

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.



Third Sunday of Advent - Year B 17th 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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Parish Office Hours

Monday: 10.00am - 4.00pm



from the PP's desk

During these past few weeks we have congratulated our students at the various awards nights in our schools and celebrated their talents, abilities and achievements this year. As our staff and students go into their Christmas holiday break we ask all to stay safe and be cautious at all times especially if travelling on our roads.

Thank you to everyone who has given so generously to the various appeals this year. Grateful thanks from St Vincent de Paul for your support of their Christmas Appeal last weekend so far over \$2,500 has been raised in Mudgee.

If you are able to assist with the various ministries at Christmas Masses in Mudgee could you please place your name on the whiteboard at the back of the Church.

I thank you for your gifts and good wishes for my 30th and also as I prepare to farewell my ministry in Mudgee.

May you all enjoy the blessings of the Christmas season with family and friends.

Fr Tony

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION THIS MONDAY

**St Mary's,
Mudgee 7.00pm.**

**An opportunity to
repent and renew
as we approach the
Christmas Season.**

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained'" (John 20:21-23).



The **Catholic Weekly** and the Christmas edition of the **Catholic Observer** are available this weekend. With many interesting stories from around the diocese including 'Pink up Mudgee' and our rose garden which bloomed at the right time.

2018 Bishop's Christmas Appeal Diocese of Kohima, North Eastern India.

The proceeds of the 2017 Bishop's Special Missionary Appeal at Christmas will once again be directed towards the Diocese of Kohima, North Eastern India. This is the third year the Diocese of Bathurst has supported the Diocese of Kohima, providing much needed funds to provide new infrastructure where at Sanis, a large township within the Wokha District and one of the oldest Catholic village communities in the Diocese. The funds will be used to replace existing school buildings with 17 new rooms providing education for up to 300 children, pastoral care, catechesis and evangelisation.

There will be an opportunity to share the spirit of Christmas, and help bring this project to fruition, at all Christmas Masses across the Diocese. You can also send your donation direct to Bishop McKenna at PO Box 246, Bathurst, NSW, 2795 or online at www.bathurst.catholic.org.au



Day by Day

Monday, 18th December

No Church Services

4.00pm Rosary (63721115).

7.00pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation Mudgee

Tuesday, 19th December

9.00am Mass

No Holy Hour or 5.00pm Mass

Wednesday 20th December

9.00am Mass

Thursday, 21st December

9.10am Mass Mudgee

NO MASS GULGONG

Friday, 22nd December

12 - 12.15 Reconciliation

12.30pm Mass Mudgee

Saturday, 23rd December

5:15pm - 5:45pm: Reconciliation

6:00pm: Vigil Mass Mudgee

Sunday 24th December

9:00am Mass - Mudgee

10.30am Mass Gulgong



**Christmas Mass
Timetable**

**PLEASE NOTE:
THERE IS NO 7.30AM
MASS IN MUDGEE
THIS YEAR ON
CHRISTMAS DAY.**

Christmas Eve - SUNDAY 24th December

5.00pm Mass **Kandos**

7.00pm Mass **Mudgee**

(Children's Mass)

9.00pm Mass **Mudgee**

Christmas Day - Monday 25th December

8.00am Mass **Gulgong**

9.30am Mass **Mudgee**

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER:

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

Saturday 23rd/ Sunday 24th December 2017

Commentator	HELP NEEDED	Susie Bennett
Readers	L.Schreck	J.O'Brien R.Disher
Special Minister of Communion	L.Nicholson J.Vros	Simon Bennett P.O'Brien K.Scott
Offertory Procession	D.Bennett C.Carberry	Disher Family
Organist	E.Cooper	R.Newman
Welcomers	C.Carberry K.Isbester	G.McDermott M.Dunnachie
Altar Servers	Jack, Jade and Jessica Newman	O. Neaverson-Smith A. Neaverson-Smith L.Holden R.McGuire
Counters	D. Bennett 18/12	D.Donnelly 27/12

Gulgong Liturgy Roster Leader	24th Dec. 2017	Kandos Liturgy Roster	24th Dec. 2017
Commentator	P.Leotta		NO
Reader	S.Parnell	Readers	USUAL SUNDAY
Offertory	G.Ausburn	Intercessions	SERVICE
Special Minister of Communion	J. Thatcher M Carney	Special Minister of Communion	CHRISTMAS VIGIL
Sacristan	E. Donelly G. Ausburn	Sacristan	ONLY 5.00PM

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 Len at Gulgong on Tuesday and for Cecily on Friday also at Gulgong. Please remember their families in your prayers

We remember the anniversaries of Douglas Richardson, Alan Nicholson, Milan Flego, Joe, Maria & John Sfechich.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are sick at this time: Tony Harkins, 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.



B a p t i s m : We welcome in Baptism this weekend **Grace Isabelle Kurtz**, daughter of Mathew and Emma.

Good News:

The generosity of parishioners to various appeals over the past year. Special thanks for the generosity to the St Vincent de Paul last weekend in our region.



Christmas dues envelopes available in the Church this weekend. The proceeds assist the Bishop, Priests for the retired clergy in our diocese.

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



KANDOS NEWS

Please Note there is NO Sunday service at Kandos/Rylstone next weekend except for the

Christmas Vigil Mass at 5.00pm in Kandos.

GULGONG NEWS

The **Gulgong Catholic Women's Group** wish to extend to everyone a very Happy and Holy Christmas and thank you for your support in 2017. The next meeting of the group will be in 2018.

