

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: shpbah@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

mshpbah@lism.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Paul Reidy

Mt. St. Patrick Primary School

Mooball Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1821

shpmp@lism.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Brendan Ryan

St. Joseph's Primary School

Greville Street, South Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1867

shpsj@lism.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Jason Clarke

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B 20 December 2020

The waiting is almost over

Almost 60 years ago the world was shaken by the civil rights movements in America. Martin Luther King and others launched a massive direct-action campaign in Birmingham, Alabama. He was arrested for defying a state law that forbade mass public demonstrations. In prison, King penned, on the margins of the local newspaper, his 'Letter from Birmingham Jail'.

In this letter, Martin Luther King articulated principles for achieving liberation for his people. He spoke of his impatience, "For years now, I have heard the word 'Wait!' This 'wait' has always meant 'never'. When you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of 'nobodyness', then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait."

He went on to say that human progress "comes through the tireless efforts of those willing to be co-workers with God and, without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation". Today we reflect on the story of the Annunciation. It is a story of liberation. God is intervening in human history. Via the angel Gabriel, God announces to a tired-of-waiting world that he will not abandon humanity to endless futility and is sending the long-awaited messiah.

God's design for the world requires human co-operation. It is given by Mary. She is told that she is to be the mother of the saviour. The news comes out of left field. There was an expectation that the messiah would be a person of significant importance. Mary is merely a lowly village girl. The news astonishes and troubles her. "How can this be?" she asks.

Gabriel reassures, "Do not be afraid". This work will be accomplished in and with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Divinely reassured, Mary consents. The Word becomes flesh. The long wait for liberation is over. Advent is a time of waiting but it is coming to an end. We can be so swept up in the rush as to forget that the primary reason for celebrating Christmas is to welcome Christ into our lives.

Perhaps we might take a 'Mary moment' to be surprised that God chooses each of us, through our baptism, to be a Christ-bearer in our families, our workplaces, our world. We will feel inadequate and unworthy; but nothing is impossible with God. If God can call a young girl from an insignificant town and betrothed to a carpenter to bring the saviour into the world, God can do the same for you and me.

Today is a day to answer that call; to listen to angelic reassurances that we are not to be afraid; that we have the support and encouragement of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. Today is a day to renew our personal 'yes' to God's call to be a willing co-worker with God to bring peace and liberation for all. Our world is waiting for our response.

Michael Gilbert CSSR © Redemptorists 2020
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This week in the Parish

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|------------------|---|
| Sunday 20 Dec | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR B 8:00 am - Mass 10:00 am - Mass 12 noon - Baptisms |
| Monday 21 Dec | 10:00am - Requiem Mass - Caterina Bonomini |
| Tuesday 22 Dec | 10:00am - Funeral Prayers - Stephen Sweetnam 3:00pm - Parish Office is Closed 5:30pm - Mass |
| Wednesday 23 Dec | 5:30pm - Mass |
| Thursday 24 Dec | CHRISTMAS EVE - VIGIL 6:00pm - <u>Vigil Mass</u> 8:00pm - <u>Vigil Mass</u> |
| Friday 25 Dec | THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY) 9:00am - <u>Mass</u> |
| Saturday 26 Dec | 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass |
| Sunday 27 Dec | THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH 8:00 am - Mass <i>No 10am Mass today</i> |

MASSES

NO BOOKING REQUIRED

BUT everyone must check in on arrival with QR Scan or write your name & contact details on the record of visitors sheet.

HOWEVER PLEASE NOTE: BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

RECONCILIATION - Sacred Heart:

Saturday : 5.30pm - 5.50pm
Sunday: 7.30am - 7.50am

Readings this week:

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR B

2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12, 14, 16: Rom 16:25-27:
Lk 1:26-38

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH - YR B

Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3: Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19:
Lk 2:22-40



BAPTISM:

Please welcome
Mila Maggie Haan,
Wyatt Joseph Anthony d'Abadie
& Myra Rose McCormack
to our faith community.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Loretta Clark, Caterina Bonomini, Stephen Sweetnam, Bill Hyde, Mai Ngoc Khuong, Ben Vlaming, Nancy Morgan, Aileen Griffin.

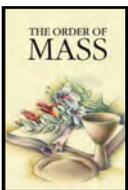
ANNIVERSARIES:

Jim O'Brien, Mons. Michael Quinn (M'bah Parish Priest 1912 - 1935), Veronica Carroll, Vera Paine, Doss Dodds, Tom Sterling, Pattie O'Keefe, Robert Turner.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Miles Larkin, Frances Wright, James Wallace.

THE ORDER OF MASS



When the new Mass texts were introduced, a little booklet containing the Order of the Mass was printed by Liturgy Brisbane.

HERE IT IS FOR YOU AGAIN!

This booklet contains the Order of Mass with all Eucharistic Prayers as well as the solemn blessings and Rite for Sprinkling Water. Available from the Church & Parish Office - \$5:00 each.

