

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

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Website: www.shpmurwillumbah.com.au

Email: shpmbah@norex.com.au

Mail: PO Box 45

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Murwillumbah NSW 2484

PARISH SCHOOLS

Mt. St. Patrick College

Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 2340

mshpcmbah@lism.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Paul Reidy

Mt. St. Patrick Primary School

Mooball Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1821

murp@lism.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Brendan Ryan

St. Joseph's Primary School

Greville Street, South Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1867

smurp@lism.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Jason Clarke

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- YEAR B

31 January 2021

Trust in the truth

It is not unusual to suggest that people have been 'economical with the truth'. Generally, this is a kind way of suggesting that they have been embellishing a story or telling a 'white lie' to avoid giving offence.

However, in this new age of tweeting on social media, in some circles at least the truth seems to have become a rare commodity. If lying becomes commonplace, it certainly damages trust and inevitably human relations become strained and societies become divided. But, while there is always the temptation to conclude that we are seeing a deterioration in behaviour by comparison with a bygone era, there is no doubt that duplicity and deceit have been part and parcel of the human story from the very beginning.

This Sunday the Church invites us to reflect on how Moses reassured his people that God would raise up a prophet like himself, to whom they must listen and in whom they could trust. There is also a warning for those prophets who choose to go their own way: they will not prosper. The Old Testament is littered with the stories of such prophets who tried to mislead the people for their own ends.

Ultimately, Moses is pointing us towards the coming of Jesus. At the beginning of his gospel, Mark is determined that we should get the connection by establishing the authority of Jesus, who acts and speaks in a manner that the people had clearly not been used to. Jesus makes a deep impression on them precisely because he teaches 'with authority'. He speaks the truth.

The battle between good and evil is going to be waged. It is the man who possesses the spirit of evil who identifies Jesus of Nazareth as "the Holy One of God". This is the truth that Mark wishes to establish in our minds right from the outset. Everything that follows is designed to reinforce that message. In our age, as in every age, we are caught up in the great struggle between good and evil.

At the same time, the recurring theme is that Christ, through his passion, death and glorious resurrection, has conquered, and that his victory is our victory if we allow his Spirit to dwell within us.

By the time John is writing his gospel, after a lifetime of meditating on this mystery, John repeatedly returns to the notion of truth. He recalls that Jesus, at the Last Supper, points out to Thomas that *he* (Jesus) is "the way, the truth and the life", having previously taught those who took his word to heart: "you will learn the truth and the truth will make you free."

In an age of fake news, we will do well to ensure that we always speak the truth, and then we can enjoy the freedom that follows.

This week in the Parish

Sunday 31 Jan	4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YR B 8:00 am - Mass 10:00 am - Mass 12 noon - Baptism
Monday 1 Feb	9:00am Rosary & Prayers - <i>see note below</i>
Tuesday 2 Feb	10:30am - Funeral prayers - Lenore van den Broek 5:30pm - Mass
Wednesday 3 Feb	5:30pm - Mass
Thursday 4 Feb	8:30am - Mass 9:15am - Legion of Mary - South Meeting Room
Friday 5 Feb	12:00pm - Mass
Saturday 6 Feb	6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 7 Feb	5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YR B 8:00 am - Mass 10:00 am - Mass

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.

RECONCILIATION:

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

Readings next Sunday:

5th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME - Year B
Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23;
Mk 1:29-39



BAPTISMS:

Please welcome
Jacob Fredrick Clarke
to our faith community.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Lenore van den Broek, Barbara Sali (Solomon Islands), Archbishop Philip Wilson, Ron Grigalius, Noela Nunan, Mary McDonald, Carl Johnston.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Athol Heanes, Keith Lazenby.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Miles Larkin, Frances Wright, James Wallace.

ASH WEDNESDAY

17 FEBRUARY

MASS TIMES:

7.30am - Sacred Heart Church

5.30pm - Sacred Heart Church

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall possess the land.

