

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: Paul Reidy

Mt. St. Patrick Primary School

Mooball Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1821

mrp@lism.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Brendan Ryan

St. Joseph's Primary School

Greville Street, South Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1867

smrp@lism.catholic.edu.au

Acting Principal: Kate Salmon (Term 1)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A 29 March 2020

In the very earliest days of European settlement of the Australian Continent, being mindful that there already was a people who called this land home, a group of poor convicts and their masters set foot in Australia. Most of them practised a faith of sorts. Some were even Catholics. Most were denied the practice of their respective faith communities. Most were denied a minister or priest of their choice. The Christians amongst them had to make do. Convict and master alike were deprived of their liberty, their families, their support networks, they had no food, shelter or clothes to speak of. They were completely cut off from England and Ireland.

It's remarkable to discover that our faith community post European settlement was lead by the people themselves. Clergy did not come for some time and when they did they were barred from practice or banished altogether. Convict Christians could not gather at all. Eventually change did come and some form of limited faith practice was allowed, but often without a priest. The people prayed the Rosary and told the story of Jesus and Mary as best they could remember them. They were not encouraged and punished if they were caught. A French priest, who accompanied one of the early vessels said a Mass, he was assisted by a convict priest Fr. Dixon and left a Consecrated Host which was then hidden away from the authorities. The Mass was celebrated at the house of Mr. Davis, which is now in the Rocks, Sydney. The Host remained hidden and secretly adored at the hands of lay men and women. It remained that way for seven long years before another Mass was celebrated. Those early Christians were also very practical and modelled their lives on service and love for others. They knew God loved them and even in their deprivation loved him in return. (*A History of the Catholic Church in Australasia Cardinal Moran 1909*)

The sideboard in which the Host was hidden was on display at the seminary where I studied. It was there to remind us that the church in Australia started and was nurtured by the ordinary faith filled people of God. People just like ourselves.

So when for the first time since the early 1800's we are prevented from gathering and celebrating the Mass and Sacraments, how will we cope, survive and remain faithful? Our first port of call is the example of Jesus and his forty day sacrifice in the desert. Who did Jesus trust in his hour of need? Our faith teaches us that he prayed directly and constantly and without fail to his Father in Heaven. That is what we must do; pray and pray often.

Secondly we need to show love and compassion to our neighbours, friends, the people we encounter when we shop or go to public places. The action of service is a wonderful way to counter negative thoughts, feelings or frustrations.

Thirdly we might try to avoid all forms of blame. I found myself angry and blaming the other day and after my prayer time I realised that blaming doesn't help. We might try and remember that we did not cause the problem, we can't control it and no we can't cure it. All we can do is follow the instructions of our government leaders and medical authorities. As Christians our faith helps us to keep a cool head and that may be a great advantage and comfort to someone who is panicked and fearful.

When Father Doyle, later Bishop Doyle, came to our Diocese it was often 12 to 18 months between visits, Masses and Sacraments. He always encouraged the faithful to pray daily, to read scripture, and teach the little ones the Rosary and Angelus.

Continued on page 4...

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH 29 MARCH - 5 APRIL

NOTICE BOARD

Sunday 29th March

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - Year A

Sunday 5th April

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - Year A

Sadly, the decision has been made this morning that our parish churches, including the Prayer Chapel, will be CLOSED FOR ALL ACTIVITIES – Masses, Rosary, Adoration, Stations of the Cross and private prayer – until further notice.

All church cleaning and communion visitation are also suspended until further notice.

We recommend that any small group activities currently being undertaken (e.g. Lenten groups or prayer groups) should stop for the time being.

We hope and pray that by undertaking these measures we be able to help contain the spread of covid-19 in our parish and local community.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding this update, please phone the parish office.

We will continue to send updates to you by email. We have also commenced sending SMS messages to parishioners who do not have email but do have a mobile; and we will continue to contact others who might only have a home phone.

If you are able to help us with phoning a small group of people with updates, please call Mary-Ann on 6672 1118 or email shpmbah@norex.com.au – we'll provide you with a list of names and contact numbers. We're also planning to do some letterbox drops with weekend bulletins and liturgies, so if you can help with some deliveries of same, we'd be grateful.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Alice Jarvis, Cristina Tobe, Marion Roberts, Ken Buchanan, Noel Mather, Jo Dunne, Colin Fuller.

ANNIVERSARIES:

St Pope John Paul II, Michael Grennan, Iris Johnson.

Readings next week: (Yr A)

PALM SUNDAY

(Entrance: Mt 21:1-11)

Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 - 27:66

*"No single person is more valuable than another, especially when it comes to those with disabilities."
- Pope Francis*

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 DELEGATES

Recently the selection committee met to discern our Lismore diocesan lay delegates for the Plenary Council 2020. We thank the many parishioners who expressed an interest in attending the Plenary Council. The Diocese submitted the names of four highly suitable candidates to the ACBC Plenary Council Committee and two candidates were selected by them from that list. The Diocese is pleased to announce that Dr Deirdre Little, parishioner of St Mary's Parish Bellingen and Miss Ellen Hales of St Francis Xavier Parish Ballina have been discerned as the Lismore delegates for the Plenary Council. Please keep our delegates and all those who are working toward the Plenary Council 2020 in your prayers.



