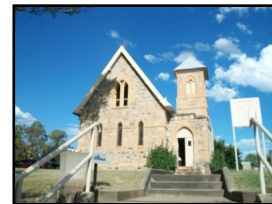


*The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!*

## 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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B 8TH SEPTEMBER 2024 SAFEGUADING SUNDAY

#### First Reading: *Isaiah 35:4-7*

*Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.*

#### Responsorial Psalm: *Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1*

**(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bound down,  
the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger. **(R.)**

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

#### Second Reading: *James 2:1-5*

*Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?*

#### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.  
Alleluia!

#### Gospel: *Mark 7:31-37*

*He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.*

#### REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

##### *Ephphatha*



As we began to welcome the Gospel, we made the sign of the Cross on our foreheads, on our lips and over our hearts. It is meant to be accompanied by the thought: 'May the Gospel be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.' It wouldn't be enough to mentally recite that little prayer. We have to do something physical.

Jesus could not have been more physical than in the story of today's Gospel. He stuck his fingers in the man's ears and touched the man's tongue with spittle, saying the Aramaic word 'Ephphatha', 'Be opened'.

Our Lord could have healed this man with a simple prayer. But he acknowledged the sheer physicality of the person to be cured. We are not angels, but ensouled bodies and that is how our Lord particularly related to this man in need of healing.

It is in the sacrament of Baptism that we imitate the Ephphatha incident in today's Gospel. At one stage, the priest lightly touches the ears and then lightly touches the mouth of the person being baptised. This brings the baptised person into a community formed by hearing and speaking the Word in faith.

We could take a moment to recall the Ephphatha dimension of our baptism. Take your thumb and lightly touch your ears (a parent could do this for an infant) making a prayer along the lines of our baptism:

*'The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the mute speak. May He again touch my ears to receive His Word and my mouth to proclaim His faith to the glory and praise of God the Father. Amen.'*

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

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

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



#### 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		
	15th Sept	22nd Sept
Commentator	R. Saliba	P. Leotta
Reader	C. Golino	D. Hudson
Sacristan	R. Saliba	M. & E. Carney
Leader	J. Thatcher	
Mudgee Roster		
Saturday 14th Sept/Sunday 15th September 2024		
Commentator	A. McLean	L. Croake
First Reader	I. Byrne	A. Myles
Second Reader	P. Cannon	M. Dunnachie
EMOC	C. Furney	R. Croake
Altar Server		
Welcomer	D. Delahunty	M. Gilbert
Offertory	K. Isbester	Children's Liturgy
Sacristan	I. Browne	R. Gawthorne
Counter	9th Sept	K. O'Brien
Saturday 21st Sept/Sunday 22nd September 2024		
Commentator	B. Petersen	A. McLean
First Reader	J. Thomet	B. Redden
Second Reader	L. Nicholson	O. O'Brien
EMOC	I. Bryne	R. Gawthorne
Altar Server		
Welcomer	K. Isbester	M. Dunnachie
Offertory	M. Dorney	Children's Liturgy
Sacristan	L. Nicholson	R. Gawthorne
Counter	16th Sept	M. Walker
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**  
**September — For the cry of the Earth**

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.



Secretaries Seminars	
All the Parish Secretaries in the Bathurst Diocese will be attending a Seminar in Mudgee from 1pm on Tuesday 10th September to 1pm on Thursday 12th September. The office will be closed during this time.	
GULGONG NEWS	
<b>READERS &amp; SACRISTANS -</b> 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.	
MUDGEE NEWS	
<b>Church Cleaning</b> Sunday 15th September after Mass. All volunteers are welcome. ----- <b>Cushions for the pews</b> are available in a tub at the back of the Church. Please return cushions to tub after use.	
KANDOS NEWS	
Prayer meeting weekly on Mondays, will be held at 10am at Rylstone followed by a cuppa. ..... 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.	
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.	
JOKE JUNCTION.....  How does Moses make his coffee? Hebrews it.	

