

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

Candidate for Priesthood - Prodeacio Bognay

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

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

Principal: Jason Clarke

**17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -
YEAR A
26 July 2020**



God in our lives

The first reading of the liturgy tells of the story of King Solomon asking God for wisdom. This is the treasure we are looking for – the wisdom of the kingdom of God. In Matthew's gospel today, Jesus invites us to think about our efforts in promoting God's kingdom. Are we really trying our best to find God in our lives?

The parables of the treasure in the field and the pearl present the different ways of receiving the kingdom into our lives. In the first parable, the man finds the treasure accidentally while working in

the field. In the second parable, the merchant has been spending a lifetime desperately searching for the one really great pearl. He knows what he is looking for. Both men are filled with great joy when they find the treasures and they do whatever it takes to keep them.

In these parables, Jesus is asking whether we are making God our priority? Can we sacrifice other things for the sake of the kingdom? God comes to us in different ways. We can find God in surprising situations; an experience of happiness, love, conversion, spiritual transformation, a life lived in depth. We need to dedicate ourselves wholeheartedly to keep this experience, sell everything to buy it. We may have to spend a lifetime finding God. But if we persevere, we will certainly find God.

The values of the kingdom of God are not limited to time and space. It is a state of life that God is calling us to. It is worth struggling and searching for. Jesus urges us to act to gain the kingdom while the opportunity presents. God's presence among us is ultimately mysterious and can't be limited to any one human explanation.

Like Solomon in the First Reading, we need the gift of discerning judgement to be able to find where God is in our lives. Sometimes, we would like God's presence to be clearer, so that God will appear, show us the way through life and make all our problems and anxieties disappear. That is too easy and does not allow us to grow. God wants us to win our spurs. We are to live out the unique gift of life God has given to each one of us, and through that living, to deepen our special and personal relationship with God.

We are to be involved in the struggle of life in all its challenging mixture of good and evil. But despite our occasional fears to the contrary, we are not alone. We have the presence of God living in and through us. We can take confidence from Paul's words to the Romans that even when we lose our way, we are reassured that God is there, turning everything to our good.

Anthony Tran CSsR @Magellan 2020

Reprinted from the Sunday Magellan with permission

This week in the Parish

Sunday 26	17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Yr A 8am - Mass - Sacred Heart Church There is NO 10am Mass today
Tuesday 28	5:30pm - Mass - Sacred Heart Church
Wednesday 29	5:30pm - Mass - Sacred Heart Church
Thursday 30	8:30am - Mass - Sacred Heart Church
Friday 31	12 noon - Mass - Sacred Heart Church
Saturday 01	6pm - Vigil Mass - Sacred Heart Church
Sunday 02	18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Yr A 8am - Mass - Sacred Heart Church There is NO 10am Mass today 10am - Baptism - Sacred Heart Church

WEEKEND MASSES (including FRIDAY)

BOOKINGS REQUIRED

Please contact the Parish Office
66721118 Tuesday & Wednesday
9am - 3pm or email your request to
shpmhah@norex.com.au

WEEKDAY MASSES (TUE, WED & THU)

NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED

Readings this week: (Yr A)

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Yr A

1 Kg 3:5, 7-12; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Yr A

Is 55:1-3; Rom 8:35, 37-39; Mt 14:13-21

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Brendan Nihill (father of Ray Nihill), Arthuro Cantiga (Myrna Guinea's father - Philippines), Sylvia Lazenby, Glenda Wagner, Tom Searle, Angela Martin.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Basil & Michael Walker, Andrew Quan, Eva Sterling, Louis Murnane (100th Anniversary of his death).

BAPTISMS

We are once again able to celebrate the sacrament of Baptism and we must adhere to social distancing.

If you would like to book a Baptism, please phone the Parish Office on 6672 1118. Baptisms are usually held on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month at 12noon.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

There are still a few planned giving envelopes to be collected. Please take yours home today.

COLLECTION PLATE

The collection plate will not be passed around however, your contributions may be placed in the collection boxes at the entrance to the Church or handed into the Parish Office. We thank you for your continued support in this difficult time.

Words of Wisdom...

'The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.'

- Pope Francis, from *Evangelii Gaudium*

There is no Reconciliation available in the Parish this weekend.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - QUESTIONNAIRE UPDATE

Thank you to all parishioners who have completed and returned the questionnaire.

For anyone who missed the opportunity and would like to participate the questionnaire form is still available on the table as you enter the church.

A box to place your completed form in is also at the back of the church.

CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL MEETING - Thursday 6 August 4 pm -5 pm in the Sacred Heart Church

Given the current covid-19 crisis and the uncertainty around planning for events in 2020, we have to seriously consider the cancellation of the Christmas Carnival & Nativity Tableau for 2020.

To give everyone the opportunity to express their opinion and to hear the reasons why this consideration is being given, we invite all parishioners, carnival stallholders, school staff and school families to attend a meeting on Thursday 6 August at 4 pm in the Sacred Heart Church.

If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to make a comment, please send your comments to the Parish Business Manager by 6 pm on Wednesday 5 August.

