



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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT—YEAR C

22ND DECEMBER 2024

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

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: Hebrews 10:5-10

I am coming to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?



Each Christmas, Bishop McKenna highlights a grassroots project that transforms lives in places of great need. This year, we are supporting the construction of classrooms on Santo Island, Vanuatu, where students are learning in makeshift tents after devastating volcanic eruptions and cyclones.

Help rebuild hope and create lasting change for these children and their communities. Your donation today can give them the safe, inspiring learning spaces they deserve.

Visit our website to learn more about this vital mission and give the gift of a brighter future this Christmas.

How can I make a difference?

- ⇒ **In Person:** At any parish office
- ⇒ **Post:** PO Box 246, Bathurst NSW 2795
- ⇒ **Phone:** 6334 6400
- ⇒ **Online:** <https://bathurst.catholic.org.au>

Advent Wreath

Today we reflect on Mary's place in God's plan for our redemption. By her cooperation, Mary brought Jesus into the world to be our light.

As we light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath let us pray that through our witness the light of Christ will enter the hearts and minds of those who do not know our Saviour.



Response: COME LORD JESUS

Give your peace to all nations...
Be the joy of all who love you ...
Bless us as we gather here in your name...
Lord Jesus, stay with us ...

Response
Response
Response
Response

Parish Priest
Fr Owen Gibbons
Fr Cong Hoang

Parish Deacon
Rev Charles Applin

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:
Ph 02 6372 1742
Principal: Mrs Angela Myles
www.stmattsmudgee.catholic.edu.au/

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

DATES FOR THE DIARY...

GULGONG

Tuesday 24th December

6.30pm— **Christmas Eve Mass** St John the Baptist Church

KANDOS / RYLSTONE

Wednesday 25th December

9.30am—**Christmas Day Mass** St Malachy's Rylstone

MUDGEES

Tuesday 24th December

6.00pm—**Christmas Eve Mass** St Mary's Church

8.30pm—**Christmas Eve Mass** St Mary's Church

Wednesday 25th December

7.30am—**Christmas Day Mass** St Mary's Church

9.00am—**Christmas Day Mass** St Mary's Church

Gulgong Roster

25th Dec 29th Dec

Commentator	D. Kelly	R. Saliba
Reader	P. Letto	M. McGregor
Sacristan	M & E Carney	TBA
Leader		

Mudgees Roster

Tuesday 24th December / Wednesday 25th December

Commentator	<p>Please see the roster at the back of the church.</p> <p>If you are available to help with the Christmas Masses, please add your name to the roster at the back of the church.</p>
First Reader	
Second Reader	
EMOC	
Altar Server	
Welcomer	
Offertory	
Sacristan	
Counter	

Saturday 28th December / Sunday 29th December

Commentator	<p>Help Needed</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If you are available, please let the office know via phone 6372-2122 or email office.mudgees@cdob.org.au by Friday 27th December.</p>	
First Reader		
Second Reader		
EMOC		
Altar Server		
Welcomer		
Offertory		
Sacristan		
Counter		
Bells	<p>Mon - E. Goodlet Fri - I. Browne</p> <p>Tue—R.Gawthorne Sat - I. Browne</p> <p>Wed - J. Cooper Sun - R. Gawthorne</p> <p>Thu - I. Browne</p>	

DAY BY DAY

Mon, 23/12	Fourth Week of Advent
	<p>Parish Office Closed</p> <p>Unfortunately, the Parish Office is closed today. Please leave any Christmas Masses under the door of the Parish Office.</p> <p>Phone calls will be monitored remotely. Please leave a message and we will return your call.</p>
12 noon	Angelus
Tue, 24/12	Christmas Eve
	Parish Office Open
12 noon	Angelus
6.00pm	Vigil Mass —Mudgees—St Mary's Church
6.30pm	Vigil Mass —Gulgong
8.30pm	Vigil Mass —Mudgees—St Mary's Church
Wed, 25/12	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
7.30am	Mass —Mudgees
9.00am	Mass —Mudgees
9.30am	Mass —Rylstone
12 noon	Angelus
Thu, 26/12	St Stephen, the first martyr—Feast
9.30am	Mass - Mudgees
12 noon	Angelus
Fri, 27/12	St John, apostle, evangelist—Feast
11.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
12noon	Angelus & Rosary
12.30pm	Mass - Mudgees
Sat, 28/12	The Holy Innocents, martyrs - Feast
12 noon	Angelus
5.30pm	Reconciliation
6.00pm	Mass - Mudgees
Sun, 29/12	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - FEAST
8.30am	Rosary - Mudgees
9.00am	Mass - Mudgees
10.30am	Mass - Gulgong
11.00am	Mass —Kandos
12 noon	Angelus

The Pope's Monthly Intentions 2024

DECEMBER - For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year of 2025 will strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



JOKE JUNCTION.....



