

# *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:** [shpmurah@norex.com.au](mailto:shpmurah@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

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

Principal: Paul Reidy

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

Mooball Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1821

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

Principal: Brendan Ryan

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

Greville Street, South Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1867

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

Principal: Jason Clarke

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**- YEAR A**

**3 May 2020**

### *The Shepherd's Voice*

Everyone knows that the Dalai Lama instructs his followers not to use violence against those who oppress them. He opposes violent rebellion against the authoritarian rule of the Chinese over Tibet.

Our Lord was just as strongly opposed to the use of violence against those who oppressed the Jewish people of his day. He opposed violent rebellion against the authoritarian rule of the Romans over Israel.

This stance permeates all that Jesus did and comes through many of his parables and stories, but sometimes we can miss allusions to this teaching. Today's gospel is no exception.

We are all very familiar with Jesus playing with the image of shepherding, sometimes making himself the gate of the sheep yard in which the sheep were protected during the night.

Another image he uses depends on the fact that in Jesus' time, as today around Jerusalem, the flocks are small (thirty or so) and the shepherd leads from the front: they follow him, or more precisely, the sound of his voice. If they follow that voice, and no other, they will be safe and will reach good pasture.

Whose other voices might try to mislead the sheep?

Jesus describes them as those of 'thieves and brigands'.

In John's gospel, two people are actually named, one as a thief, another as a brigand. The first is Judas, the second is Barabbas, and both were involved in violence.

Judas, the thief from the common purse of the disciples, eventually betrays Jesus and does so with violence. He led a sizeable group of temple guards and some Roman soldiers to the Garden of Gethsemane to take Jesus by force.

Peter tried to prevent Jesus being snatched away by this armed force. He drew his sword and wounded one of the High Priest's servants. Jesus immediately rebuked Peter. Why?

Jesus knew that Peter was to become the shepherd of his flock of followers. Shepherding the flock of Christ's followers is completely incompatible with the use of violence.

Barabbas was a brigand. Other gospel writers make it clear that he was a leader of an insurrection against Roman rule. Our Lord knew that armed rebellion against the Romans would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersal of the Jewish people (about forty years later). This 'brigand' was not acting in the best interests of the flock of Israel, but would actually lead to the death of many and the remnant being scattered throughout the world. He was no true shepherd.

So, there is much more to the contrast between the 'Good Shepherd' and 'thieves and brigands' than first meets the eye. Jesus is warning his followers against the seductive voices of those who advocate the use of violence.

In particular, the successor of Peter should echo the voice of Jesus the Good Shepherd and no other. Peter was entrusted by Our Lord with the words 'Feed my lambs; feed my sheep'. Peter and his successors are the shepherd of Christ's flock. That is why they carry a crozier – a shepherd's staff with a hook at the top to rescue lambs which have fallen down a gully.

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# This week in the Parish 3 - 10 May

Sunday 03	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9am - Mass livestreamed with Fr. Anthony
Thursday 07	12 noon - Mass livestreamed with Fr. Anthony
Friday 08	12 noon - Mass livestreamed with Fr. Anthony
Sunday 10	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9am - Mass livestreamed with Fr. Anthony

## Readings this week: (Yr A)

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - Yr A

Acts 2:14, 36-41; 1 Pet 2:20-25; Jn 10:1-10

### FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - Yr A

Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pet 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Joy Armour, Sr. Martha Casserley PBVM, Patricia Burgoyne, Paul Reynolds. Gerald Daly.

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Bishop John Carroll (2nd Bishop of Lismore), Fred Lizzio.

## THE MONTH OF MAY

In celebrating the annual cycle of Christ's mysteries, the Church honours with special love Mary, the Mother of God, who is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son.

The month of May includes several Marian Feasts and is a special time of honour and devotion to Mary.



## PROJECT COMPASSION CONCERT

- Saturday 9 May from 4pm - 5pm

Australian musician Gary Pinto will lead a free online concert for Caritas Australia's Project Compassion campaign, bringing Australian and international musicians direct from their homes to yours, including Australian stars Diesel, Reece Mastin, Matt Gresham, Emma Pask, Carmen Smith, Nashville-based Bobby Lee Stamper and many others.

Pinto is an ARIA award-winning and multi-platinum selling record artist and a musical mentor to the stars. He wrote a poignant song, *Walk With Me*, for Project Compassion before COVID-19 became a global crisis. It focuses on walking in solidarity with those most marginalised and celebrating the dignity of every person globally.

### Are You Watching Us on YouTube?

Several people have commented that if they don't watch the live-stream they then can't find the Mass of the day on our YouTube channel. This happens because YouTube process all videos and live-streams. They are processed into a number of different grades so that every user, even users with poor Internet can watch uninterrupted. Normally this process takes only a few hours. Due to the massive usage of YouTube, at the moment, the processing now takes about 12 - 14 hours. Therefore you won't get to see Mass until the next day. This is an inconvenience for us but it's worth being mindful that the YouTube company charge us nothing to use their service.

