.00 Noon Angelus

TUESDAY - 13th December

St Lucy, virgin, martyr - Memorial

9.30am Mass Mudgee

12.00 Noon Angelus

WEDNESDAY - 14th December

St John of the Cross, priest, doctor - Memorial

10.00am St Mary's Craft & Friendship Group

10.30am All Hallows Whole School Mass

12.00 Noon Angelus

5.15pm Reconciliation - change of date and time.

5.45pm Mass Mudgee

THURSDAY - 15th December

9.00am St Matthews Whole School Mass

9.30am Mass Mudgee

12.00 Noon Angelus

FRIDAY - 16th December

11.00am Kanandah Nursing Home Mass

11.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Reconciliation available if Father is free.

12.00 Noon Angelus and Rosary

12.30pm Anointing Mass Mudgee

SATURDAY - 17th December

4.00pm Wedding

5.15pm Reconciliation

6.00pm Vigil Mass - Mudgee

SUNDAY - 18th December

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

9.00am Mass - Mudgee - Remembrance Mass followed by a cuppa

10.30am Mass - Gulgong - Remembrance Mass

11.00am Mass - Kandos - Remembrance Mass

6.00pm Word & Faith Reflection - Parish Centre. All Welcome.

Hospital visitation Anointing/ Home Communion:

If you know of anyone who is in hospital or at home and would like the Anointing of the sick and Holy Communion, please ring the office. Fr Owen and Fr Thao are available, and will happily visit them at home or in hospital.

Please note, reconciliation is available anytime on request

Baptism

We welcome to the Parish community in Mudgee:



Taylor John Rowland-Jones
son of Tim and Chontelle.

**2022 Mudgee Churches Association
Community Christmas Lunch
12 Noon Christmas Day
at Mudgee Baptist Church**



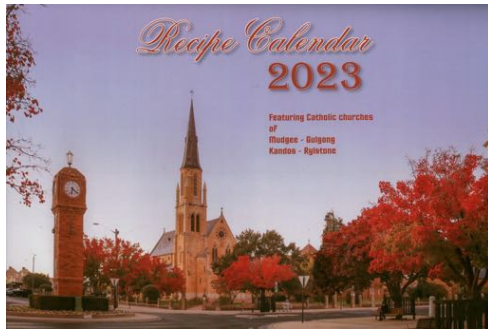
All Welcome

To register for lunch - <https://forms.gle/WPnDNu4kik8zPiVx9>
Volunteer registration - <https://forms.gle/viiVz9MuSPZyRHDs9>
or contact the Parish Office 6372 2122

2023 Calendars Selling Fast...

Beautifully illustrated 2023 calendars with some amazing recipes available for sale at \$15 each. We have some still available so please support our parish by purchasing one. They would be a great Christmas gifts for family and friends. They can be purchased after Mass at the back of the church or from the Parish Office during the week.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW
AVAILABLE
DON'T MISS OUT!**



Exciting Announcement!

The new-look Catholic Observer magazine will be delivered to Diocesan schools and parishes this week, commencing 12 December. Make sure to receive your copy!

Contents include Bishop Michael's Christmas Message and Pastoral Letter for 2022, a message from Christina Trimble Executive Director CEDB, Diocesan school and parish news and much more.

You can also read the Catholic Observer magazine online here:
<https://indd.adobe.com/view/59481f8e-4761-4092-b52c-79a7545daa8c>



Bishop's Flood Appeal

Devastating flood damage has affected communities in our Diocese. When the waters recede people's lives, homes, churches and schools will need rebuilding. With your help, we are looking ahead to how we can contribute to the recovery.

Donations can be made via the QRCode



Our Central West NSW communities devastated by recent storms and floods need our help.

In order to provide immediate and long-term support for these communities, particularly the towns of Eugowra and Molong within the Catholic Diocese of Bathurst, Bishop McKenna has established the Bishop's Flood Appeal to ensure assistance is provided directly to those in need. People can offer financial support by making donations through Centacare Bathurst, the Diocesan social services arm which has already begun working with the leaders in those communities. To donate, go to the Centacare website and click on the Donations button.

Masses and prayers requested for the following.

For the recently deceased especially:

Denis Donnelly, Jason McAuliffe, Max McBeath, Douglas Kenney, June O'Neill, Keeghan Munn, Fr James Kane.

