

# *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

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## **PARISH STAFF**

**Parish Priest** - Fr. Anthony Lemon

**Parish Manager** - Mary-Ann Thackray

**Parish Secretary** - Beth Gorton

**Pastoral Associate** - Barbara Grant

**Candidate for Priesthood** - Prodeacio Bognay

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## **PARISH OFFICE**

**Monday to Friday 9.00am - 3.00pm**

**Phone:** 02 6672 1118

**Website:** [www.shpmurwillumbah.com.au](http://www.shpmurwillumbah.com.au)

**Email:** [shpmbah@norex.com.au](mailto:shpmbah@norex.com.au)

**Mail:** PO Box 45

**Street:** Queensland Road,  
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

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## **PARISH SCHOOLS**

### **Mt. St. Patrick College**

Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 2340

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

Principal: Paul Reidy

### **Mt. St. Patrick Primary School**

Mooball Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1821

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

Principal: Brendan Ryan

### **St. Joseph's Primary School**

Greville Street, South Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1867

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

Principal: Jason Clarke

## **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY) - YEAR A**

### **19 April 2020**



The Incredulity  
of St. Thomas  
- Caravaggio, 1603

## *Doubting the Easter message*

Although Thomas is called the 'twin', he might be better named Thomas the 'realist'. Unlike the other disciples, Thomas is not about to believe in something as improbable as Jesus rising from the dead unless he has hard evidence. We might even call him Thomas the 'sceptic' who believes only in things he can see and touch.

In John's Gospel, Thomas is presented as someone who does the right thing even in the face of adversity. This is shown when Jesus visits the ill and dying Lazarus. Thomas urges the disciples to accompany Jesus on this difficult mission — even if they might face death: "Let us go that we may die with him" (11:16). Thomas is a person of action who is true to his word. Peter, however, commits himself to follow Jesus to the point of death, but then denies him three times!

Nor is Thomas afraid to express his ignorance and ask the hard questions. At the Last Supper, when Jesus tells the disciples they know where he is going, Thomas bluntly expresses his confusion: "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (Jn 14:5). Finally, from today's gospel, we are presented with both a "doubting Thomas" who is slow to believe, and yet someone who remains open-minded and continues to search for the truth. Once the resurrected Christ appears to him, his response is full-hearted: "My Lord and my God".

Like Thomas, we are people with doubts and questions. Unlike Thomas, we do not have the luxury of walking beside Jesus for three years in his public ministry. Nor do we have the privilege of touching the wounds in the risen body of Jesus, as Thomas did. Yet, in a strange twist of events, Jesus says that you and I are even more blessed than Thomas: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe".

Yet, our faith is not blind belief in things that others tell us. Easter faith is a genuine experience of the risen Lord who always walks with us on the journey of life.

This is especially the case when we experience "crucifixion moments" in our own lives, or when our doubts threaten to overwhelm us. As Thomas' own experience teaches, doubt is not the opposite of faith, but its pre-condition, leading us to search for the 'hidden God' who is closer to us than we are to ourselves.

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# This week in the Parish 19 - 26 April

Sunday 19	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY) 9am - Mass livestreamed with Fr. Anthony
Thursday 23	12 noon - Mass livestreamed with Fr. Anthony
Friday 24	12 noon - Mass livestreamed with Fr. Anthony
Saturday 25	ANZAC Day 9am - Mass livestreamed with Fr. Anthony
Sunday 26	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER 9am - Mass livestreamed with Fr. Anthony

**Please Note:**  
**Change of Mass times**

## Readings this week: (Yr A)

### SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - Yr A

Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pet 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - Yr A

Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pet 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

*Continued from page 1...*

Pope Francis says by living our faith in loving service of others "many doubts vanish because we feel the presence of God and the truth of the Gospel". In other words, Easter faith is less about a set of beliefs than a way of life leading us to ever deepening discipleship.

