

*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.



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B 10TH DECEMBER 2023



**First Reading:** [Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11](#)  
*Prepare the way for the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** [Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8](#)  
*(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.*

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

**Second Reading:** [2 Peter 3:8-14](#)  
*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all people shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:** [Mark 1:1-8](#)  
*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*



### Bishop's Missionary Appeal

"... John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist." Mark 1:1-8

To look at, John the Baptist probably came across as a bit wild and dishevelled. Yet his effectiveness cannot be underestimated. He baptised many and effectively proclaimed the coming – the Advent – of Jesus, a being who was greater than him. He was, like all great missionaries, able to do more, with less. This year, as part of the annual Bishop's Christmas Appeal, our parishes in the Bathurst Diocese, are being urged to support the missionary work of the Catholic Church in Timor Leste, through the power of education. Your contributions towards the Maria Auxiliadora Catholic Primary School, and its 1000-plus students (many of whom are from vulnerable backgrounds) will, like John the Baptist, bring life and transform hearts and minds. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

**David McGovern, Director, Bathurst Diocese**  
0431 481 731



### Advent Wreath

In today's readings we shall hear about the mission of John the Baptist, who was sent to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus, the light of the world.

We too are sent to prepare the way. As we light the second candle on the Advent Wreath, let us acknowledge our weaknesses and pray that we may be worthy of our mission to spread the light of Christ in the world, so that all may acknowledge Jesus as Lord.



### Response: COME LORD JESUS

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world...  
You are the light in our darkness ...  
Son of God save us from our sins ...  
Bring hope into the lives of all people...

**Response**  
**Response**  
**Response**  
**Response**

**Parish Priest**  
Fr Owen Gibbons  
**Parish Deacon**  
Deacon Charles Applin  
**Seminarian:** Ha Tran

**Parish Secretaries**  
Mrs Kristie Newman  
Ms Krista O'Brien

**Postal Address:**  
P.O Box 14 Mudgee NSW 2850  
**Phone:** 02 6372 2122

**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)

GULGONG ROSTER		
	17th December	24th December
<b>Commentator</b>	P. Leotta	C. Gaudry
<b>Reader</b>	C. Leotta	J. Ritar
<b>Sacristan</b>	M.&E. Carney	E. Donnelly G. Ausburn
<b>Leader</b>	D. Kelly	

**MUDGE ROSTER**

**Saturday 16th/Sunday 17th December 2023**

	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Commentator</b>	D. Cunningham	S. Abbey
<b>First Reader</b>	C. Furney	J. O'Brien
<b>Second Reader</b>	C. Furney	E. de Vries
<b>EMOC</b>	<b>G. Hennessy</b>	P. O'Brien
<b>Altar Server</b>		Alyra K Haddie L
<b>Music</b>	Rachel	Jerry
<b>Welcomer</b>	C. Carberry	M. Gilbert
<b>Offertory</b>	K. Isbester	A. White
<b>Counter</b>	11th Dec	L. Nicholson

**Saturday 23rd/Sunday 24th December 2023**

	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Commentator</b>	<p>Please place your name on the roster marked Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th if you are available to help during these masses. The Roster is on the whiteboard at the back of the church.</p> <p>Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day Rosters are also on the Whiteboard at the back of the church.</p>	
<b>First Reader</b>		
<b>Second Reader</b>		
<b>EMOC</b>		
<b>Altar Server</b>		
<b>Music</b>		
<b>Welcomer</b>		
<b>Offertory</b>		
<b>Counter</b>	18th Dec	R.Croake

**The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2023 December - For persons with disabilities...**  
 We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

DAY BY DAY	
<b>Mon, 11/12</b>	<b>2nd Week of Advent</b>
	Parish Office will be open at 10am.
11.00am	Mons Peter Shannon Funeral Cathedral Bathurst
12 Noon	Angelus
<b>Tues, 12/12</b>	<b>2nd Week of Advent</b>
9.30am	Mass - Mudgee
10.30am	All Hallows End of Year Mass
12 Noon	Angelus
5.00pm	SMCS Year 6 Graduation Mass
<b>Wed, 13/12</b>	<b>St Lucy, virgin, martyr</b>
9.30am	St Matthews End of Year Liturgy - Primary School
10.40am	St Matthews End of Year Mass Secondary School
12 Noon	Angelus
2.00pm	Funeral - St Mary's, Mudgee Dean Williams
5.45pm	Mass - Mudgee
<b>Thu, 14/12</b>	<b>St John of The Cross, priest, doctor</b>
9.30am	Mass - Mudgee
12 Noon	Angelus
<b>Fri, 15/12</b>	<b>2nd Week of Advent</b>
11.00am	Mass - Kanandah Nursing Home
11.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
12 Noon	Angelus and Rosary
12.30pm	Mass - Mudgee
<b>Sat, 16/12</b>	<b>2nd Week of Advent</b>
11.00am	Baptism
5.20pm	Reconciliation
6.00pm	Vigil Mass - Mudgee
<b>Sun, 17/12</b>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
9.00am	Mass - Mudgee Remembrance Mass
10.30am	Communion Service - Gulgong
11.00am	Mass - Rylstone Remembrance Mass
6.00pm	Word & Faith Group - Parish Centre

