

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish



PARISH CHURCHES

Church of the Sacred Heart

Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

River Street, South Murwillumbah

St. Brigid's Church

Broadway, Burringbar

St. Columba's Church

Convent Lane, Uki

PARISH STAFF

Parish Priest

Fr. Anthony Lemon

Parish Manager

Mary-Ann Thackray

Parish Secretary

Beth Gorton

Pastoral Associate

Barbara Grant

PARISH OFFICE

Monday to Friday 9.00am - 3.00pm

Phone: 02 6672 1118

Website: www.shpmurwillumbah.com.au

Email: shpmbah@norex.com.au

Mail: PO Box 45

Street: Queensland Road,
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

PARISH SCHOOLS

Mt. St. Patrick College

Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 2340

mshpmbah@lism.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Paul Clohesy

Mt. St. Patrick Primary School

Mooball Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1821

[murp@lism.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mshpmbah@lism.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Mr. Brendan Ryan

St. Joseph's Primary School

Greville Street, South Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1867

smurp@lism.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Jason Clarke

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR B 17 December 2017

Reaffirming God's promise

In our technological world today, most people are familiar with codes. When we go online to see our emails or download a program, we use a password to gain access. We may be told the password must contain a mixture of numbers and letters, both small and capital. We are told the combination is necessary to make it more difficult for others to hack into our computers. Our passwords are a form of code.

People in the bible also speak in code. In Mark's gospel, Jesus speaks about a mysterious evil figure with the unintelligible name "the desolating sacrilege." We don't really know what this expression means, but people did in Jesus' time. Mark 13:14 reads: "When you see the desolating sacrilege set up where it ought not be (let the reader understand) ...". There are other places in the scriptures where numbers and animals have symbolic meanings that we do not always comprehend.

In today's gospel, John the Baptist speaks in code. When John says he is not the Christ, the Jewish leaders put a series of questions to him about his identity: Is he Elijah or the prophet? He answers these by saying "I am not." When he does answer, he uses those well-known words from the prophet Isaiah: "I am a voice that cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord." Here he is speaking in a kind of code.

Why does the gospel use these words? Why does John quote from the prophet Isaiah? The reasons are not immediately clear to us, but people back then would have understood what he meant. Those words from Isaiah were written more than 500 years before Jesus. They were addressed to a group of Jewish people who were exiled from their homeland and living as captives in a foreign land.

Isaiah spoke as a messenger from God, and was telling them that God was about to intervene in their world, forgive them their sin, free them from captivity and bring them back to their homeland. Isaiah presented a vision of a wonderful future which would be blessed by God.

However, when they eventually returned, the reality did not live up to the vision. They returned to conflict and were still captive, as their land was occupied by a foreign power. Despite this, the people still clung to the idea that at some point in the future, God would again intervene, and this time they would be free and live as a people blessed by God.

John the Baptist uses the words from Isaiah to tell the people that God was about to intervene by sending Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus would free them from sin and bring about the wonderful future promised by God through Isaiah those 500 or so years earlier.

John Hill CSsR © Redemptorists 2017

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THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH 17 - 24 DECEMBER

Sunday	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year B	
	8:00am	<u>Mass</u> - Sacred Heart Church
	10.00am	<u>Mass</u> - St. Brigid's, Burringbar
Tuesday	11.00am	Funeral prayers - Sacred Heart Church for Tom Alder
	<i>No Adoration or 5.30pm Mass in Sacred Heart Church today</i>	
	6.00pm	Rosary - Sacred Heart Church
Wednesday	<i>12noon - 1.00pm Reconciliation - Sacred Heart Church</i>	
	<i>No Adoration or 5.30pm Mass in Sacred Heart Church today</i>	
Thursday	8.30am	<u>Mass</u> - Sacred Heart Church
	5.30pm	Finance Council Meeting
Friday	10.00am	Funeral Prayers - Sacred Heart Church for Diane Bianchetti
	10:00am	Communion Service - M'bah Nursing Home - K Mumford
	10:00am	Communion Service - Heritage Lodge - J Reynolds
	12.15pm	<u>Mass</u> - Sacred Heart Church
	2.45pm - 3.45pm	Adoration - Sacred Heart Church
	7.00 - 8.00pm	<i>Reconciliation - Sacred Heart Church</i>
Saturday	9.00am	Rosary - Sacred Heart Church
	6.00pm	<u>Vigil Mass</u> - Sacred Heart Church
Sunday	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year B	
	8:00am	<u>Mass</u> - Sacred Heart Church
	No 10am Mass today	

