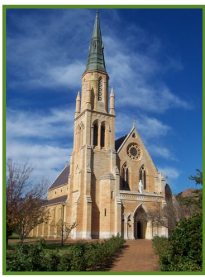


The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!



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. We walk on Wiradjuri country. May we continue to love and respect the land as they have.



Palm Sunday - Year A: 5th April 2020



Parish Priest

Fr Owen Gibbons

Assistant Priest

Fr Dong Van Nguyen

Parish Deacon

Deacon Charles Applin

Parish Secretaries

Mrs Patti Kiddle

Mrs Kristie Newman

Pastoral Council: Mrs Julie Keipert
(President)

Postal Address: P.O Box 14

Mudgee

NSW 2850

Phone: 02 6372 2122

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Email: office.mudgee@cdob.org.au

Website:

www.mudgee.catholic.org.au

Parish Office Hours

Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri

9.00am - 1.00pm : 2.00pm - 4.00pm

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St Matthews Catholic School Mudgee:

Principal: Mrs Angela Myles

Ph 02 63721742

stmattsmudgee@bth.catholic.edu.au

All Hallows Catholic School Gulgong:

Principal: Mr Bradley Toole

Ph 02 63741582

<https://ahcpsgulgong.schoolzine.com>

Message to Parishioners of Mudgee, Gulgong and Kandos from Fr Owen.

Dear Parishioners,

As we prepare to live and celebrate the most holy week of our Christian calendar in new and difficult circumstances, I pray for you and your families at this time.

Could Jesus' disciples have imagined how their world would change for them within 5 days? With Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, celebrated this Sunday, Palm Sunday, the disciples must have been on top of the world with Jesus their friend and teacher, hailed as 'the Son of David' and acclaimed as 'the prophet Jesus from Nazareth' by all the people. They would have basked in his extended glory. By Thursday night Jesus was a hunted man, arrested, tortured and crucified on Friday, Good Friday. Their world fell apart, they were fearful, despondent, drained of all hope, and hiding behind locked doors and frightened to go out lest they be arrested. There are some themes in our Christian Celebration of Holy Week that are relevant to us in the current Corona crisis. In some respects our world has changed within a few weeks, many certainties have been shattered; we can become fearful for our safety and indeed our lives, we can be 'shut in' physically and emotionally by fear of the present and the future.

With the hindsight that the disciples did not have, we know the suffering led to glory, new life and new hope.

That good news has been celebrated every year since Jesus rose from the dead, by faithful Christians. We in our own lives live through various deaths and new beginnings, indeed we do so every day in small ways and at other

times more dramatic ways. Jesus is with us, His spirit strengthens, renews and inspires us each new day.

'I am with you always'.

May we prayerfully unite ourselves and our families with the journey of Jesus to new life over this Holy Week.

So I encourage you to take time to pray as a family, maybe light a candle, open up your family bible, share the Holy Week story with each other. You might get your children to sow some seeds in your flower or veg gardens and together await and look forward to the new life they herald, as we all journey towards the celebration of new life in Christ next Sunday, Easter Sunday.

As we cannot gather as a community of faith in our beautiful churches over these sacred days, let our homes be the sacred building where we pray, celebrate and discover the presence of the crucified and risen Lord.

There will be many ceremonies celebrated online for us to participate in. Please check our Facebook and webpage for details (see back page of this bulletin).

Though we are separated physically let us remember we are always united as one in faith and prayer.

Wishing you every blessing for Holy Week

Fr Owen



DON'T BE AFRAID, JUST BELIEVE!

It's easy to say we trust in God when things are good and people are happy. But what about when times are uncertain and people are struggling and in need. Trust God in uncertain times, have hope in hard times. There are seasons and times of uncertainty in all our lives. What will life look like in a month, in six months, in a year? During these times of uncertainty, we must follow and trust God. ***Don't be afraid, just believe.*** (Mark 5:36)

First Reading: [Is 50:4-7](#)

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm:

[Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2](#)

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' **(R.)**

Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. **(R.)**

They divide my clothing among them.

They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! **(R.)**

I will tell of your name to my brethren

and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' **(R.)**

Second Reading: [Phil 2:6-11](#)

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings

in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

God of ordinary people, we want to hear your voice. May we welcome your voice in the health professionals, political leaders and community agencies. May we welcome your voice in the homeless, jobless and fearful. May we welcome your voice in our families, our schools, our friendships. We do not always welcome the voices of prophets because they make us uncomfortable with the way things are and the way things could be. This is our God, whose people we are. **Amen.**

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: [Mt 27:11-54](#)

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?' But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To

make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come

down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the



same way.