## 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 above. Our Sacred Heart Parish You Tube channel is:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQUNxgD05WeZpoYNeJK24gA>
- ◆ Bishop Greg Homeming is livestreaming Sunday Mass at 8:00am from the Carmelite Monastery. 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'.

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Over the centuries, the cacophony of voices enticing the Church to use violence against its perceived enemies has sometimes drowned out the voice of Jesus. Some Popes have found the voices of the 'thieves and brigands' of this world more attractive.

We have all seen photos of the Swiss Guards resplendent in their colourful uniforms at Papal ceremonies. They are the last remnant of the mercenary forces which Popes hired to fight their wars to control much of the territory of central Italy.

They now guard popes of the modern era who seem to be listening more attentively to the Good Shepherd, as they should, for they are the successors of St Peter who was instructed: 'Feed my lambs, feed my sheep'.

Let us join them in the listening.

Let us attune our ears to the sound of His voice and tune out the voices of the thieves and brigands of this world.

Let us follow Him so that He may lead us to pastures where the whole of humanity can have life and have it ever more abundantly. Alleluia!

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

## Honouring our first two priests, 200 years after their arrival

Australia's first two Catholic priests arrived on May 3, 1820.

**On Sunday, exactly 200 years later, they will be honoured at a Mass at 10:30am at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. The Mass will be livestreamed via the St Mary's Cathedral You Tube channel.**

Fr John Joseph Therry and Fr Philip Conolly sailed from Cork, Ireland, on a ship carrying more than a hundred convicts and were authorised by both Church and state to celebrate Mass in Sydney. Their arrival on May 3, 1820, came after decades of hostility in which public Masses were forbidden in New South Wales.

While Fr Conolly only remained in Sydney for less than a year before being sent to Tasmania, Fr Therry spent more than 40 years in the city and left a remarkable legacy, helping to establish the first church where St Mary's Cathedral now stands.

## 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.

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 "letterbox drop" 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.

## 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>

## GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

### - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

*"I will give you shepherds after my own heart" (Jer.3:15)*



Occurring on the fourth Sunday in the Easter Season, Good Shepherd Sunday derives its name from the day's gospel reading (John 10:1-10) where Christ is described as the "Good Shepherd" who lays down his life for his sheep.

*"Dear friends, on this day in particular, but also in the ordinary pastoral life of our communities, I ask the Church to continue to promote vocations. May she touch the hearts of the faithful and enable each of them to discover with gratitude God's call in their lives, to find courage to say "yes" to God, to overcome all weariness through faith in Christ, and to make of their lives a song of praise for God, for their brothers and sisters, and for the whole world. May the Virgin Mary accompany us and intercede for us." - Pope Francis, World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 2020.*

**A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS** You might know of a young person in the parish, in your family or an acquaintance whom you think would make a good priest or religious. Why not pray for them by name on a regular basis? Carry them with you 'spiritually' to Mass on Sunday (when Masses resume). Sometimes the Lord uses us as his instruments to encourage vocations. Read Pope Francis's message for the 2020 World Day of Vocations: [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/vocations/documents/papa-francesco\\_20200308\\_57-messaggio-giornata-mondiale-vocazioni.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/vocations/documents/papa-francesco_20200308_57-messaggio-giornata-mondiale-vocazioni.html)

## VOCATIONS SUNDAY

About two years ago Bishop Greg appointed me to the vocations team for our diocese, the younger priests on the team are doing a great job as is Fr Peter Wood the Director of Vocations for our Diocese. As a member of this committee I encourage the other members to see vocations as more than just the priesthood and religious life, even though they are vitally important and integral to the life of the church

I personally am more interested in the vocation of all the Baptised. In the mid 1950's Pope Pius XII wrote a beautiful document on the Mystical Body of Christ. In many ways this document was a precursor to the work of the Second Vatican Council. Our Church has always taught us that when we are baptised we become members of the Body of Christ, each human person will bring his or her own God given gifts to the world for the service of the world. We live our vocations as Christian men and women by:

1. By becoming more aware of people who come into our lives
  2. By becoming aware of the simple needs of these people and then acting to do something about those needs.
  3. By taking actions to eliminate from life the things which would insult the dignity, the value and destiny of any person.
  4. By making efforts to create an atmosphere in which it will be easier for people to live a happy, human life in accordance with their God-given dignity and value
  5. By assisting others to come to a personal friendship with God who loves them intimately and who created them.
- (The Mystical Body by Rev. James Anderson 1958)*

In other words each of us has a vocation to holiness, wholeness of life and service of others. I am a strong believer that if we all live our vocations to the fullest, then from the local church, the local gathering of Christ's faithful, God will call forth from amongst us those to serve at the altar and religious life.

Finally and most importantly is the amazing vocation to holiness which is the Sacrament of Marriage. It is within marriage that Saint John Paul II, says resides the most humble presence of Christ and the Church. The couple make Christ present to each other and teach their children in the ways of God.

We are all invited to see this "Good Shepherd Sunday" as the call to each of us to a life of holiness and service. It is far wider than just us priests and religious. We are all members of the Mystical Body of Christ, together, we are the people of God.

Fr. Anthony



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**Paying 1.10%**

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