- Mt 5:3-4

ROSARY & PRAYERS for God's Precious Infants and the Unborn Child - Monday 1 February - 9am - Sacred Heart Church.

Pregnancy Help Line: 1300 139 313

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU FROM ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The Mary Mackillop conference of SVDP would sincerely like to thank all those who contributed in any way to our Christmas Appeal. 2020 was certainly a very different year for us all and unfortunately we were unable to provide Christmas Hampers as we have done for many years.

A team of our dedicated volunteers however managed to hand our larger food vouchers together with many gift cards which were donated by our wonderful schools, Mt St Patrick College, Mt St Patrick Primary, St Joseph's Primary, the Monday Bridge Club, our Parish team and many parishioners, with Murwillumbah Lions donating a number of Christmas cakes.

With your help and support we are able to continue our good works in offering assistance directly to those families and individuals in our local area.

VIEW MASS AT HOME

There are several options to tune into Mass at home:

ONLINE:

- ◆ Bishop Greg's livestreamed Sunday Mass returns this Sunday January 24 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'.

READINGS FOR TODAY

FIRST READING: DEUTERONOMY 18:15-25

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Ps 94)

R: **If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

SECOND READING: 1 COR 7:32-35

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.**

Alleluia!

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE MASS

A LENTEN RETREAT LED BY FR. ANTHONY

24 February, March 3, 10, 17 at 6pm

Buried within the Mass is a treasure of beautiful prayers and reflections, behind each lies a depth of faith and holy mystery. Many parts of the Mass relate directly to Scripture and the Church's tradition.

I'd like to offer four talks through Lent gently explaining the Mass from a priest's perspective and highlighting some of the beautiful prayers that we say each weekend.

Each talk will stand alone, you can come to all four or just one. I'll allow time for questions but the main part of the talk will be my reflections and explanations.

There are many prayers that I pray quietly, I'll share those with you and explain them. We'll have a look at the Eucharistic Prayers and Prefaces. We'll spend some time on the two Creeds. I'll explain some of the more common responses and why we use them.

The talks will begin directly after the Wednesday 5:30pm Mass. They will last for 30 minutes and an optional time for Q and A.

If you have a Daily or Sunday Missal,
bring it and follow along with me.

Gospel Reflection

Although this week's gospel is a relatively short passage, there's a lot going on within it. Firstly, we are presented with Jesus going to the synagogue in Capernaum and teaching there. This immediately indicates that Jesus must have been quite well educated – he was obviously able to read from the Torah in Hebrew and then teach about it with an impressive level of authority. In fact at the end of the passage, the people seem more impressed with his teaching than with the act of casting out the unclean spirit! Secondly, in the interaction with the unclean spirit, it knows Jesus and identifies him as the 'Holy One of God'. Jesus sharply tells the spirit to 'Be quiet!' Jesus almost appears to want to silence the spirit before it says any more about who he really is. This is a feature of the gospel of Mark in which the identity of Jesus as the Messiah is kept under wraps but breaks out in unlikely places – known as the Messianic secret.

Whenever an exorcism miracle occurs in the gospels the emphasis is on the reaction to the miracle much more than the action itself. Here, the casting out of the unclean spirit appears to confirm for the people the authority that they sensed in the teaching of Jesus. Liberating the possessed man from the unclean spirit is an illustration of the way in which the people themselves were liberated by Jesus' teaching. It is the message, the teaching, of Jesus that frees people. It is in this way that his understanding of Messiah is revealed. Jesus wants people to come to that knowledge through understanding his message, rather than being impressed by miraculous actions.

- Greg Sunter



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - B RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Ps 94)

**R: If today you hear his voice harden not
your hearts.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.
Alleluia!**

EASING OF RESTRICTIONS:

As at Monday 7 December the number permitted to attend Masses and other church services is determined by the 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 180 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.

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 .45%

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