**GULGONG NEWS**

**Sunday, 10th December** Cuppa after Mass

**Sunday, 24th December - 10.30am** Remembrance Mass

Thank you to all who have helped in the Parish this year.

**KANDOS NEWS**

**Sunday, 17th December - 11.00am** Remembrance Mass - Rylstone

Thank you to all who have helped in the Parish this year.

**MUDGE NEWS**

**Sunday, 17th December - 9.00am** Remembrance Mass

**Tuesday, 19th December - 7.00pm** Second Rite of Reconciliation

Thank you to all who helped to make our Parish Dinner a lovely evening. To all who helped cleaned St Mary's Church.

**4th Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday 24th December -**  
 9am Mass - Mudgee  
 10.30am - Remembrance Mass and Anointing - Gulgong

**Christmas Mass Times**

**Christmas Vigil**  
 Mudgee **6.00pm** Mass in St Matthews School, Lewis St  
**8.30pm** Mass St Marys Church

Kandos **6.30pm**

**Christmas Day**  
 Mudgee **7.30am** St Marys  
**9.00am** St Marys

Gulgong **9.00am**

The parish office will be close from 4pm Friday 22nd December and will reopen at 10am Tuesday 2nd January.



**Baptism**

We welcome into our Mudgee Parish community:

*Campbell Le Rade*

daughter of Matthew and Roxanne  
and

*Daisy Minnie Parker*

daughter of Aaron and Lykera



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

**For the recently deceased especially:**

Ted Jordan, Dean Williams, Stephen Birchall,  
Mons Peter Shannon.

**We remember the anniversaries of:**

Margaret Melinz, Neil Reagan, Laurence Hensley,  
Patricia Graham, Russell Hundy, Mary Morgan, Jazef Tot,  
Roslyn Musgrave, Paul Gaffney, Mary Abbot, Norah Babbage,  
Evica Knezevic, Harry Meyer, Vincent Whale, Clarice Mary,  
Benjamin Rayner, Joan Loughrey, Gwendoline, Douglas,  
Anna Perini.

**For the deceased, especially:**

Toni Behrens, June George, Patricia Balston, Val Foodey,  
Elias & Therese Sadaka, Ivan Brec, Daniel Brec, Alojz Slatinsek,  
Maggie Swientek. Masses for Special Intentions, In  
Thanksgiving and For All the Holy Souls.

**Prayers requested for the sick:**

Trevor Roberts (England), Maureen Hutchinson, Eleni Roberts,  
Tomislav Marakovic (Sydney), Josephine Debattista, Margaret  
Doble, Tony Spina, Tracy Donnelly, Maureen Turner, Elizabeth  
Donnelly, Joe Saliba, Iris McBeath, Graham Hawkins, Lynne  
Daly, Tony Harris, Carmel Thompson, Dennis Petersen,  
Rodrigo Jaboneta, and all those in our Nursing Homes.

**Gospel Focus – Preparing the Way**

The gospel passage quotes the prophet Isaiah (although text combines Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3; and Exodus 23:20) and casts John the Baptist in the role of fulfilling the prophecy of the voice that cries in the wilderness, ‘Prepare a way for the Lord’. The description of John in camel-skin and eating locusts and wild honey is designed to align him with Elijah, the great prophet of Jewish history. In a very short and sharp passage the gospel ties the coming of Jesus to the expectation of a messiah that has run through Jewish history and been foretold by the great prophets.

**Expression of Interest**

**Membership of Diocesan Finance Council**



The Diocesan Finance Council is an advisory council established by the Bishop in accordance with the code of canon law of the Catholic Church to advise him in the stewardship and administration of the temporal goods of the Diocese, in accordance with sound principles of financial administration and legal compliance.

