

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.



Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B 24th 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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Postal Address

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Parish Office Hours

Monday: 10.00am - 4.00pm

Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri: 9am -4pm



from the PP's desk

Thank you to Mary Mitchell, the Cudgeong Choir and guests for the entertaining Christmas Concert last week held in St Mary's Church. The music was enjoyed by all who attended. We are very grateful for the gift to the parish from the proceeds of the concert.

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.

Thank you to the Pastoral Council members for the organisation of my farewell drinks last Saturday evening and for your gifts and good wishes.

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

Fr Tony

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



PRIEST: May the light of this last Advent candle, warm our hopeful hearts in these our final days of waiting for the glory of God to be revealed.

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

FIRST READING: *Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14,16*

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing forever of your love O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts forever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **(R)**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' **(R)**

He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God the rock who saves me.' I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. **(R)**

SECOND READING: *Romans 16:25-27*
The mystery kept secret for endless ages in now revealed.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:26-38

You will conceive and bear a son.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION:

When we eat this bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.



Saturday 30th/ Sunday 31st December 2017

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**



Day by Day

Tuesday, 26th December
NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Wednesday 27th December
9.00am Mass

Thursday, 28th December
9.10am Mass Mudgee

Friday, 29th December
11.00am Funeral Prayers Benjamin
(Ben) Rayner Mudgee
12 - 12.15 Reconciliation
12.30pm Mass Mudgee

Saturday, 30th December
Baptism's Mudgee
5:15pm - 5:45pm: Reconciliation
6:00pm: Vigil Mass Mudgee

Sunday 31st December
9:00am Mass - Mudgee
10.30am Gulgong - Sunday Celebration of the Word with
Communion.
11.00am Mass Kandos

**PLEASE NOTE: During January the Tuesday Mass will
be at 9.00am. There is NO Holy Hour or evening Mass.**

CLERGY REPORT NOVEMBER

Baptisms: 9 Mudgee 1 Rylstone
Weddings: 3 Mudgee 1 Rylstone
Funerals: 1 Mudgee 2 Gulgong
Sick calls - 2 in the region.



Commentator	K.Fitzsimmons	M.Matthews
Readers	P.Cannon	J.Keipert M.Dunnachie
Special Minister of Communion	A.Baker J.Vros	K.Baker 2 x Helpers Needed
Offertory Procession	K.Isbester C.Page	M.Dunnachie G.McDermott
Organist	E.Cooper	R.Newman
Welcomers	C.Carberry K.Isbester	G.McDermott M.Dunnachie
Altar Servers	HELP NEEDED IN HOLIDAYS	HELP NEEDED IN HOLIDAYS
Counters	D.Donnelly 27/12	J.Potts 2/1

Gulgong Liturgy Roster Leader	31st Dec. 2017 R.Saliba	Kandos Liturgy Roster	31st Dec. 2017
Commentator	E.Donnelly		
Reader	M.O'Brien	Readers	P.O'Connor H.Robert
Offertory	C.Holland Family	Intercessions	T.Doorey
Special Minister of Communion	M.Carney J.Thatcher	Special Minister of Communion	M.Turner A.Krusvar
Sacristan	M & E Carney	Sacristan	H.Roberts

Dates for the Diary
NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS
Monday 1st January 2018 -
Mass 8.30am Gulgong
Mass 10.00am Mudgee



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

Extra copies of the letter from the Principal Mr Jason Hanrahan, and Mrs Jenny Allan, Director of Education relating to the pressing need for educational and recreational space at the St Matthews School Mudgee are available on request at the Parish Office.

Masses and prayers requested for the following:

We pray for the recently deceased especially Bernie Stewart, Marie Robison, Benjamin (Ben) Rayner, Jeffrey O'Brien, Mabel Roberts WA (formerly of Kandos), Tony Harkins (Qld), Len Adams, and Cecily Conroy.

We remember the anniversaries of Kim Pilley, Brian Condon, Adelaine McNally, Colin Goldspink, Douglas Richardson, Ashley Knight and Stephen Watertoon.

We also pray for Jack & Nell Robison, Thomas & Edna Power, Adriel Maloney, Jim & Dorothy Betts, Margaret Pike, Ted Hayman, Julia, Jack & Brien Bennett, Phil Darby, Max Pilley, Bonnie Lynch, Ron Lynch, Russ Smith, Dulcie Smith, Ron Smith, Olive Ryan, Neta Aurisch, Arthur, Anne & John Lynch, Hughie Isabel, Keith Cluff, Mai Robinson, Meg & Kevin Gleeson, Vonnie Gilders, Cliff & Alma Thomas, Penny Bell-Marskell, Colin & Pearl Marskell, Norah, Jack and John Babbage, Alison Orth, Noel George, Noel Large, Leo & Kath Robinson, Matthew Robinson, Lyn Pilley, deceased members O'Farrell, Wilds, Ryan Egan, Halpin, Robinson, Goldspink, Blazavic & Varga families.

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.

Opening Ourselves to God's Will

They tell of a man in a small town who tried to give some money back to the Department of Social Security, but could not. At age 65 the man retired from his work as a farm labourer and moved into town. His retirement house was extremely modest, sparsely furnished, and simply kept. Most could not manage on his meagre minimum payment.