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Yr B 23/24 December	Sacred Heart Murwillumbah 6.00am Saturday	Sacred Heart Murwillumbah 8.00am Sunday	COUNTERS: 17 Dec: C & J Anderson 07 Jan: T & P Zambelli 14 Jan: J Morgan & L Green 21 Jan: G & K Bewes 28 Jan: P & R Marr 04 Feb: M & M Cooper 11 Feb: P & L McMahon 18 Feb: U O'Grady & B Brodbeck
Acolyte	J Reynolds	P Marr	
Altar Servers	D & Z Macartney	D, J, R & S Buchanan	
Readers	R Daley (C) P/F P & J Egan R	J Schiller (C) R L Green R P Callaghan P/F	
Ministers of Communion	B Nolan (C) U O'Grady, C Wightley M Reynolds, D Macartney	M & M Cooper (C) P Hyde I & B Dusi	
Hospitality	—————	B McGrouther & F Berg	
Procession of Gifts	R & L Nihill	McCalman family	
Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy	

**CHURCH CLEANING
SANCTUARY & ALTAR**
Sacred Heart Church:
17 Dec: B Gorton,
M Reynolds, M Trevithick
OLPS Church, Sth M'bah
Dec/Jan: MA Thackray

The Sacred Heart Church
'Prayer Chapel' is open for
private prayer on weekdays.

ROSARY STATUE
Evelyn & John Cook 

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
MARY MACKILLOP
CONFERENCE**
meets each Wednesday
at Parish Meeting Centre.
New members welcome.
"Come Grow With Us".
Phone: Marie Donaghy 6672 2933

PARISH "CUPPA"
will resume February 2018

Readings next week: (Year B)
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16;
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION - Sacred Heart:

Saturday : 5.30pm - 5.50pm

Sunday: 7.30am - 7.50am

BAPTISMS:

Sacred Heart Church - 12.00pm

2nd and 4th Sundays of each month

(At least four weeks notice required)

Baptism Preparation Evening:

7.00pm Parish Administration Centre

on 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Next Evening - Tuesday 12th February

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Diane Bianchetti, Michael Bailey, Tommy Alder, Rita Gooley, Glenn Dunne (Brisbane) Dot McDermott, Callum Yeo, Wilma Byrne, Sr Clement, Mary Todd, Greg Halpin.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Mons. Michael Quinn (Murwillumbah PP 1912-1935), Pattie O'Keefe, Robert Turner, Thomas Sterling, Lavinia, Edmund, Frank & David Roche, Betty & Mary-Anne Franks, Rita & Arthur Salter.



NOTICE BOARD

PARISH HALL

Our amazing volunteer Hall Manager, Marie Twohill, is out of action for a little while; so until further notice, please make all enquiries regarding use of the Parish Hall through the Parish Manager, Mary-Ann, on 6672 1118 during business hours.

GIVEAWAY:

Chairs - we have various coloured chairs to give away. Maximum per family - 12. Please contact the Parish Office this week 6672 1118. Office hours 9am - 3pm.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The story of Christmas in word and song featuring St Carthage's Cathedral Choir, Lismore & St Andrew's Anglican Choir, Lismore & prepared by musical director & organist, Warren Whitney.

Sunday 17 December 7.30pm

St Carthage's Cathedral, Lismore.

FREE ADMISSION. ALL WELCOME.

CALENDAR

~DECEMBER~

24 **Christmas Eve**

25 **The NATIVITY of the LORD (Christmas)**

31 **The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary & Joseph -Yr B**

No 10am Mass - 5th Sunday

~JANUARY 2018~

01 **MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD-YR B**

01 **Meals on Wheels - Roster 2**

07 **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YR B**

10am Mass - St Columba's, Uki

08 **Baptism of the Lord**

08 Parish Office Opens for 2018

14 **2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - B**

10am Mass - OLPS, Sth Murwillumbah Baptisms

2018 JOSEPHITE CALENDARS

- On sale in the Sacred Heart Church or at the Parish Office. (\$8.00 each)

CHRISTMAS MASS ROSTER

Volunteers are needed for the Christmas Mass liturgy roster - there are still a few ministries that need to be filled.

