

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.

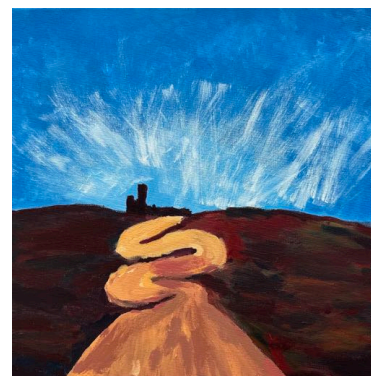
NATIVITY OF THE LORD - CHRISTMAS
25TH DECEMBER 2023



CHRISTMAS 2023

Christmas is Personal

The painting I chose this year in our annual Christmas Story exhibition was by Zeke Stephenson from Dunedoo. It is about the light we need for this journey which is life. It came with a very personal commentary from the artist and reminds us that faith is not abstract, but personal.



In Australia, Christmas is a very public celebration, with both sacred and secular elements. We always hope that at least some of the good news about Jesus manages to find its way through the clatter of trade. Even for Christians, the joys and complications of family life can sometimes be overwhelming at this time of year.

"Personal" does not mean isolated. In fact, it is through my relationships that I come to know and grow who I am. At times, though, I need to return to what Jesus called "the private room" of my heart and recall that I am in the presence of God, "in whose light I see light." (Psalm 36:9)

May light and peace be your greatest gifts this Christmas, to receive and pass on.

+Michael McKenna

Bishop of Bathurst

BISHOP'S MISSIONARY APPEAL

Funds raised in this year's annual Bishop's Christmas Missionary Appeal will help with the construction of a multipurpose hall as well as allow for renovations to the school library at Maria Auxiliadora Catholic Primary School, Timor Leste.

With Catholic Mission's help and the generosity of people from the Bathurst Diocese, we're committed to providing "a safe and more conducive place for students and their teachers" said Sr Alma Castagna.

Please give generously in today's collection

Parish Priest
Fr Owen Gibbons

Parish Secretaries
Mrs Kristie Newman
Ms Krista O'Brien

Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri
9.00am - 4.00pm
Closed for Lunch
1.00pm - 2.00pm

St Matthews Catholic School Mudgee:
Ph 02 63721742
stmattsmudgee@bth.catholic.edu.au
All Hallows Catholic School Gulgong:
Ph 02 63741582
allhallowsgulgong@bth.catholic.org.au

Parish Deacon
Deacon Charles Applin

Parish Office Hours
Mon 10.00am - 4.00pm

Postal Address: Po Box 14, Mudgee NSW 2850

Phone: 02 6372 2122

Email: office.mudgee@cdob.org.au

Website: www.mudgee.catholic.org.au

DAY BY DAY

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Mon, 25/12 | The NATIVITY of the LORD |
| | Parish Office will be closed until January 2nd |
| 7.30am | Mass - Mudgee |
| 9.00am | Mass - Mudgee |
| 9.00am | Mass - Gulgong |
| Tues, 26/12 | St Stephen, the first martyr |
| 9.30am | NO SERVICE |
| 12 Noon | Angelus |
| Wed, 27/12 | St John, apostle, evangelist |
| 12 Noon | Angelus |
| 5.45pm | Communion Service - Mudgee |
| Thu, 28/12 | The Holy Innocents, martyrs |
| 9.30am | Communion Service - Mudgee |
| 12 Noon | Angelus |
| Fri, 29/12 | 5th day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord |
| 11.30am | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament |
| 12 Noon | Angelus and Rosary |
| 12.30pm | Communion Service - Mudgee |
| Sat, 30/12 | 6th day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord |
| 5.15pm | Reconciliation |
| 6.00pm | Vigil Mass - Mudgee |
| Sun, 31/12 | THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH |
| 9.00am | Mass - Mudgee |
| 10.30am | Communion Service - Gulgong |
| 11.00am | Mass - Kandos |

KANDOS NEWS

Thank you for contribution to S.V.D.P. Christmas appeal. \$667.20 was raised.

Thank you for the donations of food.

God Bless.

GULGONG ROSTER

| | 31st December | 7th January |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Commentator | D. Kelly | R. Saliba |
| Reader | M. McGregor | C. Golino |
| Sacristan | C. Holland | E. Donnelly G. Ausburn |
| Leader | R. Saliba | P. Leotta |

MUDGEE ROSTER

Help Needed

As this is a busy time of year and many people are out of town visiting Family and Friends, we are asking for Volunteers to help at Mass.

If you are available, please let the office know via phone 6372-2122 or email

office.mudgee@cdob.org.au

by Wednesday 27th December.

The office will be closed but we will get your messages.