At the end of the first month of collecting the social security payment, this humble man went to the bank with some cash and told the teller he wanted to return some money because the government had given him more than he needed. With that request he blew everybody in the bank away. They explained to him that he couldn't do that, that the government could give out social security payments, but that there was no set-up program for taking any of it back. There was no category for people who wanted to give any of their social security back to the government.

To receive graciously from another is as much as a gift as giving. We can learn from Mary in this regard. When did we last say yes when God asked something difficult of us?

Did the annunciation to Mary take place in the space of a few minutes, as the Gospel suggests? Or could we think of it as having taken place over the course of many months – even a couple of years? Unlike our busy world, which wants instant results, there is no rush with God; the one chosen is like a flower that opens up to the sun slowly, gently, without any kind of fanfare.

This is the time of year when the noisy world cries out: "Only four more days to go! ... Only three more days to go!" But Mary, the perfect Advent model, gently says: "Seek a little silence, be still, ponder in your heart." And if we do, we shall not be taken by surprise: we shall be ready to receive him who is our friend, our brother, our long-awaited saviour, the revelation of God's great secret.

Go with joy! We are ready to welcome God's Most Precious One. Go with joy! We are prepared to welcome the Prince of Peace. Go with joy! We understand that from darkness, light will shine forth. Above all, go with love! We realise that God's love in Christ, is for us, and for all humankind.
Amen.

Good News:

More people attended Anointing of the Sick Mass than the last three years. A positive response to this sacrament.



Baptism's Mudgee and Gulgong:

We welcome in Baptism this weekend:

Logan Gerard

Smith son of Paul and Sarah.

Zara Rose Croake daughter of Jayce and Katherine.

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.

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

Mudgee, Gulgong and Kandos St Vincent de Paul Conference

Wish to thank you most sincerely for your generosity to the Christmas Appeal this year. Over \$3500 has been collected in our region.

The money will be used to support those in our communities who are vulnerable and in need of help especially at this time of year.

Wishing everyone a Happy and a Holy Christmas and a prosperous New year with our grateful thanks for your support during 2017.

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.

Christmas Special: Through Catherine's Eyes -

Stories of local mercy sisters \$25. All proceeds to Mercy works in PNG. Available from the Parish Office.

The true Spirit of Christmas is LOVE.



Happy Christmas 2017

The best gifts in life will never be found under the Christmas tree, those gifts are friends, family, children, the one you love and above all the peace and joy in the birth of the child, Jesus.

Bishop McKenna's Christmas Message 2017

The Angel of the Lord appeared
unto Mary
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit
"Behold the Handmaid of the Lord
Be it done unto me according
to your will"
And the Word was made flesh
And dwelt amongst us

May the news that God loved you so
much that he sent his only Son to be
your saviour give you faith and life and
a truly Happy Christmas.

+ Michael McKenna
Bishop of Bathurst



"The Gift". This illustration features on the front of the Bishop's Christmas card and is the work of Sally Sherwood, a Year 6 Student at St Laurence's Primary School in Dubbo. Sally won the 2017 Bishop's Award in the Diocese of Bathurst's Christmas Story Art Competition with her painting.

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.



Christmas Collections

There are TWO COLLECTIONS at Christmas Masses.

The First collection is for the Parish .

The second collection is for the Bishop's Missionary Appeal for the diocese of Kohima, North Eastern India.

Fr Tony and the Parish Team wish everyone a Happy, Holy and Peace filled Christmas.

To all who have assisted with the various ministries in the parish over the year my very special thanks.

My thanks to Mrs Julie Keipert, (President) and the members of the Pastoral Council, Mrs Anne McLean and the Liturgy Committee and the Sacramental Team, Mr Simon Bennett (Chair) and members of Parish Finance Council for all your hard work and advice in helping with the Pastoral, Financial and Liturgical needs of the parish.

To all who are travelling on our roads this Christmas please take care, be patient and enjoy the festive season.

Fr Tony

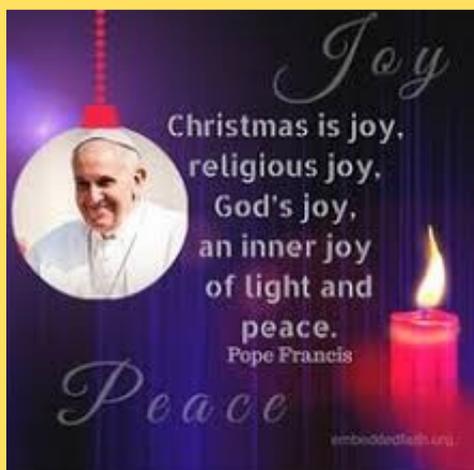
CLERGY CHANGES

Father Tony Hennessy has been granted one year's ministerial leave and will resign as Parish Priest of Mudgee, Kandos-Rylstone and Gulgong (effective 5th January)

Fr Owen Gibbons (Assistant Priest, Bathurst and Blayney) becomes Parish Priest of Mudgee, Gulgong, Kandos-Rylstone.

(**Fr Michael Hickey CP** will do supply work in Mudgee, Gulgong and Kandos-Rylstone for a few weeks allowing Fr Owen to take a short break before taking up his ministry in Mudgee).

Mr Nam Le will take a year out from the seminary to gain greater facility in English, and assist in the parishes of Mudgee, Gulgong and Kandos-Rylstone.



Readings for next weekend - Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Genesis 15:1-6; 21: 1-3

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Luke 2:22-40

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.