

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



## Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of Mudgee, Gulgong, Kandos / Rylstone.



**We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand. 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 2017



#### Parish Priest

Fr Tony Hennessy

**Deacon** Charles Applin - Kandos Parish

Phone: 0421796058

#### Parish Secretaries

Mrs Patti Kiddle

Mrs Jenny Maloney

**Pastoral Council:** Mrs Julie Keipert

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#### *from the PP's desk .....*

*In our Sunday Mass last weekend we remembered in a special way all who had died in our region over this past year. As each of the names were read out a candle was lit in their honour. At the end of Mass the families were presented with a candle and a prayer card.*

*Following Mass last Sunday we had our Annual Christmas Brunch with parishioners. Many thanks to the Pastoral Council members and all who assisted to make it a very enjoyable and social celebration.*

*Some of our St Matts students accompanied by Daniel Salomoni and staff attended the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Sydney along with 16,000 students and young adults from around the nation over the past few days. The festival concludes with a pilgrimage and Mass in the Domain on Saturday evening. We pray this has been a faith enhancing experience for all.*

*St Vincent de Paul have their Annual Appeal this weekend. Please support them as best you can.*

Fr Tony

#### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

There will be a leaving collection after masses this weekend to assist those in our community who are going through difficult times, and for whom Christmas is not always a joyful time.

The money raised from the Christmas appeal assists the most vulnerable in our communities so please give generously to the appeal at Masses this weekend. Envelopes are available for those who wish to use credit card facilities.



#### **Combined Churches Christmas Carols Mudgee**

This Sunday evening,  
10th December  
St John's Anglican Church  
Grounds  
Nativity dress ups from  
6.00pm.

#### **REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate**



John immersed, baptised, his followers in water, symbolising the washing away of the sins of the past. But he could not empower

people by drenching them in the dynamic life of God. John anticipates 'Someone' (not named!) who does have the power to inundate, baptise, people with the Holy Spirit.

From the heading of St Mark's Gospel, we know that 'Someone' is 'Jesus Christ, Son of God' who came to flood our lives with that Divine Power which can effect a completely new future for humanity.

That is why St Mark took the term 'gospel' (good news) which was used on inscriptions announcing an Emperor's birth or victory, and used it to describe his inspired rendering of the mission of Jesus Christ, which was to inaugurate the 'Kingdom of God', overcoming the pretensions of all Emperors of any kind throughout history.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the Good News of our being baptised with water in the 'Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'

© Fr Michael Tate

### Day by Day

**Monday, 11th December**

**No Church Services**

4.00pm Rosary (63721115).

**Tuesday, 12th December**

**9.15am** Mass Mudgee SMCS End of Year(1-11) school Gym.

12noon Funeral Prayers Len Adams Gulgong

**No Holy Hour or 5.00pm Mass**

**Wednesday 13th December**

**9.30am** Mass Gulgong AH End of Year School Mass and Year 6 Graduation.

9.00am St Mary's Craft & Friendship Group.

**11.00am** SMCS Mass Mudgee Yr 6 & Kindergarten (Year 6 Graduation)

**Thursday, 14th December**

9.10am Mass

10.30 St Mary's & St Matthews Playgroup Christmas party.

**Friday, 15th December**

11.00am Kanandah Hostel

Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion.

12 - 12.15 Reconciliation

12.30pm Mass Mudgee

**Saturday, 16th December**

5:15pm - 5:45pm: Reconciliation

6:00pm: Vigil Mass Mudgee

**Sunday 17th December**

9:00am Mass - Mudgee

10.30am Gulgong - Sunday Celebration of the Word with Communion.

10.30am Rosary Rylstone

11.00am Mass Rylstone

### Readings for next weekend

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION** That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.



**Baptism:** We welcome in Baptism this weekend **Bethany Joan Saxby** daughter of Dean and Candice.

We also welcome into our Parish community

**Frances Erica Laidler.**

### Saturday 16th/ Sunday 17th December 2017

<b>Commentator</b>	L. Schreck	A. McLean
<b>Readers</b>	P. Cannon G Brymora	J. Hanrahan E. Goodwin
<b>Special Minister of Communion</b>	S. Walker D. Cunningham	R. McKeown M. Gilbert J. Keipert
<b>Offertory Procession</b>	S & M Milton	R & S Loneragan
<b>Organist</b>	E.Cooper	R.Newman
<b>Welcomers</b>	V & F Solti	Hanrahan Family
<b>Altar Servers</b>	H. Lowe C. McLean E. English F. English	A. Littler H. Briggs M. Halpin K. Hauville
<b>Counters</b>	M.Walker 11/12	D. Bennett 18/12