We remember the anniversaries of:

Alan Nicholson, Milan Flego, Maria Yopez, Joseph Tot, Ben Rayner, Clarice Hyde, Harry Meyer, Vincent Whale, Evica Knezevic, Norah Babbage, Patricia Graham, Laurence Hensley, Mary Abbot, Roslyn Musgrave, Douglas Richardson, Anna Perini.

For the deceased, especially:

Philip Rhodes, Una Harris, Steven Carberry, Audrey Kelly, Colin Killer, Brian Kelly, Irene Longhurst, Anna Salomoni, Michael Azar, Bob Prowse, Marea Cox, Russell Lutschini.

Prayers requested for:

Maria Knezevic, Ava Marakovic (Syd), Anne Mead, Vikki Treves, John Carney, Molly Jenkins, Debra O'Loughlin, Eleni Roberts, Tony Spina, Dennis Petersen, Joe Saliba, Geoffrey Munn, Gwen Ausburn, Tony Harris, John Cross, Dianne Brown, Cherylanne Adamson, Molly Jenkins, Howard Brady, Anne Mead, Rodrigo Jaboneta, Carmel Thompson and all those in our Nursing Homes.

Word & FAITH



The group meeting on Sunday evenings at 6pm in the Parish Centre in Mudgee.

Reading for Next Sunday: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

Is 7:10-14

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

Rom 1:1-7

Mt 1:18-24



Christmas Mass Times

Gulgong

Christmas Eve - Saturday 24th December
6.30pm

Kandos / Rylstone

Christmas Day - Sunday 25th December
9.30am Kandos

Mudgee

Reconciliation

Tuesday 20th December

7.00pm Second Rite of Reconciliation - Mudgee

Friday 23rd December

11.30am - 12.00 noon - Reconciliation

Saturday 24th December

10.30am - 11.00am - Reconciliation

Masses

Christmas Eve - Saturday 24th December

6.00pm Mass - in the St Matthews School Grounds
9.00pm Mass - St Marys Church

Christmas Day - 25th December

7.30am Mass
9.00am Mass



Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

Why would John the Baptist send messengers to question Jesus? We recall from last week's gospel passage that John had a somewhat 'fire and brimstone' perception of what Jesus would be like. Perhaps as he sat in his prison cell John began to wonder whether Jesus was indeed the Messiah that John believed him to be. Perhaps the question was not for himself but rather for his disciples that he sent to Jesus. Given the answer that Jesus provided them, perhaps John's intention was for the disciples to recognise that Jesus was in fact the one that John had proclaimed and that the disciples should switch their allegiance to Jesus. John probably guessed that he would not be leaving that prison alive and may have been leading his disciples to the next step in their discipleship by having them go and scrutinise Jesus.

The indirect answer that Jesus provides to the query would have not sounded like such a roundabout response as it does to us. The picture Jesus describes of the blind seeing, the lame walking, lepers cleansed, and the deaf hearing would have been very familiar to those who were listening and the first audience of this gospel. These were signs of the coming of the Messiah that had been foretold by the prophets. In his answer, Jesus effectively says, 'Well, all the things that are supposed to happen when the Messiah comes are happening now with me. There's your answer!'

The reading continues to build on the Advent themes of anticipation, preparedness and hope. As we draw closer to the celebration of the Nativity, in this reading is confirmation that our hope is not misplaced. Today's readings emphasise the joy that lies in the anticipation and expectation of what is coming.

© Greg Sunter

Must We Wait for Another?

No one ever born was greater than John the Baptist, by Jesus' own admission. And yet even John found it hard to keep patient while Jesus wandered through the first season of his ministry. From prison, John heard the reports of Jesus teaching, healing, gathering crowds to hear the word of God. He didn't hear what he had expected: Jesus proclaiming his kingship, claiming Jerusalem as his capital, denouncing the Romans or the Temple leaders, and "laying the axe to the root of the tree," once and for all. John had preached the coming destruction, and Jesus seemed, well, more lamb than God. It was hard for John not to be disappointed, and to wonder for a moment if he had misread Jesus altogether.

Jesus doesn't chide John for lacking faith. Instead, he quotes prophecy to reassure John that God's time of favour has arrived. Then Jesus reminds the crowds that John's greatness in history is surpassed by anyone who arrives at an understanding of the kingdom through faith. If we wait for no other, if we cast our lot with Jesus, we find that we do not have to get to the kingdom at all. The kingdom arrives in us. What circumstances make you impatient? How far might you be willing to follow Jesus and wait for his kingdom?

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