CHRISTMAS MASS: Mass on Christmas morning will be celebrated at 8.00 am

THANK YOU: We thank Fr. Tony for ministering to our Spiritual needs and hope that he enjoys his one year break. We will continue to pray for him and hope that he enjoys his new Parish when he returns from leave.

Wishing all Parishioners of our three Parishes a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2018.

St Mary's Parish

on behalf of our region wishes to Congratulate

St Matthews School students on their 2017 HSC exam results.

"The great success of the cohort is the fact that, of the 22 students that leave St Matthews at the conclusion of 2017, 20 of those students have already received early entry offers too university, have obtained apprenticeships or permanent employment.

These results continue to highlight the outstanding work of our teachers and support staff in supporting, challenging and encouraging our students throughout their years of education at St Matthews. Now, after our second year of the HSC, it is clear that our school can be seen as a viable and high quality education where students can achieve outstanding results, and can be provided the opportunity to succeed in whatever field they choose to do once they leave school. We are proud of all of our students, and are proud of the tireless work of the staff in ensuring our students have the wonderful opportunities that are afforded to them."

Jason Hanrahan
Principal

Dates for the Diary

Monday 18th December

2nd Rite of Reconciliation, 7.00pm Mudgee.

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

Tuesday 26th December -
NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE

Monday 1st January 2018 -
Mass 8.30am Gulgong
Mass 10.00am Mudgee

MUDGEE NEWS

Monday 18th December - 7.00pm
2nd Rite of Reconciliation Mudgee

Ministries: Lectors, Special Ministers of the Eucharist, Altar Servers, Presentation of the Gifts for Christmas 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.

Donations of Flowers for the Church most appreciated. Please leave at the sacristy Saturday morning

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.

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. Printed copies are also available at local churches and in the December issue of the Catholic Observer.

PLEASE READ THE INSERT in today's bulletin relating to the pressing need for educational and recreational space at the parish school, St Matthews.

Christmas Special: Through Catherine's Eyes – stories of local Mercy Sisters \$25.00 Available at the entrance to the Church after Mass or at the Parish Office during the week.

All proceeds go to Mercy Works in PNG. Postage \$12.50 extra. Contact Sr Paula Smith rsm 0414 246 830

Readings for next weekend

Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Romans 16:25-27

John 1:6-8, 19-28



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ADVENT LITANY

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.

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11*

I exult for joy in the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

(R)

The almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **(R)**

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **(R)**

SECOND READING:

Thessalonians 5:16-24

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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

GOSPEL READING: *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION:

We proclaim your Death, O, Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.



Australian Catholic Youth Festival:

Luckily enough, ten of us St Matthews students were able to attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Sydney. Over 19,000 young people from all over Australia were able to attend this event and experience the activities provided throughout the three days. The first day included an 'Opening Plenary'

session where all of us were surprised at the amount of people attending. After the said plenary, we left the Qudos Bank Arena and then discovered more of Sydney Olympic Park. Within the park there were many interesting talks and workshops, as well as live music and games. It was an unforgettable period of time as we could openly talk about our faith to so many other people who shared the same beliefs.

Our eyes were opened after listening to all these great people preach their thoughts through praying, talking and singing. They would tell us to practise our Catholic faith and to not be afraid to tell people that this was our religion.

The whole experience of the Australian Catholic Youth Festival was not as I had expected it would be. I did not predict that there would be so many people and that was a brilliant surprise.

Veruska Cediell-Rodriguez & Anna Brennan

The Messiah is Among You

The monastery was experiencing a crisis: monks were leaving and no new monks were joining. The abbot decided to consult a respected hermit living nearby. The hermit told a secret: one of the monks in the community was actually the Messiah, though he was living in such a way that no one would recognise him.

The abbot returned to the community and told his brothers. All the monks were amazed but had no idea which of them it could be. All they knew was that one of them could be the Christ. Knowing this led to an amazing change in the monastery. They all began to show more reverence and love for each other, and their community prayer became more sincere and fervent. People noticed; and the monastery began to grow again in numbers as the monks grew in holiness. All of this happened because a man of God pointed to the truth that Christ was indeed living among them.

Like the holy hermit, John the Baptist directs our gaze to the presence of Christ among us. This week we are given a wonderful sense of the fulfilment of prophecy. Everything promised in the scriptures is about to be fulfilled. All the hopes contained in the old covenant are soon to be accomplished. Into this picture of hope and promise steps the

powerful figure of Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist.

Even before his birth, when he leapt for joy in his mother's womb, John had recognised Jesus as the promised Messiah. In the best sense of the phrase he was somebody who "knew his place". It was not that John fully understood from the very start exactly what were God's plans and purposes for him. What John knew, though, without any doubt was that God had a plan and purpose for his life. This divine purpose, his vocation, lay in fulfilling the words spoken many years earlier through the prophet Isaiah, to be "a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord".

We can be like any of the crowd who gathered around John the Baptist. We can be alert to his message, that the Messiah is already among us, or we can be blind to this saving presence.

Joy will be felt around the world,
when the oppressed receive the Good News.

Joy will break out around the world,
when the broken-hearted are given support.

Joy will be celebrated around the world,
when those held captive know freedom.

Joy will be experienced around the world,
when the everlasting joy of God finds expression and purpose in worship.
Amen.

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 last weekend at the **Australian Catholic Youth Festival** in Sydney.

MUDGEE 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 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.