

*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 FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B 25TH AUGUST 2024 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

**First Reading:** [Joshua 24:1-2. 15-18](#)

*We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** [Ps 33:2-3. 16-23. R. v.9](#)

**(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**

The Lord turns his face against the wicked  
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.  
The Lord turns his eyes to the just  
and his ears to their appeal. **(R.)**

They call and the Lord hears  
and rescues them in all their distress.  
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;  
those whose spirit is crushed he will save ? **(R.)**

Many are the trials of the just man  
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.  
He will keep guard over all his bones,  
not one of his bones shall be broken. **(R.)**

Evil brings death to the wicked;  
those who hate the good are doomed.  
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.  
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **(R.)**

**Second Reading:** [Ephesians 5:21-32](#)

*This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:  
you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** [John 6:60-69](#)

*Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.*

### REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

Why did the crowd reject Jesus? They followed him! He fed them! And then they complain and leave. What was that about?

In short, people were scandalised by what Jesus said. They thought differently than Jesus about his mission. They sought earthly triumph over spiritual truth.

An important lesson for us, Pope Francis says, is that 'we must not pursue God in dreams and in images of grandeur and power.' Rather, as the Pope explains, God 'must be recognised in the humanity of Jesus and, as a consequence, in that of the brothers and sisters we meet on the path of life.' This is a hard teaching for many to accept, even among those within the Church.

God, the Pope reiterates, 'asks us to seek him not outside of life and history, but in relationship with Christ and with our brothers and sisters. 'Seeking him in life,' the Pope adds, 'in history, in our daily life ... is the road to encounter with God: the relationship with Christ and our brothers and sisters.'

Therefore, with Peter, and his successor Pope Francis, 'we ask for the grace to let ourselves be provoked and converted.' To whom shall we turn? To our brothers and sisters in need. We need to be open to being Christ to them, for they may well be Christ for us.

#### **Reminder to all Children's Liturgy parents and carers:**

Please scan the **Children's Liturgy QR code** at the front of the church to sign your child in for Children's Liturgy.

**ALL children attending Children's Liturgy must be signed in by their parents or carers.**



**NOTE:** [Sacramental Program](#) sign in, please use the QR code near the Piety Store.

**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](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:**  
Ph 02 6372 1742  
**Principal:** Mrs Angela Myles  
[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		
	1st Sept	8th Sept
Commentator	E. Donnelly	C. Gaudry
Reader	J. Ritar	M. McGregor
Sacristan	TBA	C. Holland
Leader		

**Mudgee Roster**  
**Saturday 31st August/ Sunday 1st September 2024**

Commentator	D. Cunningham	M. Dunnachie
First Reader	D. Delahunty	A. Myles
Second Reader	M. Dorney	M. Cassidy
EMOC	A. Fergus	P. O'Brien
Altar Server		
Welcomer	F. Lupton	Mrs. S. Walker
Offertory	D. Bennett	Children's Liturgy
Sacristan	D. Cunningham	L. Browne
Counter	26th Aug	L. Nicholson

**Saturday 7th Sept/Sunday 8th September 2024**

Commentator	C. Furney	G. Myles
First Reader	St. Matthew's	St. Matthew's
Second Reader	St. Matthew's	St. Matthew's
EMOC	L. Nicholson	K. Cassidy
Altar Server		
Welcomer	C. Carberry	A. Blazevic
Offertory	St. Matthew's	Children's Liturgy
Sacristan	A. Baker	R. Gawthorne
Counter	2nd Sept	
Bells	Mon—E. Goodlet Tue— R.Gawthorne Wed—J. Cooper Thu—I. Browne	Fri— I. Browne Sat— I. Browne/ Fr Owen Sun— R. Gawthorne

**The Pope's Monthly Intentions 2024**  
**August — For Political Leaders**

Pope Francis invites prayers "so that political leaders may serve their people, work for comprehensive human development and the common good, attending to those who have lost their jobs and prioritizing the poorest."



**FATHER'S DAY APPEAL**  
**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT**

Join us in supporting our **retired priests** through the Father's Day Appeal on Saturday 31st August and Sunday 1st September.

A special collection will take place during Mass. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

**LONG SERVICE LEAVE**

Fr Owen will be going on Long Service leave for the months of September, October and November.

Fr Cong will be the Administrator for our parishes during this time.

**MUDGE NEWS**  
**ELECTRIC CANDLE STAND**

**EXCITING NEWS...**

We have a new Devotional Candle Stand for anyone wishing to light a candle for those who have died or for any intention you have. It is next to Our Lady's Altar on the organ side of the sanctuary.



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**Cushions for the pews** are available in a tub at the back of the Church. Please return cushions to tub after use.

**GULGONG NEWS**  
**READERS & SACRISTANS -**

We are looking for people to come forward and assist as Sacristans, to help prepare the church for Mass or Readers at Mass. Please consider helping with these ministries. Just give your name to Marilyn Carney or Carolyn Holland.

Training will be provided.

**KANDOS NEWS**

Prayer meeting weekly on Mondays, will be held at 10am at Rylstone followed by a cuppa.

