

# *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

## **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

**- YEAR A**

**24 May 2020**

### *The space between science & religion*

Soviet cosmonaut, Yuri Gagarin, was the first man to rocket into space. In 1961 when he returned to earth he said: "I went up into space but I saw no angels and did not meet God." Similarly, Gherman Titov, whose mission followed Gagarin's a few months later, gave speeches to large crowds at the 1962 World's Fair in Seattle that included a similar sentiment.

It is a recurring theme in Western pop culture to oppose science and religion: science gives us concrete, indisputable knowledge, whereas religion gives us stories and dreams. Jesus's miracles, his resurrection from the dead and his ascension to the right hand of the Father: these contradict what science knows about the world. Such beliefs are therefore impossible; they are pie in the sky fantasy.

The world is a closed, coherent system of physical cause and effect; there is no place for God, for spiritual beings like angels or demons; no heaven or hell; no goodness or evil beyond or above the human mind. There is only the world that science studies, the physical world that can be measured and accurately predicted, the world that can be controlled, harnessed for human-specific ends.

Such is the story that scientism, an ideology, tells itself and anyone else who will listen. (Science in itself tells no story at all; it only uses specific methods to make observations and draws conclusions based on specific assumptions.) Scientism is based on a myth. In fact, any ultimate explanation of reality, good or bad, weak or strong, profound (like religion) or unsophisticated (like scientism), demands an organising story-intelligence. We always require "myth" to give a frame and a context that allows us to organise our kinds of knowledge, like science.

The Ascension: Jesus "was lifted up, and a cloud hid him from their sight." Was Jesus the first spaceman, riding his invisible rocket up into the sky? If so, he would have fallen back down. And if he could have lived to tell, he would have said, like the Soviet cosmonauts, that he did not see God up there above the clouds. Or rather, was the cloud that hid him the "cloud of glory" that enshrouds the unapproachable Almighty God?

Was the heaven he entered the heaven that the physical sky above symbolises, reflects, points to, makes manifest? I, for one, do not doubt that on that day, two millennia ago, Jesus, risen from the dead, ascended physically into the sky before the eyes of his astounded followers. Science cannot tell me if the Ascension is true or false. The Ascension, however, gives science all the room it requires to do its work. So which approach to reality? Scientism or religion, is the more sophisticated, more coherent, more in touch with the way things really are?

W Chris Hackett CSsR @Magellan 2020

*Reprinted from the Sunday Majellan with permission)*

# This week in the Parish 25 - 31 May

Sunday 24	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD 9am - Mass livestreamed with Fr. Anthony
Monday 25	OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS
Thursday 28	12 noon - Mass livestreamed with Fr. Anthony
Friday 29	12 noon - Mass livestreamed with Fr. Anthony
Sunday 31	PENTECOST SUNDAY 9am - Mass livestreamed with Fr. Anthony

## Readings this week: (Yr A)

### THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - Yr A

Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20

### PENTECOST SUNDAY - Yr A

Gen 11:1-9; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39

Please keep Fr Anthony in your prayers as he celebrates his 27th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on 28th May.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Peter Griffiths, Ursula Mills, Noeline Mayberry, Dina Zambelli, Vonnie Walker, Theresa French, Joy Armour, Sr. Martha Casserley PBVM.

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Kelvin Godwin.

## PARISH OFFICE RE-OPENING UPDATE...

The Parish Office will re-open on Monday 25th May at 9am. Office hours will be as usual 9am - 3pm, Monday to Friday.

**THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LISMORE** is seeking applications from suitably qualified persons for the exciting new role of **Catholic Chaplain, Mid North Coast Correctional Centre** (Kempsey NSW).

A Chaplain is required for a position of 70 hours a fortnight to provide high quality transformational pastoral care and spiritual support to inmates, their families/carers, and staff. The Chaplain works inclusively with people of diverse backgrounds, issues and needs, of faith or not, to sustain and empower the individual to enable holistic wellbeing and care.

The successful applicant will be an essential support to the Diocese's Vision and Mission in a dynamic community. For further information please contact the Diocesan HR Manager on 02 6621 9444 or [jobs@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:jobs@lismore.catholic.org.au)

**Applications close 5pm, Wednesday 3 June 2020.**



"Go therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. (Matt 28:19-20)

## 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'.



O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.