If you are available, **please fill in your name in the appropriate place**, on the Christmas roster sheet, at the church entrance.

School Holidays

As another school year draws to a close, we wish all the staff and students of our three Parish Schools, a safe and happy holiday.

CATHOLIC PAPERS

Catholic Leader & Catholic Weekly on sale today - \$2 each

ST CARTHAGE'S CATHEDRAL PARISH LISMORE

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT/ SECRETARY

Applications are invited for the position of Administration Assistant/ Secretary with St. Carthage's Cathedral Parish Office. This position is permanent part time 32.5hrs/week. The successful applicant should have sound computer skills with competency in Microsoft Office applications, including word, excel and publisher. Knowledge of MYOB and Quicken payroll would be an advantage.

For further information, please phone: **The Business Manager 0266 260250 Email: admin@stcarthages.org.au Applications by 4pm Friday 29th December. An equal opportunity employer.**

PLANNED GIVING

Planned Giving contributions may be made by electronic funds transfer. If you would like to make contributions by EFT, bank A/C details are:

BSB 062 580

A/C No. 0090 4506

A/C name: Catholic Church, Murwillumbah

Please include your planned giving envelope number as your reference.

Thank you to everyone who supports the Planned Giving Programme. New contributors are always welcome. Contact the Parish Office on 6672 1118 for more information.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year B

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Ps: 85)

R. Come, O Lord, and set us free.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

ADVENT BANNERS - THIRD WEEK

Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday. Its name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." This is a quotation from Philippians 4:4-5, and in Latin, the first word of the antiphon is Gaudete - "rejoice."

In the readings we hear about miracles associated with the Messianic age, its coming, and what we need to do to prepare. We also learn about the doubts of John the Baptist, how he dealt with them, and the blessing that makes us even more fortunate than John was. We reflect on the ways in which we can help others to follow Jesus more closely in their lives and the symbols for our banner this week are for people who helped to save others; David - a harp; and John - shell and water.

CHRISTMAS PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE:

The Parish Administration Centre will be closed from **3pm Friday 22 Dec until 9am Monday 8 Jan 2018**. If there are any urgent matters during this time, please phone the Presbytery: 02 6672 1118.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL
Sunday 24th December**

7.00pm - Sacred Heart Church

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday 25th December

8.00am - Sacred Heart Church

Reconciliation Times for Advent

I Rite of Reconciliation

Sacred Heart Church

Wednesday: 20 December 12noon - 1pm

Friday: 22 December 7pm - 8pm

II Rite of Reconciliation

Tuesday 19 December - Kingscliff - 6.30pm

CATHOLIC LIFE: December edition

Our diocesan journal is available this weekend.

In addition to the usual features, this issue contains:

- ◆ Homeless at Christmas
- ◆ Bishop Gregory's Christmas message

Catholic Life is also on the diocesan website - www.lismore-diocese.org

Catholic Life is a free of charge publication due to the support of the advertisers. **Please take your copy home today!**

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

In the new year the Mary MacKillop Conference of St. Vincent de Paul will be implementing a new program called the "WE CARE MODEL", which has been in operation in the Coffs Harbour Parish for the past six months. This new program is designed to provide a genuine 'hand up' to the people who come to us for assistance. We meet their immediate needs, but more importantly, we encourage them to take control of their own situation by negotiating on their behalf or directing them to other services that can help them get back on their feet.

This involves answering the phone, making appointments, meeting people and filling in forms, talking to people about their needs, writing vouchers and entering relevant data on the computer.

If you have one or more of these skills we need your help. Whilst we have a wonderful dedicated group of Conference members at the moment, we can certainly use a few more. If you are interested in joining our team, please talk to one of our conference members. You will be welcomed with open arms and offered on the job training.

Mercy the heart of our mission in the Society, is driven by our spirituality. It is the life force that gives purpose to our lay Catholic organisation. We also engage in the simple values of compassion, respect, commitment, integrity, empathy, advocacy and courage. These values are very human and are fundamental to our Catholic Social Teaching. They are imperatives from the gospels calling us to act and give life to others. To be compassionate is the action and the deepest of all compassion is love. Our 'good works' change lives from within, as we reach out to people with material needs. It is through this realisation that the St. Vincent de Paul Society makes the gospel readings from Matthew and the kingship of God a reality.



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Agents: Egan Simpson Solicitors: 15 Prince Street, Murwillumbah.