Scriptural context – Matthew v Luke
Ask a child (or even most adults) to describe the scene at the birth of Jesus and you will hear a confused combination of the two scriptural accounts with several non-scriptural additions. It is a shame that the two versions have merged into one as each is deserving of its own integrity. The Matthew account emphasises Jesus as the fulfilment of prophecy and has Wise Men as the witnesses to his birth in a house. It is from Luke that we have the much humbler birth in a manger witnessed by the lowly shepherds. Each has something different and distinct to say about Jesus and his mission.

© Greg Sunter

Masses and prayers requested for the following.

For the recently deceased especially:

Fr Pat Ruane, Ted Jordan, Dean Williams, Mons Peter Shannon.

We remember the anniversaries of:

Aileen Rogan, Michael Gibbins, Doreen Matthews, Daphne Haswell, Francis McDermott, Ervine McDermott, Thelma Swords, George Neville, Ann McKay, Mary McGrath, Malcolm Green, Richard Milligan, Kim Pilley, Brian Condon, Adeline McNally, George Ashcroft, William Staff, Robert Cox, Colin Spink, Stephen Waterton.

Christmas Mass requests:

Molly Jenkins, Miriam Byers, Patterson Family, Adrian Ryan, Anne Mead, Bill and Nancy Gaffney, Marie & Norm Attrill, Tom & Edna Power, Paul & Peter Power, Adriel Maloney, Jim & Dorothy Betts, Kay Daly (Ireland), Cliff & Alma Thomas, Jack, Jill, Paul & Brian Bennett, Judith Keightley, Jack & Nancey Hawkins, Mick & Val Whelan, Colin & Leanne Killer, Cooper & Killer Families.

For the deceased, especially:

Stephen Birchall, Toni Behrens, June George, Patricia Balston, Val Foodey, Elias & Therese Sadaka, Ivan Brec, Daniel Brec, Alojz Slatinsek, Maggie Swientek.

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

Prayers requested for the sick:

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

REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

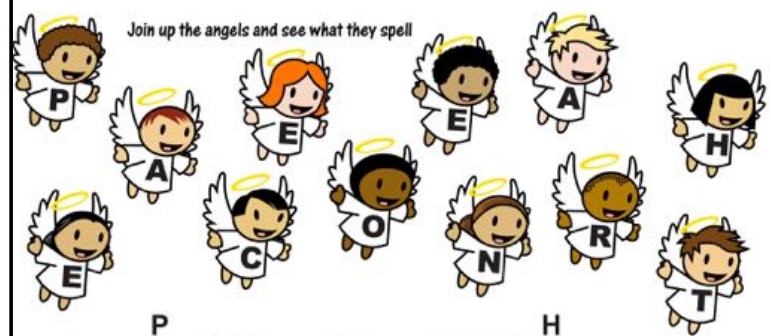
For people surrounded by department store decorations, commercials, Christmas carols, special foods, and the like, believing that today's Christmas celebration actually evolved from the humble story of a young woman giving birth in the straw is a stretch. It might help to focus on the characters involved.

What do you think went through Joseph's mind as he witnessed Mary giving birth to a baby? What do you think went through Mary's mind as she struggled with the birth experience?

The Christmas story is full of symbols. Jesus, who becomes our bread and wine – our nourishment – is laid in a manger, the feeding trough for the animals. Jesus, who is the champion of poor people, is born into a homeless family. Poor shepherds were the first to welcome the Messiah that the Jewish people had been awaiting for generations. The symbol of angels singing, praising God, and flying madly all over the sky was a good clue that something out of the ordinary was happening.

Modern Christmas stories use different symbols to make the same points: Rudolph, the 'poorest' reindeer, becomes the champion; and Frosty, a snowman, transforms children's lives.

What story from your own personal Christmas experiences has special meaning or symbolism?



Christmas Eve Readings

First Reading: [Isaiah 9:1-7](#)

A son is given to us.

Responsorial Psalm: [Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11](#)

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **(R.)**

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the
peoples. **(R.)**

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. **(R.)**

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his
truth. **(R.)**

Second Reading: [Titus 2:11-14](#)

*God's grace has been revealed to all
people.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel: [Luke 2:1-14](#)

Today a saviour has been born for you.



Christmas Day Readings

First Reading: [Isaiah 62:11-12](#)

Your Saviour is born.

Responsorial Psalm: [Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11](#)

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **(R.)**

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the
peoples. **(R.)**

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. **(R.)**

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his
truth. **(R.)**

Second Reading: [Titus 3:4-7](#)

His own compassion saved us.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord
Alleluia!

Gospel: [Luke 2:15-20](#)

*The shepherds found Mary and Joseph,
and the baby lying in the manger.*



Reading for next Sunday: [THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - YEAR B](#)

Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3 Ps 104:1-6, 8-9 Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Lk 2:22-40