Q: What did the wise men say after they offered up their gifts of gold and frankincense?

A: Wait, there's myrrh



BAPTISM:

We welcome to our Parish:

Claire Anne Cini
daughter of Robert and Sarah

MUDGEES NEWS

Christmas Church Decorating takes place this Sunday, 22nd December at 2pm. Everyone is welcome to help in getting the church ready for Christmas. Please contact the Parish office if you are able to help, 6372-2122.

Church cleaning for Christmas will take place on Monday 23rd December at 9.30am. Please let the Parish Office know if you are able to help. Parish Office number is 6372-2122.

Parishioners are welcome to open the windows in St. Mary's church for Mass, please be mindful then to close the windows when leaving. As it is "storm season" if windows are left open and there is a storm and rain is blown into the church, water damage could occur.

Important—Parking

During this busy time of year, when parking is hard to find, a reminder that parking on church grounds is only for attending Mass, and/or Church/Parish business. This includes parking in the yard in front of the church and in the parish car park. Throughout the year, parking in front of the church is **only** for those who have mobility issues attending the church.

Your cooperation in this matter is much appreciated.

MUDGEES COMBINED CHRISTIAN CHURCHES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON INC 2024 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH & HAMPERS

At St Johns Anglican Church Hall
6 Church St. Mudgee
All Welcome

Join us for a free Lunch & Fellowship

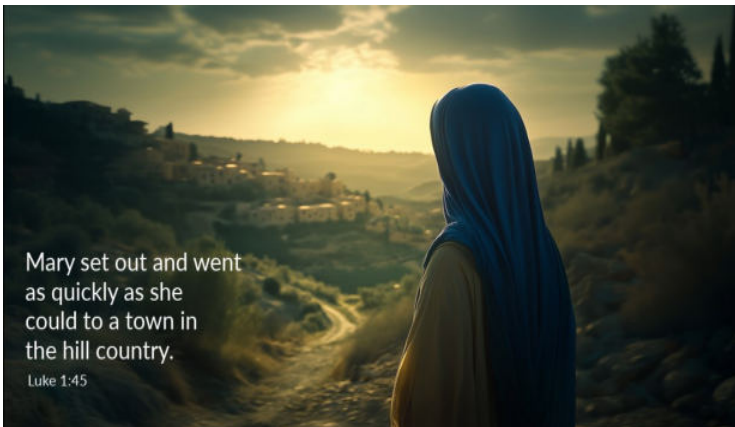
Hampers and Seats are limited

To reserve a seat at the table or to order a hamper, register online with the QR code on the poster or

call Graham—0458242126 or

David—0410838089

RSVP 11/12/2024



Catholic Parishes of Mudgee, Gulgong and Kandos

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

Pope Francis draws our attention to the way that Elizabeth greets Mary with joyful astonishment! He sees this an exemplar of how we should live our faith in this coming festive season. We need to be astonished again!

'To celebrate Christmas in a fruitful manner,' the Pope says, 'we are called to pause in "places" of astonishment.' He offers three examples of what this means.

Firstly, he draws attention to astonished recognition of other people. At a time of year when many of us will reunite with friends and family, we are called to see how 'every face is marked with a semblance to the Son of God.'

The second place of astonishment to which the Pope suggests we turn is 'history'. We need to look beyond markets and finances and see with faith the work of the Lord who exalts the lowly and uplifts the poor. 'The God of Christmas', the Pope quips, 'shuffles the cards' of history. Economics does not rule human destiny, God does.

Thirdly, we should find astonishment in 'the Church'. The Pope longs for us to embrace an understanding of the Church 'that is able to recognise the many signs of faithful love that God continuously sends her.' He hopes that 'Mother Church ... always has her doors open wide, and her arms open to welcome everyone.'

MASSSES AND PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING.

For the recently deceased especially:

Eileen Csuba, Carmen Archer, Clare Van Oploo,

We remember the anniversaries of:

John Gilbert, Doreen Matthews, Aileen Rogan, Janice Bryant, Bernie Stewart, Marie Robinson, Michael Gibbins, Brian Condon, Kim Pilley, Mary Woodhouse, Amy Thomet, George Ashcroft, Adeline McNally, Wayne Morton, Stephen Waterton, Colin Goldspink.

