

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.

**JUBILEE YEAR
OF HOPE**

**24/12/2024 —
24/12/2025**



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH — 29TH DECEMBER 2024

CHRISTMAS 2024

Helpless but not hopeless



Dear Friends in Christ,

At Christmas, we look to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. The name of the town means “house of bread (food)”. This has great significance for us who believe that Jesus is the bread come down from heaven: for the life of the world. An important detail in Luke’s account of the Nativity is that, after he was born, Jesus was placed in a manger. “Manger” is an old word, no longer in common use, which means feeding trough. From the outset, Jesus is presented as the living bread offered for those who desire to live with God forever.

As our gaze turns to Bethlehem, we grieve for the present reality of the land where the Son of God took his first human breath. The words I wrote earlier this year, at Easter, are still sadly true: “Violence has begotten more violence; and ordinary and defenceless people are being ground up in the unforgiving wheels of history, politics and the arms trade.”

We may feel helpless, but let’s not give in to hopelessness. The true message of Christmas is that a light has shone into our darkened world. God has entered our world to redeem it from within. Each one of us can say yes to this hope every time we say yes to the acts of forgiveness, reconciliation and love that we can decide to do. And we can find the strength to keep doing that when we come to Mass and are nourished by the living bread who is our Saviour.



+Michael McKenna

Bishop of Bathurst

“The Journey of New Beginnings” - by Hunter, St Joseph’s Primary School, Molong - winner of the Bishop’s Award in the Diocese of Bathurst’s 2024 Christmas Story and Art Competition.

Parish Priest

Fr Owen Gibbons
Fr Cong Hoang

Parish Deacon

Rev Charles Applin

Parish Secretaries

Mrs Kristie Newman
Ms Krista O’Brien

Parish Office Hours

Mon 10.00am - 4.00pm

Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri

9.00am - 4.00pm

Closed for Lunch 1.00pm
- 2.00pm

Postal Address: PO Box 14
Mudgee NSW 2850

St Matthews Catholic

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Principal:

Mrs Angela Myles

www.stmattsmudgee.cat
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All Hallows Catholic

School Gulgong:

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CHRISTMAS SEASON BLESSING

“Lord God of heaven and earth,
You revealed your only-begotten Son
to every nation
By the guidance of a star.

Bless this house and all who inhabit it.
Fill them with the light of Christ,
That their concern for others may
reflect your love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord”.



Amen

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2024

We would like to wish everyone a very holy, peace filled and safe Christmas and New Year.

We thank all those who have generously contributed to the building up of our parish family this year, in so many ways ,in the giving of your time, your gifts and talents, your prayer and know how.

As we continue to strive to be the loving presence of Jesus our Saviour, for our community and beyond, may the Lord bring forth the fruits of our efforts this year.

God bless, Fr Cong & Fr Owen

DAY BY DAY	
Mon 30/12	Octave of the Nativity
10am	Parish Office Opens
10.30am	Funeral — Kandos—Lance Tito
12 noon	Angelus
Tue 31/12	Octave of the Nativity
9.30am	Mass —Mudgee
12 noon	Angelus
Wed 01/01/25	NEW YEARS DAY Mary, the Holy Mother of God
9.30am	Mass—Mudgee
12 noon	Angelus
Thu 02/01	Memorial—St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen
9.30am	Mass - Mudgee
12 noon	Angelus
5.30pm	RCIA
Fri 03/01	Friday before the Epiphany
11.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
12noon	Angelus & Rosary
12.30pm	Mass - Mudgee
Sat 04/01	Saturday before the Epiphany
12 noon	Angelus
5.20pm	Reconciliation
6.00pm	Mass - Mudgee
Sun 05/01	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YR C
8.30am	Rosary - Mudgee
9.00am	Mass - Mudgee
10.30am	Mass - Gulgong
11.00am	Mass—Kandos
12 noon	Angelus

MASSES AND PRAYERS REQUESTED

For the recently deceased especially:

Jim Cavanagh, Tony Dimmock,
Lance Tito, Eileen Csuba,
Carmen Archer, Clare Van Oploo.

We remember the anniversaries of:

Michael Gibbins, Nikki Lynch,
Ervine McDermott, Norma Miller.