The Council is made up of people of good character and judgement, committed to the Church and with experience in finance, law, banking, property development and administration.

Meetings are usually held four times a year, for a duration of 2-3 hours, with detailed papers prepared and circulated a week before the meeting.

Council Members also are allocated membership of the Standing Committees of the Council, being the Catholic Development Fund Investment & Audit Committee and the Property Committee.

The Bishop is seeking nominations of people to be considered for membership of the Council. You may nominate yourself or, with their consent, another person you think may be suitable.

A covering letter and curriculum vitae outlining the relevant skills and experiences of the nominee, including a reference from their Parish Priest, should be sent to the Diocesan Financial Administrator by email to [dfa@bathurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:dfa@bathurst.catholic.org.au). For further information, please call Patrick Cooper on 0419 460 404.

**Historical Context – A Baptism of Forgiveness**

The understanding that we generally have of baptism today has not always been the case. At the time of John and Jesus, the Jewish tradition used baptism as a ritual bath to cleanse a person who had become ritually unclean and make them able to participate in religious rituals. What John was preaching was a baptism for the forgiveness of sins – a new interpretation at the time. He emphasised that repentance was essential for forgiveness and that there needed to be a conscious returning to God. John’s baptism was a symbolic act to signify the willingness of the person to renounce their sins and make a more conscious return to God.



**HELP THE  
CDF HELP  
YOUR  
PARISH!**

**FIXED TERM INVESTMENT RATES**

Interest is paid on maturity of Fixed Term Investment  
Minimum Investment \$5000

3 months 2.50%  
6 months 3.00%  
9 months 3.50%  
12 months 4.50%  
24 months Rate by Negotiation

When you invest with CDF, you receive your interest at maturity and the CDF will also donate 2.50% interest to the Parish of your choice within the Catholic Diocese of Bathurst

For more information:  
[www.cdfbathurst.org.au](http://www.cdfbathurst.org.au)

Reading for next Sunday: **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A**

*Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11*

*Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10*

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

*John 1:6-8.*

## Five Ways to Make the Most of Advent

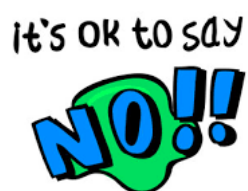
### 1. Unsubscribe

Go through your emails and unsubscribe from everything that's filling your head up with nonsense. Switch your notifications off. This will help you to clam down, waste less time and spend less money.



### 2. Say No

Don't cram Advent with family parties, end-of-year parties and work parties. If you have friends, you can see them at any other time during the year. This will make things a lot easier on everyone.



### 3. De-clutter

Go through your rooms in your house. Put things back in their rightful place and remove things you no longer need. Give these items to Charity or to people.



### 4. Buy Sensibly, buy less

As we De-clutter, we usually find that we have too much 'Stuff'. Create three piles, keep, donate and bin. When you are tempted to buy something, imagine yourself throwing it out in a few years' time.



### 5. Make time for God

Make a time for prayer, and stick to it like glue, daily. Make a 'visit' to our church, a two minute stop or go to a weekday mass.

It's not about you. It's about giving God joy because he loves just having you hang out with him.

Some other things that you could do are:

- Put some purple decorations up at home
- Stay until Mass is finished
- Pray the Responsorial Psalm during the week
- Read some scripture



© Dr Philippa Martyr, Catholic Weekly (extract)

## YOUTH Reflection

Waiting for Christmas is hard. It is hard to wait for anything. But it is especially frustrating to wait for something when you don't know how long it will take or what is holding it up – for example, driving along on a busy highway and coming upon a traffic jam that cannot be explained. As far as you can see there is no accident, no construction, no reason for all four lanes to be at a standstill. But if you have been in such a situation long enough, you might have seen what sometimes happens. Sooner or later people start trickling out of their cars to talk to one another. They start getting acquainted and cracking jokes. Suddenly the waiting doesn't seem like such torture. Why? Because people begin to comfort one another. How does attitude affect waiting and even pain? How does comfort affect attitude?

When have you been comforted by a friend or a family member? What words helped? What actions helped? What did he or she try to do for you? Have you ever been able to be of comfort to another? What have you done or said? What happened?

© Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart



What are three things you can do to be ready for Jesus during this second week of Advent?

### Who is John the Baptist?

Circle the correct answers.

- He wore clothes made of... **horse hair** / camel hair
- He baptized people with... **water** / fire
- He ate grasshoppers and... **bread** / wild honey
- He baptized people in the... **river** / church

