



*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.



### TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A 1ST OCTOBER 2023 SEASON OF CREATION BLESSING FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing to ask your prayers for the coming Synod in Rome, whose first session will convene from 4th to 29th October.

Some people may have concerns about how it will go, but that it all the more reason to turn to God in prayer, seeking light and courage, especially for those whom the Pope has called to participate.

At the end of last year, I wrote the following in my pastoral letter on synodality: We have sometimes forgotten that the Church is a People on pilgrimage, walking together to the Kingdom of God, and we're not there yet! We have sometimes not only rested, but even made ourselves so comfortable at stops along the way, that we have settled for the illusion of arrival and given up the awe-inspiring trek to the fulfilment that God is preparing for us.

Although we will not be in Rome, we should be united with the process in prayer before and during the Synod Assembly. Come, Holy Spirit! Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament is an especially fitting prayer, taking us out of our own concerns and focusing on Christ.

Whatever you and your community can do will enrich and bless the synodal process; and, in doing so, enrich and bless you and the Church to which we belong.

+Michael McKenna  
Bishop of Bathurst



## Synod of Bishops 4th - 29th October 2023

### Prayer for the Synod

As we embrace this Synodal Process, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to be at work in us so that we may be a community and a people of grace.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever.

Amen.



**Parish Priest**  
Fr Owen Gibbons

**Parish Deacon**  
Deacon Charles Applin

**Seminarian:** Ha Tran

**Parish Secretaries**  
Mrs Kristie Newman  
Ms Krista O'Brien

**Postal Address:**  
P.O Box 14 Mudgee NSW 2850  
**Phone:** 02 6372 2122

**Email:** [office.mudgee@cdob.org.au](mailto:office.mudgee@cdob.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.mudgee.catholic.org.au](http://www.mudgee.catholic.org.au)

**Parish Office Hours**  
Mon 10.00am - 4.00pm  
Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri 9.00am - 4.00pm  
Closed for Lunch 1.00pm - 2.00pm



**OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**  
**St Matthews Catholic School Mudgee:**  
**Principal:** Mrs Angela Myles  
Ph 02 6372 1742  
[www.stmattsmudgee.catholic.edu.au/](http://www.stmattsmudgee.catholic.edu.au/)

**All Hallows Catholic School Gulgong:**  
**Principal:** Mr Bradley Toole  
Ph 02 6374 1582  
[www.allhallowsgulgong.catholic.edu.au](http://www.allhallowsgulgong.catholic.edu.au)

GULGONG ROSTER		
	8 October	15 October
Commentator	E. Donnelly	J. Thatcher
Reader	C. Leotta	B. Toole
Sacristan	R. Saliba	M & E Carney
Leader		D. Kelly

**MUDGEES ROSTER**

**Saturday 7th/ Sunday 8th October 2023**

	Saturday	Sunday
Commentator	C. Furney	M. McLean
First Reader	L. Nicholson	L. Croake
Second Reader	L. Nicholson	O. O'Brien
EMOC	G. Brymora	M. Dunnachie
Altar Server	Steph R	Freemans
Music	Rachel	Jerry & Marianne
Welcomer	K. Isbester	S. Walker
Offertory	C. Carberry	M. Gilbert
Counter	Tues, 3rd Oct	P. O'Brien

**Saturday 14th/ Sunday 15th October 2023**

	Saturday	Sunday
Commentator	B. Petersen	M. Matthews
First Reader	D. Delahunty	A. McLean
Second Reader	G. Brymora	L. Croake
EMOC	D. Cunningham	R. Gawthorne
Altar Server	Layla W	Haddie L
Music	Rue & Barry	Jerry
Welcomer	S. Walker	M. Gilbert
Offertory	D. Bennett	M. Dunnachie
Counter	9th Oct	D. Donnelly

Congratulations to:

*James Anderson  
and  
Niamh Urquhart*

who celebrated the sacrament of marriage this weekend.



**DAY BY DAY**

<b>Mon, 2/10</b>	<b>The Holy Guardian Angels Memorial</b>
	Public Holiday - Office Closed
12 Noon	Angelus
<b>Tues, 3/10</b>	<b>Week 26 of Ordinary Time</b>
9.30am	<b>Communion Service - Mudgee</b>
12 Noon	Angelus
<b>Wed, 4/10</b>	<b>St Francis of Assisi - Memorial</b>
12 Noon	Angelus
5.45pm	<b>Communion Service - Mudgee</b>
<b>Thu, 5/10</b>	<b>Week 26 of Ordinary Time</b>
9.30am	<b>Communion Service - Mudgee</b>
12 Noon	Angelus
<b>Fri, 6/10</b>	<b>Week 26 of Ordinary Time</b>
10.30am	Opal Nursing Home Communion Service
11.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
12 Noon	Angelus, Rosary, short reflection
12.30pm	<b>Communion Service - Mudgee</b>
2.00pm	Funeral - St Mary's Dean Endacott
<b>Sat, 7/10</b>	<b>Our Lady of the Rosary</b>
2.00pm	Wedding
4.30pm	Reconciliation
<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass - Mudgee</b>
<b>Sun, 8/10</b>	<b>TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>
9.00am	<b>Mass - Mudgee</b>
10.30am	<b>Mass- Gulgong</b>
11.00am	<b>Communion Service - Kandos</b>