Gerard Hall SM © Magellan 2020

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## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Gerald Daly (brother of Trish McDonald - Casino)

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Bishop John Satterthwaite (4th Bishop of Lismore),  
Monsignor Eugene Harley, Nancy McDonald,  
Stuart Charman.

## MAKE A SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

An ancient practice of the Church for those who cannot be present at Mass is to make a spiritual communion. We have a simple prayer you can pray with longing in your heart to be united to Jesus.

### PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present  
in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive You  
sacramentally, come at least spiritually  
into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.

*Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,  
and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.*

*- John 20:27*



THANK YOU!



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2020.

If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back to the Parish Office between 9am - 3pm Monday to Friday.

Through your generosity you will be empowering the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

[www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion)

#projectcompassion 1800 024 413

## 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:

- ♦ Fr Anthony is livestreaming weekday and weekend Mass from the Sacred Heart Church for you at home this week. Times are printed on page 2 of this bulletin. Our Sacred Heart Parish YouTube channel is:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQUNxgD05WeZpoYNeJK24gA>
- ♦ Bishop Greg Homeming is livestreaming Sunday Mass at 8:00am from the Cathedral. You can access the livestream by following the link from [lismorediocese.org](http://lismorediocese.org) or going straight to the 'Lismore Diocese' channel on YouTube.
- ♦ 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'.



For your reference, we're repeating Bishop Greg's Pastoral letter from 27 March, as we know some of you may not have received it on 29 March. It a great summary of what we can & cannot do at the moment.



## BISHOP GREG'S PASTORAL LETTER

### 27 MARCH 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters

The last few weeks have been very difficult for all of us. From the end of January, I've had to remove more and more things from our churches and finally, in the last week have had to cancel Sunday and weekday masses and close our churches. This has been a great sadness for all of us. We have had no choice but to comply with Government directives, which I believe are for our well-being.

I thank you for your patience and on-going commitment to the Church. I know that you have many questions about the sacraments, pastoral care, schools and more generally spiritual well-being.

This Easter, there will be no public masses, however the priests will say masses privately. The Easter Triduum in the Cathedral and some other Parishes will be live-streamed. We will let you know how to access live-streams as soon as possible. The Chrism Mass has been postponed to 17 November 2020.

We are not able to have baptisms until further notice. Should there be an emergency please contact your Parish Priest.

We are not using our churches for funerals, however the priest may attend at the place of burial for prayers. Your Parish Priest is willing to say a private funeral mass for your loved one, and will be able to say a funeral mass for you all in church once the danger has lifted.

Weddings are still possible provided that they are restricted to the couple, the two witnesses and the Priest, however it is possible that the directives might change.

In regard to Reconciliation, we are not able to gather groups of people and therefore, the Second Rite of Reconciliation is no longer possible. For the safety of the priest and the penitent, the required social distancing must be followed.

The Church teaches that, when it is impossible to go to Confession, all that is required is an act of contrition and a promise to go to confession in the future.

In regard to Anointing of the Sick and of Viaticum, the Sacred Penitentiary in Rome has advised, "The Church prays for those who find themselves unable to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and of the Viaticum (Communion), entrusting each and every one to divine Mercy by virtue of the Communion of Saints and granting a Plenary Indulgence on the point of death, provided that they are duly disposed and have recited a few prayers during their lifetime."

Without specialised protective apparel it would be unsafe for our priests to anoint people with COVID-19. In fact, should they anoint without the appropriate protective apparel they would have to self-isolate for 14 days. As a consequence, we will not be able to anoint people with COVID-19.

For their own safety, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist are not to take Holy Communion to the sick.

Your Parish Priest will continue to provide pastoral care. Please telephone him if there is a need. The Diocese and Parishes are placing material on the internet so that there will be online spiritual support. This includes Mass, prayers and other spiritual items.