For the deceased, especially at Christmas time:

Ashley Knight, Alm, Cliff & Ashley Thomas, Jack, Julie, Paul & Brain Bennett, Members of the McGuinness & Clayton Families, Lawrence & Margart McGuinness, Graham Hawkins, Kay Daly (Ireland), Nikki & Craig Lynch, Michael Azar, Nauma Buchanan, Blake Pool (Denman), Fr Max Blumenthal, Denis Flynn, Eleanor Bryant. Mick Batson, Denis Matthews, Ken Brown, Elleen Ellsmore, Ervine McDermott, Francis McDermott.

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

Prayers requested for the sick:

Glennie McGrath (Fr Owen's sister), Mary Rheinberger, Fr Peter Dresser, Catrina McGhee, Cathy Ward, Donna Pilati, Kieran Micallef, Daniel Lee, Sigrid Germon, June Ritar, Ron Muscat, Tony Harris, Carla Perrotto, Trish Buckley, Paula Ryan, Horace Saliba, Tony Spina, Lynne Daly, Elizabeth Donnelly, Tracy Donnelly, Joe Saliba, Kim Barry, Tony Dimmock, Aleesha Mosczyiski, Trevor Roberts (England), Iris McBeath, Josephine Debaksta, Dennis Petersen, Carmel Thompson, Rodrigo Jaboneta, and all those in our Nursing Homes.

CHRISTMAS 2024

Helpless but not hopeless



Dear Friends in Christ,

At Christmas, we look to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. The name of the town means “house of bread (food)”. This has great significance for us who believe that Jesus is the bread come down from heaven: for the life of the world. An important detail in Luke’s account of the Nativity is that, after he was born, Jesus was placed in a manger. “Manger” is an old word, no longer in common use, which means feeding trough. From the outset, Jesus is presented as the living bread offered for those who desire to live with God forever.

As our gaze turns to Bethlehem, we grieve for the present reality of the land where the Son of God took his first human breath. The words I wrote earlier this year, at Easter, are still sadly true: “Violence has begotten more violence; and ordinary and defenceless people are being ground up in the unforgiving wheels of history, politics and the arms trade.”

We may feel helpless, but let’s not give in to hopelessness. The true message of Christmas is that a light has shone into our darkened world. God has entered our world to redeem it from within. Each one of us can say yes to this hope every time we say yes to the acts of forgiveness, reconciliation and love that we can decide to do. And we can find the strength to keep doing that when we come to Mass and are nourished by the living bread who is our Saviour.

+Michael McKenna

Bishop of Bathurst



“The Journey of New Beginnings” - by Hunter, St Joseph’s Primary School, Molong - winner of the Bishop’s Award in the Diocese of Bathurst’s 2024 Christmas Story and Art Competition.

HELP BUILD A FUTURE: SUPPORT THE BISHOP’S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Meet Verongo, a dedicated teacher on the island of Espiritu Santo in Vanuatu. Each day, Verongo works tirelessly in a simple UNICEF tent with a dirt floor, teaching children whose lives were uprooted after volcanic eruptions forced their families to flee from neighbouring islands. Her students learn in overcrowded, makeshift shelters, yet their dreams for a brighter future remain alive.

For the past six years, the Diocese of Bathurst has fostered a strong partnership with the Diocese of Port Vila, supporting initiatives that strengthen both educational and community foundations. This relationship has led to meaningful projects, from improved financial stewardship to providing young people from Port Vila the opportunity to attend World Youth Day.

Now, Bishop Michael McKenna, in collaboration with Bishop John Bosco Baremes SM of Port Vila, has pledged to focus the Bishop’s Christmas Appeal on constructing cyclone-resistant classrooms.

Bishop Bosco is eager to offer these children and their families a safe, stable place to learn – a crucial step towards restoring a sense of normalcy and hope.

By supporting the Bishop’s Christmas Appeal, you can help make Bishop Bosco’s vision a reality for Verongo’s students. This Christmas, please consider a donation. Together, we can provide children with a place to learn and build a future they deserve.



The makeshift classroom on the Island of Espiritu Santo where Verongo teaches.

All donations to the Bishop’s Christmas Appeal are Tax Deductible

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SUPPORT THE BISHOP’S CHRISTMAS APPEAL >>>



Reading for next Sunday: **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28

Ps 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10

1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24

Luke 2:41-52