

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!



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



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.



Sunday, 31st December 2017 (Year B) - Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Parish Priest: Fr. Tony Hennessy
Deacon: Charles Applin (Kandos)
Parish Secretaries: Mrs. Patti Kiddle, Mrs. Jenny Maloney
Phone: (02) 6372 2122 **Fax:** (02) 6372 6700
Postal Address: P.O Box 14, Mudgee NSW 2850

Email: office.mudgee@cdob.org.au
Website: www.mudgee.catholic.org.au

Pastoral Council President: Mrs. Julie Keipert
Email: centaur3@bigpond.com

Parish Office Hours
Monday: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Staff Lunch Break: 1:00pm - 2:00pm



From The PP's Desk...

Thank you to all those that attended and helped out at the Christmas Masses earlier in the week. Your contributions and efforts assisted parish staff and myself in ensuring things ran smoothly. Thank you also to those who sent me Christmas cards, gifts and best wishes.

We raised a total of \$3605.65 for the Bishop's Special Christmas Appeal for the Diocese of Kohima, North Eastern India from the parishes in our region. Thank you for your generosity.

As many of you are already aware, I will be on leave in the New Year. The new parish priest for our region will be Fr. Owen Gibbons. Fr Michael Hickey will be here for two weeks after I leave while Fr Owen has a break before taking up his new position.

Thank you again for all of your generosity this season. I hope you all have a happy and safe New Year.

Fr. Tony

NEW YEARS DAY MASS TIMES

GULGONG
8:30AM: MASS

MUDGEE
10:00AM: MASS

First Reading

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

Your own son shall be your heir.

Responsorial Psalm

R: The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works! **R**

Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. **R**

Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke. O children of Abraham, his servant, O sons of the Jacob he chose. **R**

He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. **R**

Second Reading

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

The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

Gospel Acclamation ***Alleluia, alleluia!***

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading **Luke 2: 22-40**

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

Memorial Acclamation

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



Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

Day By Day

Monday, 1st January 2018 (New Years Day)
 8:30AM: Mass (Gulgong)
 10:00AM: Mass (Mudgee)

Tuesday, 2nd January 2018
 9:00AM: Mass (Mudgee)

Wednesday, 3rd January 2018
 9:00AM: Mass (Mudgee)

Thursday, 4th January 2018
 9:10AM: Mass (Mudgee)

Friday, 5th January 2018
No Reconciliation
 12:30PM: Mass Mudgee

Saturday, 6th January 2018
 5:15PM - 5:45PM: Reconciliation (Mudgee)
 6:00PM: Vigil Mass (Mudgee)

Sunday, 7th January 2018
 9.00am Mass Mudgee
 10.30am Gulgong Sunday Celebration of the Word with Communion.
 11.00am Mass Kandos
 PLEASE NOTE THAT DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY, TUESDAY MASS IN MUDGEE WILL BE AT 9:00AM. THERE WILL BE NO HOLY HOUR OR EVENING MASS.

Pope's Prayer Intention - January 2018

Evangelization: Religious Minorities in Asia
 That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practise their faith in full freedom.

Saturday 6th / Sunday 7th January 2018

Commentator	J. Cross	M. McLean
Readers	I. Byrne C. Bourke	M. Dorney *
Special Minister of Communion	D. Cunningham J.Vros	R. Gawthorne G. Hennessy J. Keipert
Offertory Procession	Vo Family	E. Csuba M. Knight
Organist	E.Cooper	R.Newman
Welcomers	Help Needed	E. Csuba M. Knight
Altar Servers	Help Needed	Help Needed
Counters	J. Cavanagh 8/1	E.Goodlet 15/1

Gulgong Liturgy Roster Leader	7th Jan. 2018	Kandos Liturgy Roster	7th Jan. 2018
	P. Leotta		
Commentator	P. Hudson		
Reader	K. Ritar	Readers	M. Chadwick T. Ryan
Offertory	R. Ellery Family	Intercessions	K. Gade
Special Minister of Communion	M.Carney E. Holland	Special Minister of Communion	K. Morrissey L. McPherson
Sacristan	Z. Drew M. O'Brien	Sacristan	H.Roberts

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: Frances and Ervine McDermott, Mick Kelly, George Neville, Michael Gibbins and Colin Goldspink.



We also pray for: Garry Gibbins, Jack & Nell Robison, Thomas & Edna Power, 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, 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,

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

Fr Tony and the Parish Team

wish everyone a Happy, Holy and Peace filled Christmas season and New Year.

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 please take care, be patient and enjoy the festive season.

Fr Tony

We Welcome in Baptism this week:



Eddie Richard Flynn

**Son of Brendon & Lara,
Harper Brian Van Bruchem**

**Son of Lee & Elizabeth,
Charles Ernest McManus**

**Son of James & Sally,
Lilly May Mitchell**

**Daughter of Simone,
Madeleine Grace Peacock Mitchell**

**Daughter of Mitchell and Michelle,
Ty Allan McLean & Izaac Ian McLean**

Sons of Shay and Melissa.

