

# 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: [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

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

Principal: Mr. Jason Clarke

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YR B 10 January 2021

### The lights are always on

Christmas is an exciting time. Putting up the Christmas tree, buying presents for loved ones and friends, and enjoying a sumptuous feast is cause for great joy. But it's a different story when the season for gift giving and merry making comes to an end. It can feel like an onerous chore to pack the decorations away for another year.

The buzz and the anticipation are missing. Without all the sparkle and lights, our homes and even the local supermarket seem devoid of colour and excitement. But Christmas doesn't have to end ... and it is not meant to end. Though the church's Christmas liturgical season ends this Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Christmas itself does not end. This is because, at its very core, Christmas celebrates the incarnation of God as a human person, that God took on human form to live among us as one of us. God wanted to show us how much God wanted to be with us and to be one of us. Though the Christmas season officially ends, God continues that close relationship with us.

This calls us to transform the external celebration of the Christmas season with all its sparkle and lights into an internal celebration that occurs every day of our lives. This is the Christmas gift that keeps giving, because God wants to grow into an ever deeper and closer relationship with us. This is the eternal light that continues to shine deep in the centre of our lives. It is a relationship that is the source of joy, hope and love. We are invited to bring that joy, hope and love onward to grow into better relationships with one another.

So, while the Christmas tree has come down and the decorations and the fairy lights are now neatly stored away in their boxes, Christmas itself is still waiting to be unboxed, to be unboxed in our spirits, in our hearts and in our lives. Faith, hope and love are not meant to be stored away, but to be shared and celebrated with others. Though the manger may be stored away, the living God is still very much with us. Christmas does not end, but continues to be around us and inside us.

Baptisms are about new beginnings and, just as Jesus entered a new beginning in his human life when he underwent baptism by his cousin John the Baptist, we too are invited to set out anew in new beginnings in our relationships with others. Christmas does not end, but continues in our lives and in the lives of others, forever bringing new life, starting new beginnings, with God ever present in our midst.

Mark Chia CSsR © Redemptorists 2021

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# *This week in the Parish*

Sunday 10 Jan THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YR B

8:00 am - Mass  
10:00 am - Mass

Tuesday 12 Jan No Mass today

Wednesday 13 Jan No Mass today

Thursday 14 Jan No Mass today

9:15am - Legion of Mary - South Meeting Room

Friday 15 Jan No Mass today

Saturday 16 Jan 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass

Sunday 17 Jan 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YR B

8:00 am - Mass  
10:00 am - Mass

## **RECONCILIATION:**

Saturday : 5.30pm - 5.50pm

Sunday: 7.30am - 7.50am

### **Readings next Sunday:**

2nd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME - Year B

1 Sam 3:3-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20;

Jn 1:35-42

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

#### **RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Carl Johnston, Loretta Clark, Stephen Sweetnam,  
Caterina Bonomini, Bill Hyde.

#### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Fr Tony Casey.

#### **THOSE WHO ARE SICK:**

Miles Larkin, Frances Wright, James Wallace.

### **REFLECTION** by Dianne Bergant CSA

With this feast, the Christmas cycle comes to a close. It expands the universality of God's presence proclaimed on the Epiphany and locates it in the messianic mission of Jesus established at his baptism. It might be seen as the summary of the entire liturgical cycle: the one born among us is the servant of God who brings to all the nations a universal promise of justice and the fulfilment of hope.

Jesus is mysterious servant through whom God's saving action is accomplished. He is the light that guides those in darkness. He has been given to the nations as the promise of liberation and the hope of the age to come. His mission is directed to all peoples. Since God's voice spoke over creation and over the head of Jesus as he emerged from the waters of the Jordan, God's regeneration of nature is accomplished in and through him.

Anointed by the Spirit, Jesus is commissioned to begin his prophetic work and ministry, a work of inclusivity and the relinquishment of bondage and fear. As the heavens opened, Jesus was identified 5 share in his prophetic and divine ministry. They too receive at baptism a commission to commit themselves to the service of the poor and to the cause of compassion. The feast of the Baptism of Jesus is a reminder of the call to Christian service.

### **PARISH MEN'S GROUP**

next get together

Wednesday 20 January

Lunch at Imperial Hotel - 12 noon

It is necessary to confirm attending  
as a table has been booked.

