



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.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B 3RD DECEMBER 2023



ADVENT MESSAGE 2023

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Lord God,
Your Church joyfully awaits
the coming of its Saviour,
who enlightens our hearts
and dispels the darkness of
ignorance and sin.



Pour forth your blessings
upon us as we light the candles of this wreath;
may their light reflect the splendour of Christ,
who is Lord, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Response: COME LORD JESUS (SUNG)

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world...

Response

You are the light in our darkness ...

Response

Son of God save us from our sins ...

Response

Bring hope into the lives of all people...

Response

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

The time of Advent is the four week period of
preparation for the season of Christmas.

Advent begins the cycle of the Liturgical Year
and focuses on the coming of the Lord. The first
weeks offer a vision of the future, looking to
the end of time when Christ will come again.
The final weeks point more specifically to the
birth of Christ. Christ, the promised one, is
awaited with joyful expectation.

The First Sunday of Advent follows the final
Sunday of Ordinary Time and the season
concludes on Christmas Eve.

Dear Friends in Christ,

For our Church, the new year does not begin on January 1st,
but on the first Sunday of Advent. What do we hope for? And
what do we promise ourselves to be and to do in this coming
year?



At the end of last year, I invited everyone to watch and pray as the Pope's
Synod in Rome began to unfold. It has now had its first assembly; and
invites the whole Church to reflect on the ideas that have come from that,
as we prepare for the concluding session late in 2024.

We will attempt to pick up this developing work in our local church; and
so revive the way of walking together ("synodality") that we began in
2013, until Covid slowed us down for a while.

The themes for the Synod in Rome are ours, too: Participation;
Communion; and Mission. They are interrelated, of course: but without
participation, it's hard to get started on communion and mission! As I
wrote last year:

*One of the struggles of our synodal journey so far...is that an ever-smaller
number of people are shouldering the responsibilities that everyone should
be sharing. Even the basic obligations of joining the parish community for
Sunday Mass and supporting the parish financially are being neglected.
And not enough people are ready, when able, to give time and talent for
our works of Word, Worship and Service. Those happy few who do,
cheerfully and generously, are already blessed and we thank God for them.*

Finally, as we get ready to celebrate Christmas this year, our heartfelt
prayers are for the suffering people, Jewish, Christian and Muslim, of the
land where Jesus was born. May his justice bring forth his peace!

+Michael McKenna
Bishop of Bathurst

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
Website: 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/

All Hallows Catholic School Gulgong:
Principal: Mr Bradley Toole
Ph 02 6374 1582
www.allhallowsgulgong.catholic.edu.au

GULGONG ROSTER		
	10th December	17th December
Commentator	J. Thatcher	P. Leotta
Reader	B. Toole	C. Leotta
Sacristan	R. Saliba	M.&E. Carney
Leader		D. Kelly

MUDGEES ROSTER
Saturday 9th/Sunday 10th December 2023

	Saturday	Sunday
Commentator	A. McLean	L. Croake
First Reader	I. Byrne	M. Cassidy
Second Reader	D. Delahunty	F. McConville
EMOC	Help Needed	R. Croake
Altar Server	Violet F Willow F	Alyra K
Music	Rue & Barry	Jerry & Marianne
Welcomer	D. Delahunty	Mr S Walker
Offertory	D. Bennett	M. Gilbert
Counter	4th Dec	E. Goodlet

Saturday 16th/Sunday 17th December 2023

	Saturday	Sunday
Commentator	D. Cunningham	S. Abbey
First Reader	C. Furney	J. O'Brien
Second Reader	C. Furney	E. de Vries
EMOC	G. Hennessy	P. O'Brien
Altar Server		Alyra K Haddie L
Music	Rachel	Jerry
Welcomer	C. Carberry	M. Gilbert
Offertory	K. Isbester	A. White
Counter	11th Dec	L. Nicholson

The Pope's Monthly Intentions for 2023
December - For persons with disabilities...
 We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