Good News:

Christmas Masses were well attended throughout the region with lots of enthusiasm and excitement.

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

SACRAMENTS 2018

Confirmation in Mudgee and Gulgong will be celebrated on the 15th/16th September.

If you have children in the State schools for the sacraments it is important that you register at the Parish Office early in the new year.

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.

GULGONG NEWS

MASS NEW YEAR'S DAY:

Fr. Tony will celebrate Mass for us at 8.30 tomorrow, January 1. This will be Fr. Tony's last Mass in Gulgong. We thank Father for all he has done for us and wish him well in the future.

**Happy New Year!
May 2018 bring Peace,
Love and Good Health to
all!**



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. You can send your donation direct to Bishop McKenna at PO Box 246, Bathurst, NSW, 2795 or online at www.bathurst.catholic.org.au

Total collected in our Region: \$3605.65. Well done up on last year.

The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph.

In respect to the family there is certain ambiguity in the scriptural record. The Old Testament generally, as in the first reading from Ecclesiasticus (3:2-6, 12-14) and later New Testament documents, such as the Letter to the Colossians in today's second reading (3:12-21), commend family life in a highly traditional way. Sensitive preaching will require some qualification of the injunction, 'Wives give way to your husbands' in the direction of greater stress upon mutuality. It is probably best to see both this maxim and the one directed to the male partners ('Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness') as applying to both partners in the marriage.

The Synoptic tradition, however, with its roots in the teaching and practice of Jesus himself, insists that family ties can be a hindrance to following the call of the Kingdom. Jesus is recorded as saying that no one could be his disciple without 'hating' one's father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters (Luke 14:26). Such statements, of course, reflect Semitic idiom using 'love' and 'hate' simply to express a preference for one thing over another (cf. Mt 10:37: 'Whoever loves father or mother more than me, is not worthy of me'). But the ambiguity remains.

Something of this ambiguity in fact appears in the Gospel itself, Luke's account of Jesus' presentation in the Temple, 2:22-40. On the one hand, there is a great respect for traditional values. Joseph and Mary act in pious and dutiful fulfillment of the requirements of the Torah: they bring their child to the Temple to observe 'what stands written in the law of the Lord'. Actually, the Lukan account conflates two separate prescriptions here: first, the redemption of a first born, which required the sending of a sum to the Temple, though not actual presence at the Temple; second, the purification of the mother of a child some forty days after childbirth (Lev. 12:1-8), on which occasion an offering was to be made – in the case of the poor, as Luke notes, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons'. The custom of 'redeeming' a first born (whether a child or animal) acknowledged that all life was ultimately the possession and gift of the Lord. The parents 'bought back' their child from the Lord. In the case of Jesus, however, as the next episode in the Temple will show (2:41-51), Mary and Joseph will have to surrender him back to the Lord to be about his 'Father's business' (v 49): the costly redemption of the world.

A similar ambiguity hovers over Simeon's blessing of the child and the two oracles he pronounces. He, along with the prophetess Anna, represents continuity with the past. They model faithful Israelites who have spent their lives hanging upon the promises that God would send a Saviour. Through prayer and fasting they are equipped to discern in this otherwise very ordinary family from the poorer class the divine fulfillment of promise. In his Nunc Dimittis canticle, Simeon has become the patron saint of those who, having

found meaning at last in their lives, are able to let go and surrender all to the Lord.

But, along with continuity with the past, there is novelty and rupture too. The child is going to be not only the 'glory of ... Israel' but also 'a light for the revelation to the Gentiles'. Here we have a sense of boundaries being extended, of a salvation widely cast. This is going to cause trouble, as Simeon's second oracle points out. The child is destined 'for the fall and the rising of many in Israel, and for a sign of contradiction'. The wide-ranging scope of salvation – the fact that it is not going to be confined to Israel but will be a light for the Gentiles – will challenge the narrowness of many hearts and bring resistance.

In this connection Simeon speaks of a 'sword' that is to pierce Mary's soul. While allusion to Jesus' passion can hardly be excluded, I suspect that the 'sword' has a wider reference. Mary will have to surrender her Son to a broader, more costly role – in effect to 'his Father's business' (2:49) where 'Father' refers not to Joseph but to God.

The surrender required of the Holy Family was, of course, unique. However, there is a sense in which all parents know something of that 'sword'. Bringing new life into the world and nurturing it to adulthood involves rupture as well as continuity, pain and surrender as well as joy. Today's feast is not so much about modelling an impossibly lofty ideal of family virtue, as about recognising a divine sharing, sympathy and involvement with the challenges of everyday family life.

by Brendan Byrne SJ

The Most Holy Family



*"The Lord sets a father in
honour over his
children:
A mother's authority he
confirms over his sons.
He who honours his
father atones for sins:
He stores up riches who
reveres his mother"*
Sirach 3:7-6, 17-14

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.