

# 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

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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:** [shpbah@norex.com.au](mailto:shpbah@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

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

Principal: Paul Reidy

### Mt. St. Patrick Primary School

Mooball Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1821

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

Principal: Brendan Ryan

### St. Joseph's Primary School

Greville Street, South Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1867

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

Principal: Jason Clarke

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**  
**13 December 2020**

## Loving the unborn child

*"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. The Lord is near."* These words introduce the Mass on the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday (*gaudete* means "rejoice" in Latin). On this Sunday, we rejoice in knowing that at Christmas God comes near to us in Jesus.

St John the Baptist announces the meaning of this arrival. Last of the great prophets, he prepares the way for Jesus with his baptism of water, a sign that God will soon reconcile the world. He calls in the voice of one crying out in the wilderness and makes his prayer and fasting in testimony to the light on the horizon. In Jesus, we find the great joy of our heart's deepest desire, and in St John we discover genuine humility and faithfulness.

The Church has long honoured the importance of St John the Baptist. In fact, we commemorate his death as well as his birth with feast days. But we miss St John's significance for us if we focus only on his relationship with Jesus and not ours with him as well. He models for us the beauty of seeing and witnessing to the light. His humility does not depend on his status or relationship with others; it stems from his steady awareness of God.

Sometimes we need reminders of God's transformative reality in our lives and the encouragement to prepare ourselves well for recognising God's presence. Such reminders often happen naturally when we prepare for the birth of a child. A pregnancy can bring great joy as well as deep longing and expectation. The parents fall in love with the child well before the day of arrival.

Their lives change because of their love. They make space for someone new in their home; they start to plan differently for the future; they celebrate the advent of a new horizon in the wider circles of their families and friends. The birth brings profound meaning to the lives of many people well before it happens.

When I told my mother-in-law that I could hardly believe how much I loved the child in my wife's pregnant body, she told me that I could now understand how much my parents loved me. Most of us are loved by someone in this unbelievably powerful way. Advent allows us to see one another in this way of being loved. The passers-by on the street, the neighbours next door, the colleagues at work – they are all children of God and powerfully loved. And when we see them in this way, we recognise a deep reality of who they truly are.

St John the Baptist calls us to rejoice for what God does for us in Jesus. He calls us to prepare ourselves for recognising God's presence and for living in a world of people who are unfathomably loved.

Christiaan Jacobs-Vandegeer © Redemptorists 2020  
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# This week in the Parish

Sunday 13 Dec	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR B 8:00 am - Mass 10:00 am - Mass 12 noon - Baptisms
Tuesday 15 Dec	5:30pm - Mass
Wednesday 16 Dec	10:00am - Parish Men's Group (see note below) No Mass today
Thursday 17 Dec	No Mass today 9:15am - Legion of Mary - South Meeting Room 5:30pm - Finance Council Meeting
Friday 18 Dec	2:30pm Requiem Mass for Bill Hyde
Saturday 19 Dec	6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 20 Dec	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR B 8:00 am - Mass 10:00 am - Mass

## WEEKEND MASSES

### BOOKINGS REQUIRED

Please contact the Parish Office  
66721118 Tuesday & Wednesday  
9am - 3pm or email your request to  
[shpmbah@norex.com.au](mailto:shpmbah@norex.com.au)

## WEEKDAY MASSES

(TUE, WED, THU & FRI)

### NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED

## RECONCILIATION - Sacred Heart:

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

## Readings this week:

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR B

Is 61:1-2,10-11: 1 Thess 5:16-24:  
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR B

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

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Bill Hyde, Mai Ngoc Khuong, Ben Vlaming,  
Nancy Morgan, Aileen Griffin, Ray Pirlo,  
Fr John Fitz-Walter.

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Peter Reeves.

### THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Miles Larkin, Loretta Clark, Frances Wright,  
James Wallace.

## PARISH MEN'S GROUP

The next meeting of the Parish Men's Group  
for a Cuppa/morning tea will be on  
**Wednesday 16 December**  
**10am - Alex Lever's home**  
173 Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah  
Contact: Alex Lever 6672 1908 or 0458 817 021  
**ALL MEN ARE WELCOME!**



## BAPTISM:

Please welcome  
*Jacob Fredrick Clarke,*  
*Tullah Ailish Boyle*  
& *Hugo George Reynolds*  
to our faith community.

St Paul says:

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all  
things give thanks to God, because this is what God  
expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

*(Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

## Adore

### 2020 Daily Advent & Christmas Reflections

Adore is a beautifully presented resource containing  
short daily reflections. *Only a few copies left.*  
\$4.00 from the Church or Parish Office.

## VIEW MASS AT HOME

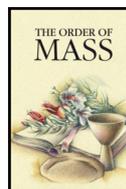
There are several options to tune into Mass at home:  
**ONLINE:**

- ◆ Bishop Greg Homeming is livestreaming Sunday Mass  
at 8:00am. Follow the link from [lismorediocese.org](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'.

## 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.

*Only a few copies left.*

## ADVENT WREATH



### HAVE YOU THOUGHT? A TIME TO REJOICE!

This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin word for Rejoice! Advent was originally celebrated as a five week season and with the same fasting and penitential nature as the season of Lent. The third Sunday, Gaudete, was like a break for rejoicing in the midst of the fasting.

When Advent was reduced to four weeks and the nature of the season altered, Gaudete Sunday was retained. The colour of this Sunday is rose – a celebratory colour – and it is reflected in the vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths. - *Greg Sunter*

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

## 2020 VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL



Due to the Covid 19 restrictions imposed, Christmas Hampers will be a little different this year. Instead of gifts and monetary donations, **St Vincent de Paul are accepting gifts of vouchers for their 2020 Christmas Appeal.** For example - vouchers from Coles, IGA,

**Target, Woolworths, Big W, Kmart, etc. Vouchers can be left at the Parish Office or on the Collection Plate at Mass.**

*Thank you for your continued support.*

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL Thursday 24th December

6:00pm - Sacred Heart Church

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](mailto:shpmbah@norex.com.au) (24 hours)**

## SACRAMENTAL NEWS FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE...

The Bishop has decided that from next year, 2021, Confirmations will begin in grade 3.

First Communion and First Reconciliation will be in grade 4.

This will ensure smooth continuance of our Sacramental Program without the need for gigantic Confirmations and First Communions in 2021.

This is consistent with the practice in a number of Dioceses.

Let's pray that we will be able to have Confirmations in 2021.

## TIME FOR A HOME

*'I express my solidarity with migrants around the world and thank all those who help them: welcoming others means welcoming God in person!' (Pope Francis)*

Today, there are still 290 people held against their will in Papua New Guinea and Nauru. Over 1000 women, men and children have been transferred to Australia for critical medical treatment and now live in 'transitory' visa limbo. Over 200 of those people are held in locked immigration detention centres and so-called 'alternative places of detention', such as the Mantra and Kangaroo Point hotel prisons. Men who were brought here for medical treatment have been confined to their hotel for 12 months, have not been treated for their medical conditions and are seriously depressed.

Everyone needs a safe place to call home.

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre is sponsoring a campaign in early December to raise awareness of the plight of these people who came to Australia asking for our help. **#TimeForAHome**

**Your prayer support would be appreciated.**

Anne Shay pbvm ([shayaspow@gmail.com](mailto:shayaspow@gmail.com))





## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - B

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Lk 1)

R: My soul rejoices in my God.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

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](http://www.dif.org.au) Phone 1800 802 516

Paying 0.45%

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