PLEASE NOTE:

**Daylight Saving ends
Sunday 5 April**

*Everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, says the Lord.
- John 11:26*

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

During the season of Lent *Aid to the Church in Need* would like to invite you to "Journey with the Martyrs" through an online Lent calendar.

The Lent calendar features 47 true stories of modern martyrs, witnesses of love, who heroically offered their lives for God and their communities.

Visit: www.aidtochurch.org/lent2020

CHOCOLATE PASCHAL LAMBS

Something special for Easter!



White and Milk Chocolate
Paschal Lambs (Cadbury
chocolate) - \$8.00 each.

To order, phone Philomena
Zambelli 6672 4635.

By purchasing one of these little lambs, you are supporting the Michaelite Mission Priests in Papua New Guinea.

PLANNED GIVING AND DONATIONS WHILST WE CAN'T ATTEND MASS DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

We've had a number of enquiries from parishioners over the past week about how they can continue to make their donations to:

- (i) planned giving (first and second collections);
- (ii) anonymous donations (usually by cash on the weekend plates); and
- (iii) project compassion.

Donations to the First Collection support our priest and the running costs of our presbytery. Donations to the Second Collection support our Parish, including wages, administration expenses & maintenance. There are a few ways that your donations can be made:

- EFT using the bank accounts listed below – *please include a reference on your EFT donation* – your Planned Giving Number or surname will be sufficient.
- placing cash or cheques into your planned giving envelopes and dropping them into the Parish Office (Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm) or into the secure mail box located outside the back door of the Parish Administration Centre (any time)
- simply popping your anonymous cash donation in a sealed envelope and dropping it into the Parish Office or into the secure mail box outside the back door.

Details for EFT donations to our first and second collections are:

First Collection – for our clergy

BSB: 062 580
Account No: 0090 5461
Account Name: Presbyterium Account Murwillumbah Parish

Second Collection – for our parish

BSB: 062 580
Account No: 0090 4506
Account Name: Catholic Church Murwillumbah

For **Project Compassion** you may continue to use your project compassion weekly envelopes or money boxes and bring these donations to the Parish Office after Easter.

If you prefer, you can make your donations directly to Project Compassion by EFT:

BSB: 062 217
Account No: 1047 1471
Account Name: Caritas Australia Project Compassion Diocesan Account



We acknowledge that the time ahead will be financially difficult for many people & organisations in our community, including our Parish; and that it may be difficult for some of you to commit to your regular giving.

Should you have any queries or concerns, please contact Mary-Ann in the Parish Office on 6672 1118 or by email to shpmbah@norex.com.au

We thank you for your continued generosity during this difficult time.

SUNDAY MASS WITH BISHOP GREG HOMEMING ON YOUTUBE LIVE



You are invited to view Holy Mass from 8am live and on demand from your devices at any time afterwards. You can access the livestream by following the link from lismorediocese.org, or going straight to the 'Lismore Diocese' channel on YouTube, or by pointing the camera on your smart device to this digital code:



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Join the 1500 people who have viewed Mass this week on line from around the world and tell your friends and family wherever they may be.

SUPPORTING YOUR SPIRITUAL AND PRAYER LIVES DURING COVID-19

View Mass at Home

There are several options to tune into Mass at home, here are a few:

ONLINE:

- ◆ St Francis Xavier, Lavender Bay (Our Lady of the Way) Mass on Demand comes to you every day from the Jesuit church of St Francis Xavier via the CathNews YouTube channel, view via this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qei01-PBHwU>
- ◆ St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane - Mass live streamed - Weekday 12:30pm (Qld time), Sunday 10:00am (Qld time). Website: www.brisbanecatholic.org.au/multimedia/web-cast
- ◆ Mass on Demand: <http://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>

FREEVIEW TV:

- ♦ Tune in to channel 10 on Sunday mornings at 6:00am for 'Mass for You at Home'.

Continued from page 1...

It was reported that on his way to the Tweed via Brunswick Heads whilst he was crossing the sandbar, a young newly immigrated Irish family accosted him begging for him to baptise all three of their children. He promised on his return he would do their baptisms and any one else who needed his ministry. The news spread quickly and on his return, a Mass was said, several weddings blessed and numerous Baptisms. The faith of the Tweed Valley started very humbly and has since grown into several parishes. We can survive this dreadful time, with love for God and our neighbour. *(Bishop Doyle a Memoir 1909)*

Our Lady Untier of Knots – pray for us

St. Therese – pray for us

St. Patrick – pray for us

St. Joseph – pray for us

With God's blessings

Fr. Anthony Lemon.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - 29TH MARCH



Tawonga is a 10-year-old girl, living with a disability. She lives in a village in northern Malawi in a region plagued by food insecurity and poverty. For most of her life, her parents have struggled to put meals on the table. Tawonga often had to miss school because she was too sick from hunger. The family also faced discrimination in their community due to her disability. Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed. Her family now grows enough food to provide three meals a day, ending the struggle of malnutrition, and helping her thrive at school.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



INVEST WITH PEACE OF MIND www.dif.org.au Phone 1800 802 516

Paying 1.40%

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