<b>Gulgong Liturgy Roster Leader</b>	<b>17th Dec. 2017 S.Parnell</b>	<b>Kandos Liturgy Roster</b>	<b>17th Dec. 2017</b>
<b>Commentator</b>	E. Holmes		
<b>Reader</b>	J. Ritar	<b>Readers</b>	T. Doorey L. McPherson
<b>Offertory</b>	M & R Morrissey	<b>Intercessions</b>	H. Roberts
<b>Special Minister of Communion</b>	J. Thatcher M Carney	<b>Special Minister of Communion</b>	*
<b>Sacristan</b>	E. Donelly G. Ausburn	<b>Sacristan</b>	L. McPherson G. English

### Masses and prayers requested for the following:

**We pray for the recently deceased especially** Len Adams, Cecily Conroy, Angela Colaiacomo and Marilyn Kinsela.

A funeral was celebrated for Angela in Sydney on Thursday followed by the burial in Mudgee on Friday. Please remember her family in your prayers.

**We remember the anniversaries of** Jack & Pearl Walsh, Mary Abbott, Russell Hundy, Norah Babbage, Laurence Hensley, Milan Flego, Joe, Maria & John Sfechich.

**Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are sick at this time:** Jasmine Prada, Margaret Melinz, Angela Krusvar, Jan Kirkman, Gwen Ausburn, Tony Gillham, Gunther Puls, Melinda Drew, Andrew McPhee, Tom Sheridan, Carissa Gleeson, Jason Seis, Dorothy Davidson, Mary Cannon, Margaret Tuxford Spicer, Julie Collins, Rosa Maria Santos and the residents of all the nursing homes. Special Intentions.



### Good News:

The Remembrance Mass for our region last Sunday was much appreciated. Good attendance at the Christmas Brunch also and thank you to those who helped in the preparation.

### MUDGE NEWS

**Sunday 10th December - 6.00pm**

Combined Churches Christmas Carols St John's Anglican grounds - Mudgee

**Monday 18th December - 7.00pm**

2nd Rite of Reconciliation Mudgee

### KANDOS NEWS

Over 40 people attended the Anointing Mass at Kandos last Wednesday. The Christmas lunch was also well attended and enjoyed by all. The gathering culminated in a celebration for Fr Tony for his 30th Anniversary of Priesthood and also his farewell.

Fr Tony wishes to extend his sincere thanks for the gift and your best wishes. Special thanks for the celebration lunch and cake.

### Dates for the Diary

**Tuesday 12th December**

St Matthews School End of Term Mass.  
(In the school gym).

**Wednesday 13th December**

9.30am Mass All Hallows end of year and Yr 6 Graduation.

11.00am Mass SMCS Year 6 Graduation with Kindergarten.

**Friday 15th December**

Christmas Concert - Cudgong Choir in St Mary's, 6.00pm

**Saturday 16th December** - Drinks & nibbles after Mass to farewell to Fr Tony.

**Monday 18th December**

2nd Rite of Reconciliation, 7.00pm

**Monday 25th December** - Community Christmas Day Lunch at the Baptist Church.

### Farewell to Fr Tony

*There will be drinks and nibbles after the Vigil Mass next Saturday evening to say farewell to Fr Tony. There will be no official collection, however if you wish to make a private gift feel free to do so.*

### YEAR OF YOUTH

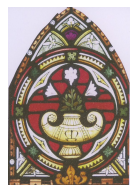
The Australian Catholic Bishops invite the Church in Australia to engage in a 'Year of Youth' in 2018. Marking the ten year anniversary of WYD 2008 Sydney, the Year of Youth invites the Church to nurture the physical, emotional and spiritual well being of young people. The Year of youth began this the **Australian Catholic Youth Festival** in Sydney this week (from 7-9 December 2017.)

### Australian Catholic Youth Festival

We send our prayers and best wishes to the students from St Matthews who are attending the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Sydney this weekend with Daniel Salomoni.

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT CUDGONG CHOIR

St Mary's Catholic Church, Mudgee  
Friday, 15th December  
commencing at 6.00pm.  
Tickets at the door adults \$20/\$15 children \$10. For more information contact Mary Mitchell 63720155 or 0431991743.



### Life, Death and Life .....

A Pastoral Letter to God's People of the Diocese of Bathurst

Bishop Michael McKenna has issued his Pastoral Letter for 2017, entitled Life, Death and Life.

It is a call for each of us to seek renewal of our faith here and now, so that we may be able to wait to meet the Lord in joyful hope.

The Pastoral Letter is available to read online at: [www.bathurst.catholic.org.au](http://www.bathurst.catholic.org.au). Printed copies are also available at local churches and in the December issue of the Catholic Observer.