MASSES AND PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING.	
<b>For the recently deceased especially:</b> Carmel Petrie, Greg Birchall, Jay McCarthy, Gwen Morgan, John Muller, Theresa May.	
<b>We remember the anniversaries of:</b> Michael Sheridan, Doreen Fittler, Philomena Loneragan, Gloria Ring, Richard Gawthorne, Cecil Phillips, Newton Daniel, Muriel Bradshaw, Patricia Crowe, Walter Rayner, Charlotte Maxwell, Thomas Parkinson, John Mini, Judy Keightley, Paul Drew, Marjorie Hill, Lynette Ellis, Joan Stuart, Darrell Gorrie, John Tomlinson, Dennis McGrath, Beatrice Candutti.	
<b>For the deceased, especially:</b> Jeff Thurlow, Carol Cook, Norma Craft, Ted Carragher, Richard Orth.	
<b>Masses for Special Intentions, In Thanksgiving and For All the Holy Souls.</b>	
<b>Prayers requested for the sick:</b> Donna Pilati, Kieran Micallef, Daniel Lee, Sigrid Germon, June Ritar, Ron Muscat, Carla Perrotto, Joe Saliba, Carmen Archer, Trish Buckley, Horace Saliba, Paula Ryan, Tony Spina, Tony Harris, Elizabeth Donnelly, Tracy Donnelly, Trevor Roberts (England), Iris McBeath, Kim Barry, Josephine Debaksta, Lynne Daly, Carmel Thompson, Dennis Petersen, Rodrigo Jaboneta, and all those in our Nursing Homes.	

**Living the Gospel**

**Open to compassion**

When Isaiah described the signs by which the Messiah would be recognised, he identified those people who were isolated from society by their physical afflictions. He portrayed a Messiah who released them from those afflictions and allowed them to re-enter society. That is what Jesus did time and time again. In the healing of the deaf and dumb man, Jesus called on all those around him to also be opened – that their hearts may be opened to compassion. Jesus calls to us through today's gospel to also be open to compassion and open to the needs of those around us.

## DAY BY DAY

Mon, 9/09	23rd Week in Ordinary Time
	The office will open at 10am
12 noon	Angelus
1.00pm	SMCS—Ozanam Day
Tue, 10/09	23rd Week in Ordinary Time
9.30am	<b>Mass</b> —Mudgee
12 noon	Angelus
1.00pm	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> Parish Secretary Seminar
Wed, 11/09	23rd Week in Ordinary Time
	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> Parish Secretary Seminar
12 noon	Angelus
5.30pm	Reconciliation
5.45pm	<b>Mass</b> - Mudgee
Thu, 12/09	23rd Week in Ordinary Time
	<b>OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL 2PM</b> Parish Secretary Seminar
9.30am	<b>Mass</b> - Mudgee
12 noon	Angelus
12.15pm	Mass—Gulgong—All Hallows Years 1 & 2 All Welcome
Fri, 13/09	St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor
10.30am	<b>Mass</b> —Whiddon Nursing Home
11.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
12noon	Rosary
12.30pm	<b>Mass</b> - Mudgee
2.00pm	Funeral—Mudgee—Carmel Petrie
Sat, 14/09	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
11.00am	Baptism
12 noon	Angelus
4.30pm	Reconciliation
5.00pm	<b>Mass</b> - Mudgee
Sun, 15/09	24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME CENTACARE SUNDAY
8.30am	Rosary - Mudgee
9.00am	<b>Mass</b> - Mudgee
10.30am	<b>Communion Service</b> - Gulgong
11.00am	<b>Mass</b> - Rylstone
12 noon	Angelus
5.00pm	Word & Faith Group

## RISE REUNION

Do you attend rise this year?

You are invited to attend the Rise Reunion.

A fun fill evening at the Parish Centre on

Friday 13th September

6pm to 8pm

Special Guests Natalia and Rosario

## REFLECTION

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

## Open Your Eyes, Open Your Ears

A major theme of the Scripture readings is 'Open your eyes to God in your life'.