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Donations are being accepted for a new organ for St. Malachy's church, Rylstone.

Donations will be acknowledged. Please contact Fr. Owen, or the Parish Office, or Louis.

**BAPTISM:**

We welcome to our Mudgee Parish



*Olivia Marie Reardon*  
and  
*Maeve Josephine Reardon*

daughters of Patrick and Nareeda

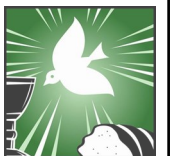
**REFLECTION**

*By Dianne Bergant*

The decisions called for in today's readings are life decisions. The people at the time of Joshua had to decide which god they would worship. The disciples of Jesus had to decide if he was the one who would fulfill their messianic expectations. We have life decisions to make as well. How will we choose?

The choices we make determine the character of our union with God. God called us out of the slavery of sin and protected us throughout the journey of our lives. Jesus walked with us through the challenges of life and performed wonders for us. Why should we look elsewhere? Because we face new challenges. The new demands placed on us may be so great, or the commitment required of us may be so demanding that we feel that we can no longer walk with him. The church may be changing in ways we do not appreciate, or it may not be changing in the ways we believe it should, and so we may feel that we can walk with him no longer.

If we decide to commit ourselves, we will enter into a union with God that is deeper than anything we have previously known. However, this union will be based on faith. We may understand no more than we did in the past, things may be no more to our liking. But, 'to whom shall we go?' Jesus is God's holy one; he has the words of eternal life.



DAY BY DAY	
<b>Mon, 26/08</b>	<b>Twenty First Week in Ordinary Time</b>
	SMCS STAFF RETREAT DAY
10.30am	<b>Funeral</b> - Mudgee
12 noon	Angelus
5.30pm	First Reconciliation
<b>Tue, 27/08</b>	<b>St Monica—Memorial</b>
9.30am	<b>Mass</b> - Mudgee
12 noon	Angelus
5.30pm	Father Owen attending Pastoral Council/ Finance Meeting—Dunedoo
<b>Wed, 28/08</b>	<b>St Augustine, Bishop &amp; Doctor of the Church</b>
10.40pm	<b>Mass</b> — SMCS Secondary
12 noon	Angelus
5.30pm	Reconciliation
5.45pm	<b>Mass</b> - Mudgee
6.15pm	Finance Committee Meeting
<b>Thu, 29/08</b>	<b>Passion of St John the Baptist</b>
	SMCS YEAR 11 LEADERSHIP DAY
9.30am	<b>Mass</b> - Mudgee — SMCS Kindergarten
12 noon	Angelus
12.15pm	<b>Mass</b> — Gulgong — AHS Yr4/5 <i>All parishioners welcome to attend</i>
5.30pm	Pastoral Council Meeting
5.30pm	RCIA
<b>Fri, 30/08</b>	<b>Twenty First Week in Ordinary Time</b>
11.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
12noon	Rosary
12.30pm	<b>Mass</b> - Mudgee
<b>Sat, 31/08</b>	<b>Twenty First Week in Ordinary Time</b>
12 noon	Angelus
4.30pm	Reconciliation
5.00pm	<b>Mass</b> - Mudgee— <i>Father's Day Appeal</i>
<b>Sun, 01/09</b>	<b>22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CREATION</b>
8.30am	Rosary - Mudgee
9.00am	<b>Mass</b> - Mudgee— <i>Father's Day Appeal</i>
10.30am	<b>Mass</b> - Gulgong - <i>Father's Day Appeal</i>
11.00am	<b>Mass</b> - Kandos— <i>Father's Day Appeal</i>
12 noon	Angelus
5.00pm	Word & Faith Group

### YOUTH GROUP!

Thank you to those who have been attending our Parish Youth Group. Please note that the group will **NOT** be on this weekend, Sunday 25th August.



JOKE JUNCTION.....

*Why did the hawk sit on the church steeple?*

*It was a bird of pray!*

### NEXT STEP TAKEN IN EILEEN O'CONNOR'S SAINTHOOD

The archbishop officially signed off on the final decree for the acts of the cause at Cathedral House on Friday, alongside members of the Eileen O'Connor tribunal and the historical commission, who hope the Servant of God will become Australia's second saint.

The decree, and the documents compiled by the tribunal and commission over the last four years evidencing Eileen's case for sainthood, were sent on Monday to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints in Rome.

Diocesan postulator Fr Anthony Robbie has overseen the cause from beginning to end and sealed the necessary documents ready for dispatch to Rome.

Fr Robbie said he has seen the "massive response" of Catholics growing in knowledge of Eileen and turning to her in prayer.

He will travel to Rome with Archbishop Fisher in October to formally present the documentation to the dicastery.

There they hope a Roman postulator will be appointed to take forward the investigation into the cause.

"Now begins the work of researching for a miracle to show God's approval of the work that we've done. We're very zealously pursuing that at the moment," Fr Robbie said.

Eileen O'Connor was born in 1892 and died 1921, aged only 28. She suffered from tuberculosis of the spine, spinal curvature, stunted growth, periods of blindness, long periods of paralysis and extreme nerve pain, amidst other ailments.