### Congratulations



to  
Bede and Yvonne O'Brien  
who celebrated their  
60th Wedding Anniversary  
on Thursday.  
Married at St Mary's Mudgee  
7th December 1957  
Our best wishes to you both.

### World Meeting of Families 2018

Dublin, Ireland, has been chosen by Pope Francis to host the next World Meeting of Families (WMOF) from 21st -26th August 2018, guided by the theme "The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World".

The Diocese of Bathurst is calling for Expressions of Interest from members of the Diocese to attend this important international event.



Held every three years, this major international event brings together families from across the world to celebrate, pray and reflect upon the central importance of marriage and the family as the cornerstone of our lives, of society and of the Church. The event has at its heart the following key moments:

- 21st August: a National Opening of WMOF2018
- 22nd- 24th August: a three-day Congress
- Saturday 25th August: a Festival of Families
- Sunday 26th August: WMOF2018 will close with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration.

If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Deacon Josh on 0458 261 513 or email:

[ministries@bathurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:ministries@bathurst.catholic.org.au)  
You can also register your interest via the Diocesan website:  
[www.bathurst.catholic.org.au](http://www.bathurst.catholic.org.au)

Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem.

May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.



Pope Francis

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### ADVENT LITANY

**PRIEST:** May this violet light remind us that we are waiting and longing for the coming of Jesus who is God's comfort in our lives, and the true light of our world.

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

**FIRST READING:** *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11*  
*Prepare the way for the Lord.*

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**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:** *St 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 READING:** *Mark 1:1-8*  
*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

#### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION:

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection You have set us free.

## Bishop Michael's Advent Message

### WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

We know that this annual season of Advent reminds us, as the People of God, that we are waiting in expectation.

We are expecting the celebration of Christmas, but also expecting Christ's second coming. Although we know exactly how long we must wait for the first, we have no idea when the Lord will come again, nor when the individual earthly pilgrimage for each of us will end.

My Pastoral Letter for this year is entitled "Life, Death and Life." In it, I invite you to reflect with me on what we are waiting for. It is a call for each of us to seek renewal of our faith here and now, so that we may be able to wait to meet the Lord in joyful hope. The Letter may be read at [www.bathurst.catholic.org.au](http://www.bathurst.catholic.org.au).

The best preparation for Christmas, the celebration of God becoming human with us, is to ponder why we need this stupendous act of divine love. The Son of God has come in the flesh, born of a woman, to save us in the flesh, in every part of our lives.

May our observance of Advent this year be serious, joyful and fruitful.

+Michael McKenna  
Bishop of Bathurst

## Christmas Mass Timetable

### PLEASE NOTE:

**THERE IS NO 7.30AM MASS IN  
MUDGE THIS YEAR ON  
CHRISTMAS DAY.**



**Christmas Eve**  
5.00pm Mass **Kandos**  
7.00pm Mass **Mudgee**  
(Children's Mass)  
9.00pm Mass **Mudgee**

**Christmas Day**  
8.00am Mass **Gulgong**  
9.30am Mass **Mudgee**

**Christmas dues envelopes** available in the Church next weekend.

**Donations of Flowers** for the Church most appreciated.

**Christmas Mass Offerings:** Please have at the Parish Office no later than Wednesday 20th December.

**Church Decorating Mudgee:** Saturday afternoon 24th December, 2.00pm - we need volunteers to help set up the crib, christmas tree, banners etc. please give your name at the Parish Office.

**Ministries:** Lectors, Special Ministers of the Eucharist etc. for Masses. We understand some of our parishioners are away. The whiteboard will be in the church next weekend. Please place your name on the list if you are available to help.

## Mudgee Combined Churches Christmas Day Lunch

Mudgee Baptist Church, 152 Bruce Road. 11.30am for 12pm seating.  
Please contact the mobile of Georgia 0429853800 or the Baptist Church 63726501.

### GUEST FOR THE LUNCH

If you wish to attend as a guest for the lunch please contact the numbers ASAP. Transport is available for those who need to be picked up. Please contact the above numbers for assistance. The lunch is for anyone who is alone at Christmas.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you can assist with the setting up or helping on Christmas Day it would be much appreciated.

**MUDGE PARISH: REPORTING CONCERNS/ISSUES IN THE PARISH:** If you have concerns/issues that need to be addressed please contact the Pastoral Council President, Mrs Julie Keipert via email: [centaur3@bigpond.com](mailto:centaur3@bigpond.com) or phone the parish office and the staff will relay your message to the Council.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE HEATERS IN THE CENTRE ISLES AS THEY ARE VERY HOT.  
PLEASE BE PARTICULARLY AWARE IF YOU HAVE YOUNG CHILDREN.