DAY BY DAY	
Mon, 4/12	1st Week of Advent
	Parish Office will be open at 10am.
12 Noon	Angelus
Tues, 5/12	1st Week of Advent
9.30am	Mass - Mudgee
10.00am	Gulgong Catholic Womens Group Morning Tea at RSL
12 Noon	Angelus
Wed, 6/12	1st Week of Advent
9.30am	Church Cleaning - St Marys
9.40am	St Matthews Primary Awards & Presentation
12 Noon	Angelus
5.45pm	Mass - Mudgee
6.00pm	St Matthews Secondary Awards & Presentation
Thu, 7/12	St Ambrose, bishop, doctor
9.30am	Mass - Mudgee - SMCS Yr5
11.00am	Funeral - St Mary's, Mudgee Stephen Birchall
12 Noon	Angelus
6.30pm	All Hallows Presentation Night
Fri, 8/12	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Solemnity
10.30am	Mass - Whiddon Nursing Home
11.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
12 Noon	Angelus and Rosary
12.30pm	Mass - Mudgee - Anointing Mass
Sat, 9/12	1st Week of Advent
11.00am	Baptism
5.20pm	Reconciliation
6.00pm	Vigil Mass - Mudgee
Sun, 10/12	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9.00am	Mass - Mudgee
10.30am	Mass - Gulgong
11.00am	Mass - Kandos
6.00pm	Word & Faith Group - Parish Centre

GULGONG NEWS

5th December at 10am Gulgong Catholic Ladies Group Morning tea at the RSL. Please RSVP by placing your name on the Poster at the back of the Church or call June on 63741597. All Welcome

Small Christmas Gifts will also be taken to the sick & elderly.

24th December Remembrance Mass

KANDOS NEWS

A choir from Canberra will join us for Mass on Sunday **10th December** at 11am. Mass will be followed by lunch in the parish hall. \$5.00 per person. Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP to Carol, Louise or Maureen by 3rd December.

Sunday **10th December** will be the Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

17th December Remembrance Mass - Rylstone

MUDGEES NEWS

Friday, 8th December at 12.30pm - Anointing Mass

Church Cleaning - Mudgee
 Volunteers are **NEEDED** to clean the church, Wednesday 6th December. Cleaning will start at 9.30am and usually takes about two hours.



Our Parish relies on volunteers to keep our church clean and presentable for our Masses and other services. This is an important ministry that needs your help. We welcome anyone who can help. There is no need to call to put your name down to clean. Just turn up on the day.

‘Many hands make light work’

‘Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The lord never lets us down.’
 Pope Francis

Baptism

We welcome into our Mudgee Parish community:

Lucy June O'Reilly

daughter of Brendan and Rachael



Masses and prayers requested for the following.

For the recently deceased especially:

Stephen Birchall, Toni Behrens, June George, Patricia Balston, Val Foodey,.

We remember the anniversaries of:

Leslie McTegg, Nola Doherty, Marilyn Kinsela, Maria Brec, Roger Kelly, Nalda Ashton, Thomas Loy, Clive Whittaker, Ivan Croake, Ellen Bryant, Miriam Halpin, James Egan, Pebbles Stojcevski, Maureen Watson, Robert Williamson, Alice Hundy, Alice Polanetz, Doreen Hyland, Doss Sheridan, Douglas Kenney.

For the deceased, especially:

Peter Fitzgerald, Margaret Jervis, Max Faucett, Joyce Doble, Ray Baskerville, Pat Cox, Elias & Therese Sadaka, Ivan Brec, Daniel Brec, Alojz Slatinsek, anne Mead, Judith Keightley, Barry Sheehan, Maggie Swientek.

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

Prayers requested for the sick:

Trevor Roberts (England), Maureen Hutchinson, Eleni Roberts, Tomislav Marakovic (Sydney), Josephine Debattista, Margaret Doble, Tony Spina, Tracy Donnelly, Maureen Turner, Elizabeth Donnelly, Joe Saliba, Iris McBeath, Graham Hawkins, Lynne Daly, Tony Harris, Carmel Thompson, Dennis Petersen, Rodrigo Jaboneta, and all those in our Nursing Homes.

2023 Mudgee Churches Association

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

12 MIDDAY CHRISTMAS DAY

AT ST JOHNS ANGLICAN CHURCH HALL MUDGEE

6 Church St, Mudgee

All Welcome

Join us for a Free Lunch & Fellowship

Please let us know if you're attending

Places are limited

To Reserve a seat at the table, register online with the QR code of the poster or Phone Graham - 0458 242 126 or Jorie - 0412 179 293
RSVP by 11/12/23

Expression of Interest

Membership of Diocesan Finance Council



The Diocesan Finance Council is an advisory council established by the Bishop in accordance with the code of canon law of the Catholic Church to advise him in the stewardship and administration of the temporal goods of the Diocese, in accordance with sound principles of financial administration and legal compliance.