For the deceased, especially at Christmas:

Marion & Bartholomew Sheehan,
Sheehan, Lynch and Quinn Family
members past & present, Miriam Byers
& Family, Ashley Knight, Alm, Cliff &
Ashley Thomas, Jack, Julie, John Paul &
Brian Bennett, Ken Brown, Members of
the McGuinness & Clayton Families,
Lawrence & Margaret McGuinness,
Graham Hawkins, John O'Brien, Kay Daly
(Ireland), Craig Lynch, Michael Azar,
Nauma Buchanan, Blake Pool (Denman),
Eleanor Bryant, Fr Max Blumenthal,
Mick Batson, Denis Matthews,
Elleen Ellsmore, Denis Flynn,
Francis McDermott, Tom & Edna Power,
Paul Power, Peter Power, Patrick Power.

For the sick and Special Intentions:

Olive Quinn, Ellen Johnson (Sheehan),
Glennie McGrath (Fr Owen's sister),
Mary Rheinberger, Fr Peter Dresser,
Catrina McGhee, Cathy Ward, Donna
Pilati, Keiran Micallef, Daniel Lee, Sigrid
Germon, June Ritar, Ron Muscat, Tony
Harris, Carla Perrotto, Trish Buckley,
Paula Ryan, Horace Saliba, Tony Spina,
Lynne Daly, Elizabeth Donnelly, Tracy
Donnelly, Joe Saliba, Kim Barry, Aleesha
Moszczyński, Trevor Roberts (England),
Iris McBeath, Josephine Debaksta,
Dennis Petersen, Carmel Thompson,
Rodrigo Jaboneta and all those in our
Nursing Homes.

JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

24/12/2024—24/12/2025

Is a time to embrace hope,
deepen our faith, and draw
closer to God. Whether through
local pilgrimage, community events, or
spiritual acts at home, all are invited to be
part of this remarkable journey of renewal
and trust in the Gospel of Christ.



THE HOLY, FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

First Reading:

1 Samuel 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.) 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 John 3:1-2, 21-24

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**May the peace of Christ rule in your
hearts, and the fullness of his message live
within you. Alleluia!**

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

*His parents found him in the temple, sitting
among the learned men, listening to them.*



Each Christmas, Bishop McKenna highlights a grassroots project that transforms lives in places of great need. This year, we are supporting the construction of classrooms on Santo Island, Vanuatu, where students are learning in makeshift tents after devastating volcanic eruptions and cyclones.

Help rebuild hope and create lasting change for these children and their communities. Your donation today can give them the safe, inspiring learning spaces they deserve.

Visit our website to learn more about this vital mission and give the gift of a brighter future this Christmas.

How can I make a difference?

- ⇒ **In Person:** At any parish office
- ⇒ **Post:** PO Box 246, Bathurst NSW 2795

- ⇒ **Phone:** 6334 6400
- ⇒ **Online:** <https://bathurst.catholic.org.au>

HELP BUILD A FUTURE: SUPPORT THE BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Meet Verongo, a dedicated teacher on the island of Espiritu Santo in Vanuatu. Each day, Verongo works tirelessly in a simple UNICEF tent with a dirt floor, teaching children whose lives were uprooted after volcanic eruptions forced their families to flee from neighbouring islands. Her students learn in overcrowded, makeshift shelters, yet their dreams for a brighter future remain alive.

For the past six years, the Diocese of Bathurst has fostered a strong partnership with the Diocese of Port Vila, supporting initiatives that strengthen both educational and community foundations. This relationship has led to meaningful projects, from improved financial stewardship to providing young people from Port Vila the opportunity to attend World Youth Day.

Now, Bishop Michael McKenna, in collaboration with Bishop John Bosco Baremes SM of Port Vila, has pledged to focus the Bishop's Christmas Appeal on constructing cyclone-resistant classrooms.

Bishop Bosco is eager to offer these children and their families a safe, stable place to learn – a crucial step towards restoring a sense of normalcy and hope.

By supporting the Bishop's Christmas Appeal, you can help make Bishop Bosco's vision a reality for Verongo's students. This Christmas, please consider a donation. Together, we can provide children with a place to learn and build a future they deserve.



The makeshift classroom on the Island of Espiritu Santo where Verongo teaches.

All donations to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal are Tax Deductible

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SUPPORT THE BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL >>>



Reading for next Sunday: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11 Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12