Isaiah tells of the God who works wonders and miracles. In adversity, God is there to give strength in the face of fear. There is nothing God cannot do with regard to human nature or the powers of nature. God heals our deafness and blindness, and makes the dry land burst with water. God is a God of powerful change in our world and in our life.

The responsorial psalm praises God for the many wonders God has worked. God is praised for being just and kind, for lifting up the oppressed, the hungry, the captives. Those who have the least – strangers, homeless people, orphans – God places first. The Lord cares deeply for those in greatest need.

In the Letter of James, we are admonished not to be misled by outside appearances. What is inside is what really counts in the end. Wealthy and well-dressed people are not to be held in more esteem than poor people. Rather, poor people in the eyes of the world are often rich with faith and are the heirs to the Kingdom promised by God.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus restores the gifts of hearing and speech to a man who was both deaf and mute. Thus, Jesus fulfills the promise of the first reading – when the deaf hear and the blind see, God is present. The miracles reveal a God who frees us from the darkness and silence of sin. The miracles also open our eyes to God's wonders and give us a voice to proclaim God's word.



Jesus did many good things, such as healing people and helping those in need. What are some good things you can do for others?

## St Mary's Youth Group

This Sunday at 3pm in the Parish Centre.

Come and have a fun filled afternoon with  
Fr Cong and your Youth Minister Jade.

### Windeyer Catholic Church Notice

Due to the fact that our Windeyer Church has not been used for many years and we have had a very substantial increase in insurance cost for all our church properties, the Finance Committee and the Pastoral Council are discussing the selling of the Church.

The safeguarding of the cemetery for visitation and future use is part of the discussion.



## TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

*The firstfruits of hope*  
(Rom 8:19-25)

**“Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert for our children.”**

*Joint statement from Pope Francis, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury.*

## SEASON OF CREATION REFLECTION

**by Nick Brodie**

One of the most important messages in today's Gospel is that right speech follows from clear hearing. When Jesus cures the man the signs of healing are that his ears open first, then his tongue starts working. As with everything Jesus said and did, this has wider implications for Christianity: a message needs to be heard before it can be proclaimed. Every preacher must be a listener first.

Jesus' vision of a listening Church is expressed many times in the Gospels and has endured throughout the centuries in diverse forms, from local synods to Ecumenical Councils. From long experience the Church learned that by listening to the signs of the times Christians could better proclaim Christ to each new generation.

In our own time, as Pope Francis puts it, the Church needs 'to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'. Environmental and human degradation are everywhere, crying out for remedy. In this Season of Creation we might ask ourselves whether we are good listeners. Do we listen to the warnings of scientists about climatic change, to the stories of climate refugees, or do we block our ears in closed-minded self-interest and ignore Jesus' command, 'Ephphatha' – be open.

*“Every  
conversation  
matters”*

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY  
8 SEPTEMBER 2024



This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that respects the dignity of all children and adults at risk, and empowers and listens to all people, especially those who are vulnerable.

Gracious God,

you love and care for all of your children,  
especially the smallest and most vulnerable.

We entrust to you the lives of children  
and adults at risk who have been sexually abused,  
neglected or exploited and  
whose trust and innocence has been destroyed.

Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take  
responsibility for those whose lives have been broken.

Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those wounded by  
abuse, and the failure to be heard.  
We pray that with the help of your grace communities and  
families will find understanding and support,  
So that now and in the future, their wounds may be  
healed and they may find lasting peace.

Let your grace and love fall gently now upon our children  
and adults at risk, giving them the inner strength, peace  
and resilience to seek out assistance when required.

Help us all to listen with open hearts, so that when  
children and adults at risk speak, they are truly heard.

We ask this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God forever and ever,

Amen

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

Isaiah 50:5-9

Ps 114:1-6, 8-9: R.

James 2:14-18

Mark 8:27-35