The Council is made up of people of good character and judgement, committed to the Church and with experience in finance, law, banking, property development and administration.

Meetings are usually held four times a year, for a duration of 2-3 hours, with detailed papers prepared and circulated a week before the meeting.

Council Members also are allocated membership of the Standing Committees of the Council, being the Catholic Development Fund Investment & Audit Committee and the Property Committee.

The Bishop is seeking nominations of people to be considered for membership of the Council. You may nominate yourself or, with their consent, another person you think may be suitable.

A covering letter and curriculum vitae outlining the relevant skills and experiences of the nominee, including a reference from their Parish Priest, should be sent to the Diocesan Financial Administrator by email to dfa@bathurst.catholic.org.au. For further information, please call Patrick Cooper on 0419 460 404.

Living the Gospel – Stay Awake!

By the time the Church begins to celebrate Advent as a period of preparation towards Christmas, the stores have been filling with Christmas paraphernalia for weeks. It starts out small with a few decorations and wrapping paper and eventually takes over every retail outlet. In the midst of this excess of Christmas consumerism, it is often difficult to draw attention to the season of Advent and the need to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christmas. It is important to stay awake, as we are cautioned in this week's gospel. Awake to what is happening around us in the world and awake to what is happening within us.

The Sign

Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections 2023

from the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong

Now available



Cost

\$5.00 per book

\$1.00 for a Bookmark

(Mudgee only)

Positions Vacant

Cleaner needed in Dunedoo from beginning of January.

Cleaning includes cleaning the Presbytery.

Three (3) hours per week.

If interested, please contact the Mudgee Parish Office on 6372-2122.

Reading for next Sunday: **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A**

Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8



First Reading: [Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8](#)

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

Responsorial Psalm: [Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4](#)

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

Second Reading: [1 Corinthians 1:3-9](#)

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel: [Mark 13:33-37](#)

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

YOUTH Reflection

It is hard to be the clay and to let God be the potter. That's like praying, 'Whatever you ask of me, God, I'm willing to do it. I'm all yours. Point the way, and I'm walking it.'

It is easier to be the potter and want God to be the clay. That's like praying, 'God, please do this and do that; please give me this and give me that.'

When did you pray as if you were the potter? What happened? How did you feel?

Did you ever pray as if you were the clay? If so, what happened? How did you feel? If not, why not? What might happen? And how could you feel?

What is the hardest challenge God might ask you to accept? What is so hard about it?

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Rearrange the following words to complete the sentence below

Christmas

Jesus

prepare

[] is the [] when

season

arrival

Advent

we [] for the []

of [] at []

REFLECTION by Michael Tate

Timely Living and the End of History

Our Lord portrays himself as the Master who goes away on a journey. It is certain that he will return, even if no-one in his household knows exactly when. That is our situation. What do we do in anticipation?

Our Lord, the Master, indicates we have a choice. We can close our eyes and enter into the world of dreams where we create our own fantasy futures, or we can stay awake and alert to do what Our Lord wants us to do: 'He left his servants in charge, giving to each his work.'

You and me – his servants – have a particular role or work in and for this phase of human history. A deep down intuition, prompted by the Holy Spirit, indicates what this is. We must be true to this assignment.

We could take a moment to pray that, when the Lord returns, we may hear: 'Come, good and faithful servant, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.'



Dates for the Diary

Friday 8th December - 12.30pm - Anointing Mass - St Mary's

Sunday 10th December - 11.00am - Visiting Choir at Mass at Kandos.

Sunday 17th December - Remembrance Mass
9.00am - Mudgee
11.00am - Rylstone

Tuesday 19th December - 7.00pm - Second Rite of Reconciliation - Mudgee

Sunday 24th December -
9am Mass - Mudgee
10.30am - Remembrance Mass Gulgong

Christmas Vigils

Mudgee - 6.00pm Mass in St Matthews School grounds, Lewis St
8.30pm Mass St Marys Church
Kandos - 6.30pm

Monday 25th December

Mudgee - 7.30am St Marys
9.00am St Marys
Gulgong - 9.00am



The parish office will be close from 4pm Friday 22nd December and will reopen at 10am Tuesday 2nd January.