

**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.**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - YEAR B  
31ST DECEMBER 2023**

This weekend we say farewell to 2023, and also a very heartfelt thank you and goodbye to Seminarian Ha Van Tran. Ha, you will be very much missed in our Parish, we look forward to seeing your smiling face again, hopefully soon.

Below is a message from Ha:

*If someone were to inquire about summarizing my pastoral year in a single term, I would opt for the adjective "fruitful" to characterize my last 11 months in Mudgee. This term encapsulates the growth I've experienced across all my formative areas. Becoming a part of this parish has provided me with valuable insights into both myself and the realities of parish life. This enhanced self-awareness has led to a gradual discovery of my calling, identity, and understanding of what God intends for me.*

*A common saying amongst the Vietnamese holds that "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles." There is another saying that, in life, one's biggest adversary is often oneself. Thus, the process of discovering my true self unfolds gradually, primarily through my relationships with God and others, as I am inherently created for both. I extend my sincere gratitude for all people in the parish, especially for your open relationships and for embracing me as a friend, and a member of your family.*

*I would like to express my appreciation to Father Owen and the members of the parish council for providing me with significant opportunities to contribute to and integrate into this parish. I am also thankful to the teachers and students at St. Matthew Catholic School for their warm welcome, allowing me to visit classes and participate in various school activities.*

*As I continue on this journey, I humbly request your prayers—for me, our seminarians, and the numerous young people endeavouring to be faithful and courageous in offering themselves to God. May God shower abundant blessings upon you and all the parish's endeavours.*

**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](mailto:stmattsmudgee@bth.catholic.edu.au)  
**All Hallows Catholic School Gulgong:**  
Ph 02 63741582  
[allhallowsgulgong@bth.catholic.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:office.mudgee@cdob.org.au)

**Website:** [www.mudgee.catholic.org.au](http://www.mudgee.catholic.org.au)

**DAY BY DAY**

<b>Mon, 1/1</b>	<b>MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD</b>
	Parish Office opens at 10am
9.30am	<b>Mass</b> - Mudgee
<b>Tues, 2/1</b>	<b>Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishop, doctors</b>
9.30am	<b>Mass</b> - Mudgee
12 Noon	Angelus
<b>Wed, 3/1</b>	<b>Wednesday before Epiphany</b>
12 Noon	Angelus
5.20pm	
5.45pm	<b>Mass</b> - Mudgee
<b>Thu, 4/1</b>	<b>Thursday before Epiphany</b>
9.30am	<b>Mass</b> - Mudgee
12 Noon	Angelus
<b>Fri, 5/1</b>	<b>Friday before Epiphany</b>
11.00am	Funeral - Bathurst Cathedral Fr Pat Ruane
12 Noon	Angelus and Rosary
12.30pm	<b>Communion Service</b> - Mudgee
<b>Sat, 6/1</b>	<b>Saturday before Epiphany</b>
5.15pm	Reconciliation
6.00pm	<b>Vigil Mass</b> - Mudgee
<b>Sun, 7/1</b>	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>
9.00am	<b>Mass</b> - Mudgee
10.30am	<b>Communion Service</b> - Gulgong
11.00am	<b>Mass</b> - Kandos

**GULGONG ROSTER**

	7th January	14th January
<b>Commentator</b>	R. Saliba	P. Leotta
<b>Reader</b>	C. Golino	K. Ritar
<b>Sacristan</b>	E. Donnelly G. Ausburn	M & E Carney
<b>Leader</b>	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](mailto:office.mudgee@cdob.org.au) by Wednesday 3rd January.**  
**The office will be closed but we will get your messages.**



*Living the Gospel - Faithful*

A strong image that emerges from this passage is the faithfulness of Mary and Joseph. Their whole purpose in visiting the Temple is to fulfil the requirements of their faith. They are faithful to the Jewish tradition and it is into this tradition that they initiate Jesus. The faithfulness of Mary and Joseph is a hallmark of their life as a family. Their faithfulness is a significant element of what we celebrate in the feast of the Holy Family and their faithfulness to God and to one another is a model for all families and for all people.

Masses and prayers requested for the following.

***For the recently deceased especially:***

Fr Pat Ruane,

**We remember the anniversaries of:**

Michael Gibbins, Mick Kelly, John O'Brien, Lucia Zaccaria, June Deveigne, Frances Condon, Edward Mahon, Nicole Lynch, James Corney, Gordon Player, Edna Condon, Bernard Egan, Albert Cashel, Ervine McDermott, Peter Reid, Gwendoline Porter, Nikky Boness, Peter Power,

***For the deceased, especially:***

Ted Jordan, Dean Williams, Stephen Birchall, Mons Peter Shannon. Toni Behrens, June George, 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

No doubt Mary and Joseph were surprised and pleased, and perhaps even a bit spooked, when these complete strangers approached them at the Temple to praise their baby.

Have your parents (step-parent, grandparent, guardian) ever been surprised and pleased, or even spooked, when someone else came and told them some wonderful thing about you? What was it? What do you do that your parents are proud of?

Just as parents love to hear good things about their sons and daughters, they also love to hear good things *from* their sons and daughters.

In what way can you affirm your parents (step-parent, grandparent, guardian) about their role in your life? Besides Mother's Day or Father's Day or a birthday, when do you take time to really express your love and appreciation for your parents as people, and for their sacrifices and their parenting? How might you improve in this area?

**Joseph listened to the angel's warning because he trusted in God. Write down some of the names of those who you trust.**

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### **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.



**First Reading:** [Gen 15:1-6. 21:1-3](#)

*Your own son shall be your heir.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** [Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R.vv.7.8](#)

**(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:** [Heb 11:8. 11-12. 17-19](#)

*The faith of Abraham and Sarah.*

**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:** [Luke 2:22-40](#)

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

**REFLECTION** by Nick Brodie

In his apostolic exhortation ‘on love in the family’, *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis reminds us that ‘no family drops down from heaven perfectly formed.’ Rather, ‘families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love.’

‘In imitation of the Holy Family,’ the Pope said a few years ago, ‘we are called to rediscover the educational value of the family unit.’ The Holy Family is clearly dear to Pope Francis’ heart. He closes *Amoris Laetitia* with a prayer which partly runs: ‘Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too, may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.’

This image of families as ‘schools of the Gospel’ is a useful one, provided we look with clear eyes.

On the one hand we should strive to love like the Holy Family loved, doing right by each other, sharing life’s journey together, and so on. Meanwhile, we should also learn to love the families of our own times and listen to their needs. Many families experience trials of rejection, hostility, and displacement – just as the Holy Family did – and so our own family has a responsibility to love beyond itself. We must love and care for other families too.

Reading for next Sunday: **The EPIPHANY of the LORD - YEAR B**

*Is 60:1-6*

*Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13, R. see v.11*

*Eph 3:2-3, 5-6*

*Mt 2:1-12*