**IMPORTANT NEWS**

Fr Owen will be on annual leave as of the 1st October, for one month. We will have two visiting Priest over this time. Fr Greg Cooney CM will be here from 7th to 23rd October and Fr Steven Sinn SJ. will be here from 25th to 30th.

Please make them feel welcomed.

**Reminder...**

Saturday Mass will move to 6pm on the 7th October.

**Masses and prayers requested for the following.**

**For the recently deceased especially:**

Duro Kucerka, Dean Endacott, Gwen McDonald, Barry Sheehan, **We remember the anniversaries of:** Daryl Baker, Allen Foo, John Rohr, John & Aileen Gaudry, Doris Gray, Bessie & Harold Evans, Patricia Day, Adam Birchall, Robert Edwards, Ivy Newman, Una Williams, Dorothy Mahon, Mary Keech, John Kurtz, Janet Boesen, Thomas Birchall, Anthony Schiemer, Pamela Burns, Roby Chapman, Nash Miles-Smith, Anthony Adams, Barbara Lennon.

**For the deceased, especially:**

Brian Hanigan, Lance Reimers, Warwick Lee, Christopher Kinsela, Bob Fraser, Judith Keightley, Darrell Gorrie, Simon Bennett, Maggie Swientek, Beatrice Casey.

**Prayers requested for the sick:**

Josephine Debatista, Margaret Doble, Tracy Donnelly, Maureen Turner, Elizabeth Donnelly, Iris McBeath, Graham Hawkins, Lynne Daly, Carmel Thompson, Joe Saliba, Tony Spina, Tony Harris, Dennis Petersen, Rodrigo Jaboneta, Frances Saliba, and all those in our Nursing Homes.

Masses for Special Intentions, In Thanksgiving and For All the Holy

**Pope's Intentions for October  
For the Synod**

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.



**Season of Creation  
1st September - 4th October**

**Let Justice and Peace Flow**

The Prophet Amos cries out: "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24) and so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity.

As the people of God, we must work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice.

**Reflection:**

**Are we responding in a way that joyfully praises God and God's creation?** Are we encouraging greater contact with the natural world, bringing others into an awareness of creation and the marvels of it? Are we promoting a spirit of wonder, awe, praise, thanksgiving and joy?

Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise.

Pope Francis, Laudato Si, #12



**ALL HALLOWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
GULGONG**

**1883 - 2023**

**CELEBRATING 140 YEARS OF  
CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

**Friday 20th October 2023**

- School Celebration Day
- P & F Grand Bazaar Market Night

**Saturday 21st October 2023**

- 140 Years Celebration Dinner @ Gulgong RSL Club

**Sunday 22nd October 2023**

- Mass @ 10.30am followed by BBQ Lunch at School



**140 YEARS OF**

**ALL HALLOWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

*We would love to know the story of your All Hallows connection, with any interesting facts and memories you can recall.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I was a **student** / **parent** / **staff** (circle)  
from \_\_\_\_\_ (years at All Hallows)

**People I recall being here at the time**

**Thoughts on my time at All Hallows**

**Description of the school at the time ( buildings, play equipment, canteen..)**

**What did I learn from my All Hallows time that has stayed with me?**

**What does All Hallows mean to you?**

**Thankyou.**

**Please return your answers to our front office OR via email ([k.statham@bth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:k.statham@bth.catholic.edu.au)).**

**You will become one of the, '140 stories for 140 years of All Hallows' .**

**SHALOM HOUSE OF PRAYER**

**Exploring our spiritual journey with the Enneagram**

*"The Enneagram is a serious spiritual tool, a pathway to release us from over-identification, to the gift of Presence and a possible way of becoming fully human."*

This retreat offers a greater insight about your own unconscious habits, and those closest to you. It also offers the opportunity for you to see how divinity lives within all of us.

**TIME:** Friday 13 October, 6.00pm - Sunday 15 October, 3.30pm

**LOCATION:** 7-11 Collins Street, Carcoar

**COST:** \$395 (\$147.50/per day and includes all meals, facilitator fees and accommodation)



You are invited to consider participating in an

**Advent Retreat**

at St Joseph's Perthville, from 12-19<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

This retreat allows us to **Gaze through Advent Windows** discovering the guidance, wisdom, and faithfulness of God in our daily lives. Comments from those who have participated in this retreat reflect that they now **experience Advent/Christmas** in a new way. "Advent and Christmas will never be the same!"