Despite this Eileen offered her suffering up to God and dedicated her life to his mission, founding the Our Lady's Nurses of the Poor—known as the "Brown Nurses"—alongside Fr Edward McGrath msc.

In 1936, her remains were transferred from Sydney's Randwick Cemetery to the chapel at Our Lady's Home in Coojee. At the time, her body was claimed to be incorrupt.

She was declared a Servant of God in 2018.

### MASSSES AND PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING.

#### For the recently deceased especially:

Carol Cook.

#### We remember the anniversaries of:

Tony Blazevic, Susan Loneragan, Nell Goodman, Kevin Robinson, Margaret Nevell, Hilda Ryan, Ack Ryan, Meg Cumberland.

#### For the deceased, especially:

Norma Craft, Richard Orth, Dot Robinson, Bishop Kevin Manning, Freddie Solti, Lovro Glavacevic, Klara Glavacevic, Mijo (Michael) Glavacevic Sr, Anka Glavacevic, Djuro (George) Jozicic, Eva Jozicic, Mijo (Michael) Glavacevic, Ana Glavacevic.

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

#### Prayers requested for the sick:

Daniel Lee, Sigrid Germon, Ron Muscat, Carla Perrotto, Joe Saliba, Carmen Archer, Trish Buckley, Horace Saliba, June Ritar, Paula Ryan, Tony Spina, Elizabeth Donnelly, Tony Harris, Tracy Donnelly, Trevor Roberts (England), Iris McBeath, Josephine Debaksta, Lynne Daly, Carmel Thompson, Kim Barry, Dennis Petersen, Rodrigo Jaboneta, and all those in our Nursing Homes.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

### *Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World*

In 1963, the world was on the brink of nuclear war. It was at that time that Pope St. John XXIII issued his groundbreaking encyclical letter, *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth). It was a heart-felt plea to the Church and all people of goodwill for an end to war and for the banning of nuclear weapons. He promoted a peace which is grounded in the inalienable and inviolable dignity of every person. His successors up to the present have echoed the same impassioned plea.

In the 2024 – 2025 Social Justice Statement, “Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World”, Australia’s Bishops scrutinise the signs of our own troubled times, observe the violence around us, and ask why it is so. They also ask what is needed if there is to be peace.

In a world full of pessimism, they put their faith and hope in the possibility of peace

Using scripture and the guidance of Pope St. John XXIII’s *Pacem in Terris* and Pope Francis’ *Fratelli Tutti*, we learn that peace is possible if we put our trust in Christ who is the way, the truth and the life and the Prince of Peace. It is from him that we learn about the architecture of peace. From him, we learn a commitment to the culture of encounter, the value of dialogue at all levels and the importance of seeing everyone as our sister, our brother.

The statement also provides some suggested actions to help us to build on our commitment to be peacemakers locally and internationally.

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*Adapted from Pope Francis’ Fratelli Tutti*

O God, Trinity of love,  
from the profound communion of your divine life,  
pour out upon us a torrent of sisterly and brotherly love.  
Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus,  
in his family of Nazareth,  
and in the early Christian community.

Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel,  
discovering Christ in each human being,  
recognising him crucified  
in the sufferings of the abandoned  
and forgotten of our world,  
and risen in each sister or brother  
who makes a new start.

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,  
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,  
so that we may discover anew  
that all are important and all are necessary,  
different faces of the one humanity  
that God so loves.

AMEN

## REFLECTION

**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE** – by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

When Joshua tells the tribes of Israelites that he and his family have chosen to serve the one true God, he is able to speak on behalf of his wife and children. In his culture children and women are property. Whatever the husband and father says, the wife and children have to agree with.

Do you disagree with any of the opinions that your parents have? Do you and your parents have the same preferences in the area of religious beliefs and practices? Or do you have different styles of faith and prayer? If there are differences, how are they dealt with at home?

Do you think that life would be simpler, better and easier if all children were required to agree with their parents and go along with whatever they say? Why or why not?

When children disagree with parents, what are some respectful and courteous ways to communicate with parents and discuss important issues? How can children and parents get along and deal with huge differences that can separate them and cause negative feelings?

## *Becoming Catholic*

*“The love of Jesus is for everyone; everyone has the same privilege: that of being loved and forgiven.”*

*Pope Francis, Palm Sunday 2022*

The **RCIA, (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)**, is for all those seeking to become members of the Catholic Church.

This journey is for people who have never been baptised, and for those who have been baptised in other Christian denominations. Even parishioners can benefit in being part of their journey.

The non-baptised are prepared in a Catholic parish RCIA program and are joyfully received into the Catholic Church by receiving the three Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Communion, which traditionally takes place at the Easter Vigil.

For those already baptised, they too are prepared and welcomed into full communion of the Catholic Church by receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Holy Communion, which can also take place during Easter celebrations or another suitable season. Catholic who would like to know more about their faith are also welcome. **If you are interested or know someone who is interested, please contact the parish office on 6372 2122.**

*“Our goal must be infinite, not the finite. The infinite is our homeland. Heaven has been waiting for us forever.”*

*Blessed Carlo Acutis*

Reading for next Sunday: **TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-8

Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1

James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23