Please contact: Alex Lever 0458 817 021  
or 6672 1908 (*leave message*)

**ALL MEN ARE WELCOME!**

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten  
that we belong to one another  
*Saint Teresa of Calcutta*

### **VIEW MASS AT HOME**

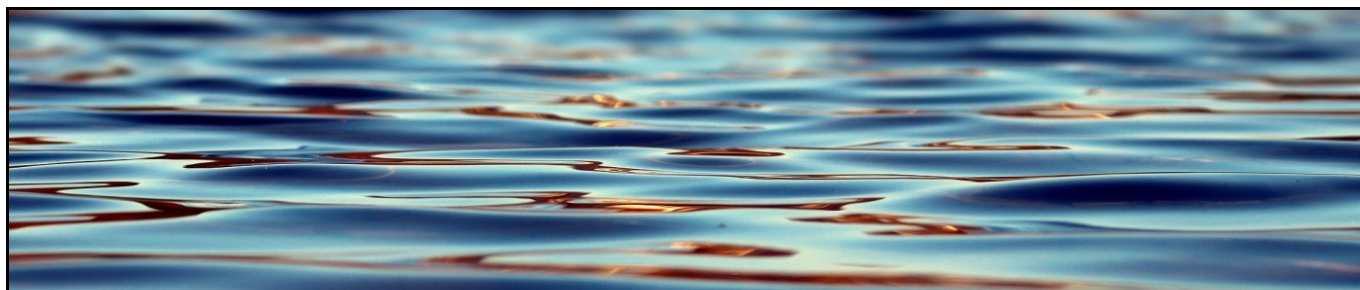
There are several options to tune into Mass at home:

#### **ONLINE:**

- ◆ Bishop Greg Homeming is livestreaming Sunday Mass at 8:00am. Follow the link from [lismore-diocese.org](http://lismore-diocese.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

**Please Note: Today's Readings are Year A - alternative readings**

### FIRST READING: Is 42:1-4, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.  
I have endowed him with my spirit  
that he may bring true justice to the nations.  
He does not cry out or shout aloud,  
or make his voice heard in the streets.  
He does not break the crushed reed,  
nor quench the wavering flame.  
Faithfully he brings true justice;  
he will neither waver, nor be crushed  
until true justice is established on earth  
for the islands are awaiting his law.  
I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right;  
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;  
I have appointed you as covenant of the people and  
light of the nations,  
to open the eyes of the blind,  
to free captives from prison,  
and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Ps 28)

R: **The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

### SECOND READING: ACTS 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.**

**Alleluia!**

## BAPTISM:

### INITIATION RITUALS

A common thread in human cultures, tribes and societies is ritualistic initiations that mark the various stages of life. They relate to all kinds of stages, such as; welcoming a new baby, introducing boys to manhood, marriage, grandparenthood and death. Catholicism has always supported the fundamental wisdom of the human need for ritual and initiation and it is woven into a rich tapestry of faith and culture.

**Every culture has rich and unique practices and expectations in the details, but they all essentially point us towards this universal truth: our life here is a process of change.**

### WHAT IS A SACRAMENT?

A Sacrament is a sign of God's love. It is not only a sign of God's love, it also makes God's love real and concrete in our lives.

God's love is a vast mystery, complex and rich beyond full human comprehension. None-the-less, the Sacraments help us to understand this love, however imperfect and incomplete that understanding may be. Each Sacrament illuminates a dimension of God's love with particular clarity. Baptism shines the spot-light on the love of the Father for his sons and daughters.

In its essence, Baptism is a spiritual rebirth where your child enters into kinship with God. No longer is she simply a daughter in the human family, she is now a beloved daughter in God's family, a princess in the Kingdom of God; your son a prince.

### THE WATERS OF BIRTH...

There are many symbols used in a Baptism ceremony, but only one is the critical, sacramental gesture. Each Sacrament has both sacred words and a sacred gesture and both need to be present in order for the Sacrament to take place and to be considered valid.

In Baptism the sacred words are: I baptise you in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The sacred gesture is the immersion in water. Why water? Water is a symbol of birth. The baptismal waters give us a tangible, sensory expression of a spiritual reality: we are reborn spiritually as children of God.

We can't actually see the child being spiritually reborn, but we know it happens because we hear the words and see the child emerging from the water. In Baptism the symbol of water signifies your child's birth into the life of Christ. As the water flows and the words of Baptism are prayed, a deeper reality is taking place: your child is being embraced by God the Father as one of his own.

*Baptism comes from a Greek word meaning "to plunge" or "immerse". By being immersed in water we enter into the 'tomb' with Jesus and rise again with him as a 'new creature.'* (CCC #1214)

- An excerpt from CathFamily



## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Ps 28)

**R: The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.**

**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.