**Facilitator:** Sr Ann Morrison rsj

**Cost:** \$750

**Contact:** [Perthville.coordinator@sosj.org.au](mailto:Perthville.coordinator@sosj.org.au);

or phone: 02 6337 2946

*The Grace of Grief*

Why do we grieve?

While grief may look like an expression of pain that serves no purpose, it is actually the soul's acknowledgment of what we value. Grief is the honour we pay to that which is dear to us. And it is only through the connection to what we cherish that we can know how to move forward. In this way, grief is motion.

Reading for Next Sunday: TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME- YEAR A

Isaiah 5:1-7

Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20. R. Is 5:7

Philippians 4:6-9

Matthew 21:33-43

**YOUTH** -by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

**God's Word**

**An Invitation to Be Free From Sin**

A major theme of the Scripture readings is 'A second chance'.

In last week's readings, we learned that God's ways are not our ways. In this week's readings, the people whom Ezekiel addresses, and perhaps the chief priests and elders listening to Jesus, say the same thing, 'It's not fair'.



In today's first reading, Ezekiel responds to Israel's complaint that God is unfair. He says that a virtuous person who commits wrongdoing is punished, but a wicked person who decides later to do what is right is saved by turning away from sin. But the Israelites, at this point in history, believe in inherited punishment: that the sins of the parent fall on the children. To this Ezekiel says that all are responsible for their own sins. Each one's choices determine God's response. There is hope for us, even for those who go astray. The Father is generous and forgiving to those who turn around and do what is right.

In a prayer for guidance and help, the psalmist reminds God to be merciful. Everyone needs forgiveness. We also need reminders not to stray from God's paths. The psalmist sees God not as dwelling on past sins but rather looking forward to help people lead a faithful life.

In his Letter to the Philippians, Paul wants the community to look after for one another. They are to think less often of themselves and to put others first. Jesus is named as their teacher and guide. Jesus is our best example, too. Jesus was human like us, and he humbly died as one of us. Jesus never sought glory, but God bestowed it on him. In a plea for harmony, Paul asks the Philippians to have the same mind as Christ.



Usually, the Pharisees would try to trap Jesus with sets of questions. But in today's Gospel reading, Jesus uses the parable of the two sons to put a test question to them. The chief priests and elders quickly agree that it was the second son who did what the father asked. In this way, Jesus

pointedly tells them that those people whom they regard as sinners are getting into the Kingdom before them. Those regarded as sinners believe in John the Baptist's message and are already on the right way, while the Pharisees, who ignored John, are now stubbornly ignoring Jesus.

Some people hear God's word and do nothing about it. Lip service is not good enough. Being open to God's message in Jesus means making a change in our life.

**First Reading:** [Ezekiel 18:25-28](#)

*The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** [Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6](#)

**(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:

for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth.

In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path;

he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**



**Second Reading:** [Philippians 2:1-11](#)

*In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** [Matthew 21:28-32](#)

*He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.*

**REFLECTION** by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel passage is one of many within Matthew's gospel that show Jesus at odds with the religious authorities of his day. The picture of the religious leaders that comes through Matthew's gospel is one of hypocrisy. Jesus is frequently portrayed as criticising the leaders for holding too strongly to the letter of the law and ignoring the spirit of the law and the call to compassion. This week's passage has Jesus seeking the opinion of the chief priests and elders on a hypothetical situation (a common style of debating a point of law in the Jewish tradition). He describes two sons, each asked by their father to go and work in the family vineyard. The first says 'No' but later does his father's bidding. The second says 'Yes' but doesn't follow through on his commitment.

Jesus is criticising the religious leaders of his time who, with their words, said 'Yes' to God but by their actions said 'No'. He most certainly would have upset the leaders by telling them that tax collectors and prostitutes would enter the kingdom of God before them. Whilst these tax collectors and prostitutes were regarded by the religious authorities as 'sinners' beyond redemption, Jesus holds them up in the image of the first son of the story. Although they may have said 'No' to God through their poor choices, ultimately they are saying 'Yes' to God in their acceptance of Jesus and the message of the kingdom of God. On the other hand, the leaders have said 'Yes' to God publicly through abiding by all the religious laws and maintaining a 'religious profile' but in their hearts and actions they have not truly said 'Yes!'

© Fr Michael Tate

*Word & Faith*



Come join the Word and Faith Group every Sunday from 5 pm to 6 pm in the Parish centre, where we delve into the Sunday scripture readings with great care.

Discover the meaning behind technical words, explore reflections, and uncover historical backgrounds to deepen your understanding of God's word.

All are welcome to join and learn together!