FEAST DAY THIS WEEK – ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, PRIEST (Friday 31 July)



St. Ignatius Loyola was born in 1491, one of 13 children of a family of minor nobility in northern Spain. As a young man, Ignatius Loyola was inflamed by the ideals of courtly love and knighthood and dreamed of doing great deeds.

In 1521, Ignatius was gravely wounded in a battle with the French. While recuperating, Ignatius Loyola experienced a conversion. Reading the lives of Jesus and the saints made Ignatius happy and aroused desires to do great things. Ignatius realized that these feelings were clues to God's direction for him.

Over the years, Ignatius became expert in the art of **spiritual direction**. He collected his insights, prayers, and suggestions in his book the *Spiritual Exercises*, one of the most influential books on the spiritual life ever written.

With a small group of friends, Ignatius Loyola founded the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits. Ignatius conceived the Jesuits as 'contemplatives in action.' This also describes the many Christians who have been touched by Ignatian spirituality.' Visit: www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-voices/st-ignatius-loyola/

REFLECTION...THE SHOES OF A PILGRIM by Lisa Kelly

Last year when my husband and I were on an Ignatian pilgrimage, our group celebrated Mass in the rooms where St. Ignatius had lived and died that have been preserved at the Church of the Gesù in Rome. There, behind glass, I gazed upon the well-worn leather shoes of St. Ignatius. I imagined these shoes carried him all over Europe, sharing the *Spiritual Exercises* and establishing the Jesuits.

After all his writings that I had read and all the years of practicing his methods for coming to know God, I had considered Ignatius so far beyond where I could ever be. But somehow in seeing those shoes, St. Ignatius suddenly became a man named Íñigo, who, instead of seeing himself as a saint, referred to himself as "the pilgrim" and wrote about his own life as a journey to God.

And then my gaze fell to my own ratty sneakers. While they would never be worthy of being kept under glass, they did serve the same function: carrying me on my journey. In that instant, though I had been on pilgrimage for a week, for the first time I saw myself as a fellow pilgrim, one who seeks God through a physical and spiritual journey on this earth. I realized that once I saw myself as a pilgrim, the pilgrimage would never end. There is nowhere I can go and nothing I can do that will allow me to say, "Finally, I figured it out! I have the answer! I am completely fulfilled and done seeking!" I will always be seeking to serve God better, to respond to invitations to live out the will of God in the next moment and the next, to be awed by what lies around the next bend, and to savour the journey. There is no off-ramp to this pilgrimage.

Seeing myself as a pilgrim reminds me that it is easier to travel with less to carry, so I don't need a lot of stuff. As a pilgrim, I am one who is dependent on the kindness of strangers for provision and on fellow travellers for companionship and directions. Rather than needing to rise above others as our culture so often encourages us to do, I need to walk with them. I am so grateful for all my fellow pilgrims!

Now thousands of miles away from that sacred room in Rome, I try to be intentional every night when I take off my shoes to mentally and spiritually see them as Ignatius's shoes under that glass. I think for just a second how my journey went today and where those shoes carried my spirit. And, regardless of how rough the terrain of the day was, I know tomorrow I will both figuratively and physically put on those pilgrim shoes again to keep walking.

Like Ignatius, all of us are invited to be pilgrims, to be on an intentional journey toward and with God. We don't have to be saints. We don't even have to have any fancy gear or shoes. In fact, I think the ones we are wearing right now will be just fine.



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:

- ♦ Bishop Greg Homeming is livestreaming Sunday Mass at 8:00am. You can access the livestream by following the link from 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'.

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - A RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Ps 118)

R: Lord, I love your commands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

MASS - What you need to know...

From 1st July the number permitted to attend Masses and any church services is determined by the 4 square metre distancing rule.

As you all know there are certain directives that must be followed to enable us to come together and celebrate as a community, so please take a moment to familiarise yourself with these:

- ♦ all Masses will be celebrated in Sacred Heart Church (entry via main entrance only)
- ♦ signing in on arrival and hand sanitising
- ♦ **it is still necessary to book for ALL weekend Masses including Friday, Saturday and Sunday**
- ♦ no need to book for weekday Masses on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday
- ♦ seats are marked where you can sit
- ♦ please observe social distancing when coming forward for communion, and communion BY HAND only
- ♦ for the time being, we will not be having congregational singing
- ♦ church cleaned after each Mass
- ♦ covid-19 safety plan of action in place

Queries or concerns, please contact Mary-Ann in the Parish Office.

To help us with cleaning after each Mass we ask that you please turn the "Please Sit Here" sign in your seat over to the blank side when you sit down – this will help us identify which seats have been used during Mass. Thanks for your co-operation.

COVIDSAFE APP

As we continue to open the churches in a limited way, we encourage parishioners to download the COVIDSafe app if you haven't already done so.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,

we bless you,

we adore you,

we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father,

have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

I believe in God,

the Father almighty,

Creator of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried;

he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father

almighty;

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and life everlasting.

Amen.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.



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Paying 0.90%

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