We commit to your intercession all the members of our community beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.

We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.

We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.

We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.

Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!

## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

**FEAST DAY - MONDAY 25TH MAY**

This feast has been celebrated in Australia since 1844 but the history to this day dates back to the start of the 1800's.

The infant church in Australia had a special reason for turning to Mary. No priests were sent to the colony in its early days and Mass was not allowed except for one brief year until 1820. It was largely the Rosary in those early days that kept the faith alive. Catholic Australia remained faithful to Mary and was the first nation to choose her under the title Help of Christians, as principal Patroness.

The Church has traditionally focussed on two aspects of Our Lady's help on this feast day. Firstly, upon the role of Our Lady's intercession in the fight against sin the life of a believer. Secondly, Our Lady is one who assists Christians as a community, through her intercession, in fighting against anti-Christian forces. The feast, normally celebrated on the 24th will be celebrated on Monday the 25th this year to avoid a clash with the feast of the Ascension.

This year as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to affect Australians' lives, including their worship, the Catholic bishops will entrust the country to the care of Mary Help of Christians on her feast day. Bishop Gregory will do this at his 8:00am Mass on Sunday.

## Mt St Patrick College, Murwillumbah

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the position of:

### PRESIDING OFFICER HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

*for Term 4 2020*

Some training and preparation during Term 3



#### Selection Criteria:

- ♦ Applicants need to be willing and able to participate in some training.
- ♦ Supervision of other HSC Supervisors.
- ♦ Be confident in addressing students and treat all areas of the role with confidentiality.
- ♦ The successful applicant must provide a current NSW Working with Children Check number.
- ♦ Must have a full driver's license.
- ♦ Must not have volunteered in the College for any other role ie Canteen etc.

Applications together with complete resume and contact details of at least three referees to be sent to:

**Principal - Paul Reidy, Mt St Patrick College**

**PO Box 105, Murwillumbah NSW 2484**

**Enquires please phone: (02) 6672 2340**

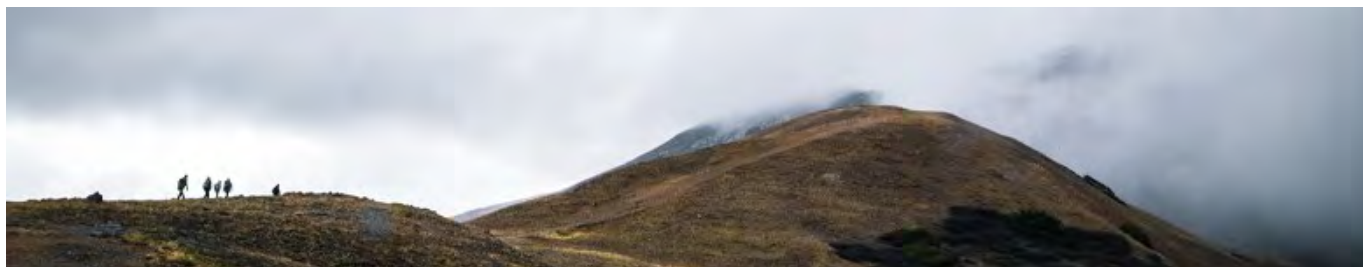
**Email applications to: [mshpcmbah@lism.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mshpcmbah@lism.catholic.edu.au)**

**Applications must be received by 9.00am Friday 28th May 2020**

Child protection legislation requires preferred applicants to be subject to employment screening.

An Equal Opportunity Employer





## GOSPEL REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The short gospel passage for today is taken from the final words of the gospel of Matthew. It is known as 'The Great Commission' as Jesus is portrayed commissioning his disciples to go out to the world and spread the good news. They are charged to 'Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations.' This is the basis of much of the missionary work of the Church that has gone on ever since then.

However, the focus of today's feast is much more on the first reading than the gospel. The opening verses of the Book of Acts, from the author of Luke-Acts, describe the final instructions of Jesus to his disciples and then his 'lifting up'. The Luke-Acts writer is the only gospel writer to actually describe the Ascension. The fact that the other gospels don't discuss the Ascension in any detail at all is a good indication that this description should not be taken literally.