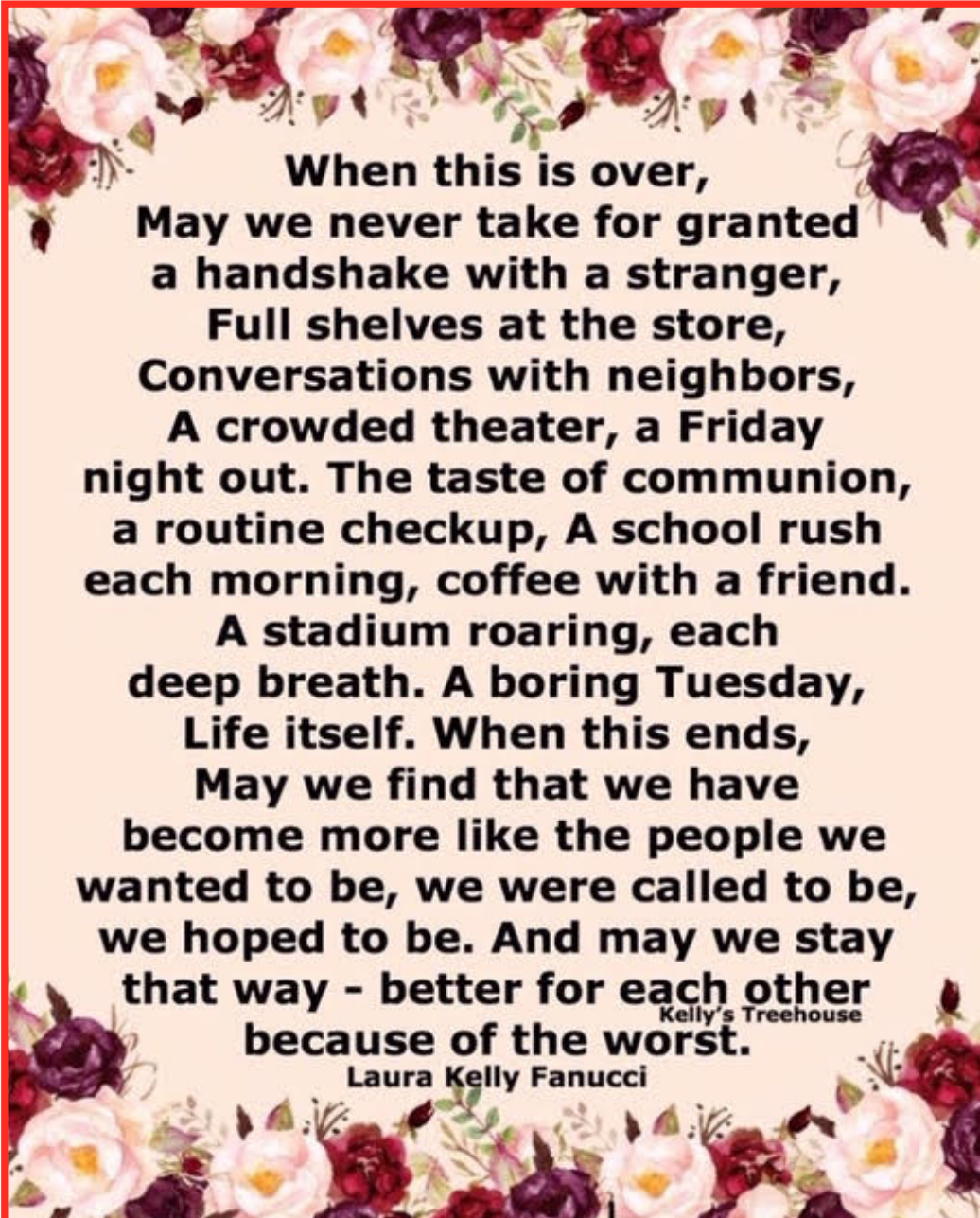
From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



If you wish to go to Reconciliation/ Confession for Easter please ring the Parish Office and we will give you a time to meet with Father. There is no need to give your name - we will just allocate a time when you ring.



*To all the doctors, nurses and medical staff and all other workers on the frontline who are keeping our communities functioning we say **Thank You.***

May you all stay safe and in good health in these uncertain times.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.



PROJECT COMPASSION

GO FURTHER TOGETHER

Dominic, 47, is a father of six from Papua New Guinea. In 2016, he became involved with Caritas Australia's partner, Centre of Hope who runs a safe house and family anonymous programs and turned a difficult life and an unhappy relationship around.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help support the Safe House project and help bring greater harmony to families in Papua New Guinea.



Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



Follow Mudgee Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/stmaryscatholicmudgee/> for Sunday and daily Mass and Holy Week Masses and services. Also check our website at www.mudgee.catholic.org.au for all the updated information.

The most recent letter from Pope Francis is attached to Bishop Micahael McKenna's

There are many resources to help at this time. <https://www.bathurst.catholic.org.au/>

Sunday Mass is live streamed from the Cathedral of St Michael & St John Bathurst Sunday's at 10.00am on the address above. On the right side of the Homepage about half way down on the right you will see '10am Sunday Mass' click on '**HERE**'. This will open up the Facebook page. Choose 'Videos' then click on 10am Sunday Mass. You will also see a video linking to daily Mass. You can also do this on SmartTV as well as computer.

Take 2 with Jesus, Diocese of Rockhampton for daily reflection. prayer@rok.catholic.net.au

3 Minute Retreats invite you to take a short prayer break right at your computer. Spend some quiet time reflecting on a Scripture passage.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer>

For those who are able and wish to continue to assist the parish financially. You can Direct Debit to parishes and return to envelope when this terrible crisis is over.

For: **Gulgong Parish**

BSB - 066 781

Acc No 100006612

Reference: Your name.

Mudgee Parish

BSB - 066 781

Acc No 100004583

Reference: Your name.

Kandos Parish

BSB - 066 781

Acc No 100005344

Reference: Your name.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

Acts 10: 34, 37-43

Psalm 117: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23, R. v.24

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-9