CHRISTMAS PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE:

The Parish Administration Centre is closed from **3pm Tuesday 22 December and will reopen 9am Monday 4 January 2020.**

If there are any urgent matters during this time, please phone the Presbytery: 6672 1118.

VIEW MASS AT HOME

There are several options to tune into Mass at home:

ONLINE:

- ◆ Bishop Greg Homeming is livestreaming Sunday Mass at 8:00am. Follow the link from lismorediocese.org or going straight to the 'Lismore Diocese' channel on YouTube.
- ◆ Bishop Greg is also livestreaming Christmas Day Mass at 8:00am. Follow 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'.

ADVENT WREATH



We have reached the final Sunday in the season of Advent – a time of preparing ourselves to recognise and celebrate Christ's presence in the world, both historically and in an ongoing, timeless way. This week's gospel account of the Annunciation is an ideal culmination to this season as we recall Mary's emphatic 'Yes' to all that was being asked of her. At the end of the Advent season of reflection and preparation to recognise Christ's presence in the world and in our lives, what better response could there be than to simply say, 'Yes'?

In a world that is driven by selfishness and the drive to push one's self ahead of others, Mary's selfless act stands as a challenge to our modern society. Even in her own time, Mary's decision must have been an enormously difficult one – one that had the potential to bring great shame on herself and Joseph. Yet, her decision is made swiftly and in faith. She trusts God absolutely and gives her life over into God's hands. That is perhaps the supreme act of faith; to say 'Yes' to God so completely that you are prepared to hand over direction and control of your own life.

Few of us tend to be visited by angels who lay out God's plan for us as clearly as Gabriel did for Mary. For most of us, it is a challenge to discern God's desire for us; to realise what it is that we are called to do and then give ourselves fully to that call. In the hustle and bustle of life, it is difficult to hear anything that God may be trying to ask of us. Perhaps the example of Mary's 'Yes' is a reminder to be still enough to hear the question in the first place!

- Greg Sunter

Response to Advent Prayer: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

MIDNIGHT MASS FROM THE VATICAN

His Holiness Pope Francis will celebrate Midnight Mass in St Peter's Basilica on Christmas Day.

This will be telecast on ABC 1 commencing 9:30am (EST) on Christmas Day.

It can also be viewed live on the internet, through the websites of Vatican TV and The Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN).

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL Thursday 24th December

6:00pm - Sacred Heart Church (Full)

8:00pm - Sacred Heart Church

CHRISTMAS DAY Friday 25th December

9:00am - Sacred Heart Church

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL
LIMITED NUMBERS STILL APPLY
due to 2 sq metre rule
ALL SEATING WILL BE ALLOCATED**

Contact Parish Office to book:

T: 66721118 (Office hours)

E: shpmbah@norex.com.au (24 hours)

2020 NATIVITY TABLEAU



The 2020 Nativity Tableau is now available to watch. Go to the Mt St Patrick Primary website, scroll right until the Sacred Heart Parish Tableau page comes up and press 'read more'.

Thank you for the combined effort of Mt St Patrick Primary, Mt St Patrick College and St Joseph's Primary for presenting this production for us. **Well done!**

CHRISTMAS DAY SPECIAL COLLECTION

This year at all our Christmas Masses, there will be a special collection for Wedgetail Retreat, our local Palliative Care Hospice.

Envelopes are available this weekend, and at the Christmas Vigil Masses and the Christmas Day Mass, for this collection.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - B

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (88)

R: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:

may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

PLEASE NOTE:

The Bishop, realising that not all parishioners can be accommodated at weekend Masses, has continued the dispensation from the Sunday obligation.

SEATING IN THE CHURCH

Please remember to turn over the small 'Please Sit Here' card where you sit in the church during Mass. This tells the volunteer cleaners where someone has been sitting during Mass.

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.

EASING OF RESTRICTIONS:

As at Monday 7 December the number permitted to attend Masses and other church services is determined by the new 2 square metre rule, allowing us to increase the number of people attending each Mass and church service.

What does this mean for us?

We can now have up to 240 people at each Mass or church service.

You will no longer need to pre-book for Mass **BUT** it is still essential to "check in" before Mass at the Hospitality table either by scanning our **QR code on your smart phone** or by registering your attendance with our hospitality team.

With the increase in numbers attending Masses and other church services, both Bishop Greg and NSW Health strongly encourage everyone over 12 years of age to wear a face mask when attending church services.

MASS - What you need to know

- ◆ all Masses will continue to be celebrated in Sacred Heart Church (*entry via main entrance only*) – country churches remain closed
- ◆ sign in on arrival using our QR code or by giving your name and contact details to one of our hospitality team
- ◆ please remember to use the hand sanitiser provided
- ◆ seats are marked where you can sit
- ◆ please observe social distancing when coming forward for communion, and communion BY HAND only
- ◆ there is still no 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



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

Paying 0.45%

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