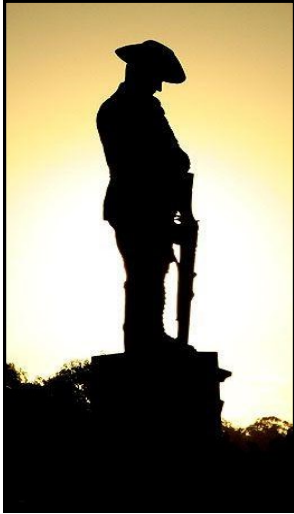
Many of our school students are now studying from home. Online teaching is being prepared. Online assistance for parents is also being prepared.

Until the emergency is over, I will offer daily mass for each of you. I will also spend more time in prayer asking Our Heavenly Father to take all fear from your hearts, to fill you with gentleness and peace, to give you and your loved ones His protection and to bring healing to those who contract the virus. I would be very grateful if you would remember me in your prayers.

+ Greg

*Most Revd Greg Homeming OCD*  
**Bishop of Lismore**

# ANZAC DAY



This day of commemoration goes beyond the anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli in 1915. It is the day we remember all Australians who served and died in all wars, conflicts and peace keeping operations.

The spirit of ANZAC, with its human qualities of courage, mateship and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity.

**Mass on Anzac Day will be celebrated at 9.00am and livestreamed from the Sacred Heart Church on our YouTube channel.** Parishioners are encouraged to watch the Anzac Day Mass to remember and pray for all who lost their lives in the various wars in which Australia has been involved, those who are currently serving in the Defence Forces overseas and to pray for world peace.

## Ode of Remembrance

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,  
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning  
We will remember them.  
Lest we forget.

### PLANNED GIVING & DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who continues to make their donations to the Parish and Clergy Fund through the current crisis. Your continued support is much appreciated.

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

**First Collection** – for the support of our clergy and upkeep of the presbytery

BSB: 062 580 | A/C No: 0090 5461 | A/C Name: Presbyterium A/C Murwillumbah

**Second Collection** – for support our Parish, including parish office wages, administration expenses and maintenance of our churches and parish buildings

BSB: 062 580 | A/C No: 0090 4506 | A/C Name: Catholic Church Murwillumbah

Please include a reference on your EFT donation – your surname and/or PG number e.g. *Jones PG 123*

Envelopes and cash donations may also continue to be left in the secure mailbox at the back door of the Parish Office. Thank you.

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

The Parish Office remains closed to the public for the time being BUT our team are still working Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm to assist you in any way we can and to answer any of your queries or concerns by phone and email. T| 02 6672 1118 E| [shpmbah@norex.com.au](mailto:shpmbah@norex.com.au)

### STAYING CONNECTED

If you can, please reach out – stay connected - with each other – perhaps phone someone who normally sits near you at Mass to say hello; text or email someone to see how they're getting on.

Thank you to our team of volunteers who are helping to "letterbox drop" printed copies of parish bulletins to parishioners who don't have internet/email access – we appreciate your help very much. If you're talking to someone who might not have an email address, ask them if they're receiving the bulletin each week and if not, we can add them to our list!

If you are aware of someone who has an email address and is not receiving our emails, please let us know.

If you are aware of someone who needs some practical help with shopping or help in getting to an appointment, again let us know and we'll see what help we may be able to offer.

With no chance of face to face meetings or catch-ups after Mass at the moment, let's look at other ways to stay connected; for example– the Parish Finance Council will be meeting via Zoom this month. Perhaps this is a way that other Parish groups could stay connected too. If you need help getting set up for Zoom, give us a call and we'll help you get set up! FaceTime, Skype and WhatsApp are other possibilities for group catch-ups.

### CATHOLIC WEEKLY AND CATHOLIC LEADER

Digital editions are now free while churches are closed.

**Catholic Weekly link:** <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/catholic-weekly-newspaper-online/>

**Catholic Leader link:** <https://catholicleader.com.au/digital-newspaper-covid19>



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**Paying 1.10%**

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