However, the message of the Ascension is a powerful one. It reminds us that Jesus, the human incarnation of God on earth, was limited to a specific time and place in history. Despite the physical limitations of his life on earth, Jesus ensured that his message and ministry would continue through those he had taught. Knowing that the disciples would need time to grieve and come to terms with all that had occurred in a relatively short space of time, Jesus promised that the Spirit would come upon them in the days to come. That visiting of the Spirit upon the disciples at Pentecost was the motivation to set about doing what Jesus had charged them to do. Without the Ascension, there is no Pentecost.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - NOW A 51ST!

Unfortunately the planned 50th anniversary celebrations for St Joseph's in August will not take place this year due to COVID-19 restrictions and the uncertainty of when mass gatherings will be permitted again.

We will now be holding a 51st Anniversary in 2021! Date to be advised. The organising committee ask that our community members past and present continue collecting and sending any memorabilia, photos etc in to school. While the date may have been set back the preparations are continuing!



## DIOCESAN SUPPORT FOR THE 2019 BUSH FIRES - UPDATE

The Diocese has now distributed all monies received by the Bishop's 2019 Bush Fires Appeal. As you will recall the Diocesan Fire Appeal 2019 was established to support those affected within the Lismore Diocese by the bush-fires that occurred at the end of 2019.

The Bishop wrote to all local councils who distributed the Diocesan pro-forma claim form to those affected in their area. Assistance was provided to 171 affected households from within the Diocese, totalling \$85,500.

A \$40,000 donation was made to Rotary Casino who distributed it to Blaze Aid for the clearing of fence lines. This resulted in the clearing 41km of damaged fences on affected properties. Business support was also provided to the Willawarrin General Store and Macleay Valley Rural Store (\$10,000 each), and Northern Agriservices – to replace the fence around the Rappville cemetery (\$1,377).

### SUMMARY

The Diocesan Fire Appeal 2019 has now been closed after raising a total of \$148,276.58, of which \$146,877.20 was distributed to bush fire affected families and businesses. The balance of funds remaining being \$1,399.38, will remain in the Bishops Disaster Relief fund for future use.

The support was greatly appreciated by the recipient communities. We are grateful to generous parishioners who supported the Bishop's Appeal.



**INVEST WITH PEACE OF MIND** [www.dif.org.au](http://www.dif.org.au) Phone 1800 802 516

**Paying 1.10%**

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



# *Sacred Heart Parish*

## *Murwillumbah*

22 May 2020

Dear Parishioners

Bishop Gregory Homeming has provided the following provisions and guidelines for all parishes in our Diocese. Over the coming week we will review these provisions and guidelines and make some decisions about how we can provide our Parish access to these new provisions in the safest environment.

### Provisions:

1. No public Mass is permitted. The dispensation from Sunday obligation continues.
2. Private Masses may be celebrated in church with ten invited people attending the Mass.
3. Other gatherings, by invitation, are permissible inside churches for not more than ten people.
4. Weddings may be conducted with ten people attending in addition to the celebrant and the couple;
5. Funerals should continue to be conducted at the Funeral Home, Crematorium or Graveside. This is on the advice of local funeral directors and it will be reviewed in three weeks.
6. Individual Baptisms with 10 people present (excluding the celebrant) are permitted.
7. At the discretion of the Pastor one church in each parish may be opened for private prayer for up to 10 people at any one time during specific hours as determined by each parish, with the requirement for visitors to sanitise and exit. It will also be necessary for a person to be available to monitor the COVID safe guidelines.

For all of the above, we are required to keep a record of each attendee's name and contact details and the regulations of hand sanitising and social distancing will apply. Anyone who is in a vulnerable/ at risk category will be asked to carefully consider their participation in any gatherings. Our first priority is to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of each of our parishioners.

We are also required to clean and disinfect areas used frequently after each Mass, private visit or gathering.

If you have any questions or concerns, please phone the Parish Office on 6672 1118 during business hours Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm or send an email at any time to [shpmbah@norex.com.au](mailto:shpmbah@norex.com.au).

We look forward to the day when we can all return to Mass together; in the meantime we ask for your patience and understanding.

God bless  
Fr Anthony Lemon

Cnr Murwillumbah Street & Queensland Road Murwillumbah NSW 2484  
PO Box 45 Murwillumbah NSW 2484  
P: 02 6672 1118 E: [shpmbah@norex.com.au](mailto:shpmbah@norex.com.au) W: [shpmurwillumbah.com.au](http://shpmurwillumbah.com.au)

# A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE CATHOLIC PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA

## FROM THE BISHOPS OF AUSTRALIA

Dear brothers and sisters,

Grace and peace to you in these Easter days. We write to you from a plenary meeting of the Bishops Conference which is like no other. Unable to meet face-to-face as we normally do, the bishops are meeting online for a week. We are intensely conscious of our isolation – not only from each other but also from you, the people whom we serve in the name of the Risen Lord. As we think of you, we make our own the words of St Paul: “So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the Gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us” (1 Thessalonians 2:8).

Australia has certainly suffered because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but not as grievously as some other countries. For that we thank God and we congratulate public health authorities and governments on their prompt and prudent responses. Australians in general have also shown the solidarity and good sense, the generosity and kindness needed in such a time. In our healthcare workers particularly we have seen an exceptional spirit of self-sacrifice, and for that we are all grateful.

The Churches and other religious communities have played their part, which has meant the suspension of public worship and the closure of places of worship. This has been a real deprivation, and the bishops understand not only your anxiety about the virus and shutdown but more especially your deep desire to return to the sacraments and to resume public worship. There is a real hunger in this. It is something we all feel, and we long for the time when our hunger will be satisfied as together we return to the feast of the Lord.

Even when our doors are closed, our hearts are still open. The churches may not yet be fully open, but the heart of the Church, which is the heart of Christ, is wide open. The celebration of Mass has never ceased. Though we and our brother priests cannot yet offer Mass with the people, we are still offering Mass day by day for the people – for all of you who are “flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone” (cf Genesis 2:23). The Church which is the Body of Christ still glows with the life of Easter, “thought to be dying, yet we are alive...to be sorrowful, yet still rejoicing...to have nothing, yet possessing everything” (2 Corinthians 6:9-10).

At the heart of the community of disciples, there is always Mary the mother of Jesus (cf Acts 1:14). In this month of May, Pope Francis has urged us to look to her to intercede for us in this time of affliction; and to Mary we will entrust our homeland later this month, looking to a mother’s unfailing love. May she who is Health of the Sick and Help of Christians pray for us now, that we may see Jesus with her eyes, the eyes of Easter, and love him with her heart, which is the heart of faith: “O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not our petitions but in your mercy hear and answer us” (Memorare).

The experience of shutdown has stirred great energy and creativity among people and pastors; this is producing unexpected gifts which we will take with us into the future. No locked door can keep the Risen Lord out; he is everywhere, even in this time of distress. “I stand at the door and knock,” he says. “If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come to you” (Revelation 3:20). We have heard his voice and opened the door to him who has come to us. That is the reason for our hope, even our rejoicing.

One important service which people of faith provide to the wider community in this time is an unceasing prayer of intercession. So we ask you all to continue praying in the power of faith for those who have died, who are sick or at risk from COVID-19, for our healthcare professionals, essential service providers and researchers, for all who are isolated and anxious, and for our civic leaders and health authorities.

In the hope born of faith we look forward to the time when the crisis will pass and we will be able to resume fully the Church’s worship and mission, even in a landscape which may be quite changed. In the meantime, we are talking with the states and the federal government about the reopening of churches and the gradual relaxation of restrictions. We will work with governments and local authorities at each stage of any resumption of Church life. We commit to keeping ourselves and each other safe by observing strictly the advice regarding numbers, distancing and hygiene when the reopening of churches is permitted.

We urge people to abide by the best advice on how to keep themselves and others safe physically, emotionally and spiritually, especially the vulnerable elderly. That is why we recommend the live-streamed Masses and the many other resources offered on diocesan websites, our Catholic counselling services and the COVIDSafe App.

The season of Lent may be behind us, but this time of shutdown has been a kind of long Lent. Now, we pray, Easter is dawning as our country recovers from the pandemic and looks to build the future. There is no room for complacency but there is certainly room for the hope that Easter brings to birth, the hope that “after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen and establish you” (1 Peter 5:10-11). Looking to the God of all grace, we send to you our blessing of peace and all consolation.

From,

*The Catholic Bishops of Australia*

14 May 2020