

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: 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

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

- YEAR B

28 February 2021

Listening to Jesus

Abraham lived about a thousand years before Jesus. At that time it was not uncommon for people to sacrifice their children, especially their firstborn sons, to various gods as a sign of total devotion. Abraham perceived that sacrificing Isaac was something also required of him; to demonstrate his commitment to God. But the God of Israel is not like the pagan gods and never demands such a sacrifice. The God of Israel wants life, not death.

Yet, the willingness of Abraham to 'let go' of what was most precious to him – the son of his old age – was an inspiration to the people of Israel. It's faith in its extreme. Remember too, that Abraham had already shown a willingness to 'let go' of his family and his homeland to journey to an unknown land in response to God's invitation.

The early church saw the relationship between Abraham and Isaac as pointing to the relationship between God the Father and Jesus. Like Abraham, God was prepared to 'let go' of what was most precious to him – his divine Son – out of love for humanity. God was willing to let his Son 'become flesh', with all that it meant: rejection and ultimately crucifixion.

St Paul is in awe at God's generosity towards humanity. "God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all." With such a total gift of love, we have nothing to fear from anything or anyone.

Peter, James and John are taken up a high mountain by Jesus. The experience is amazing. It's an experience so precious that Peter *cannot* let it go. He wants to hold onto it forever. He says to Jesus, "Rabbi ... let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." The disciples glimpse the dazzling and eternal beauty of Christ and they don't want to let go. Yet, the disciples had to let go of this precious experience; it was only ever intended to be momentary. They will receive it again as a gift in the next life. For now, their task is to listen to Jesus, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

This is our task also. To live our lives listening to Jesus speak to us in the Good News and through the experiences of our daily lives. In listening, we'll discover things which we are called to 'let go' – selfishness, unforgiveness, envy, hatred, gossip, prejudice, dishonesty; to 'let go' of people, places, security, health, life.

Like Abraham, may we have the faith and trust to 'let go' and to be open and ready to receive the precious gifts that God wants to give us; as we prepare for the day when we'll meet God face to face in eternity and we can finally say, "It is wonderful to be here."

David J. Hore CSsR © Magellan Media 2021
Reprinted from the Sunday Majellan with permission

This week in the Parish



Sunday 28 Feb	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - YR B 8:00 am - Mass 10:00 am - Mass
Monday 1 Mar	9:00 am - Rosary & Prayers (see note below)
Tuesday 2 Mar	5:30 pm - Mass
Wednesday 3 Mar	5:30 pm - Mass 6:00 pm - Fr Anthony's Lenten Talks
Thursday 4 Mar	<u>8:15 am - Mass - note change of time</u> 9:15 am - Legion of Mary - South Meeting Room 5:30 pm - Pastoral Council Meeting
Friday 5 Mar	<u>12:30 pm - Mass - note change of time</u>
Saturday 6 Mar	6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 7 Mar	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - 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

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Alex Wightley (brother of Ray), Ann Manning,
Lenore van den Broek, Barbara Sali.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Jo Dunne, Colin Fuller, Noel Mather, Ken Buchanan,
Marion Roberts, Dr Hazel Egan.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Miles Larkin, Frances Wright, James Wallace,
Donna Lee Pearson.

READING ROSTER:

READING ROSTER - Third Sunday of Lent 6/7 March:

6pm Vigil: Denise Banner
Sunday 8am: Philomena Zambelli
Sunday 10am: Christine O'Brien

READING ROSTER - Fourth Sunday of Lent 13/14 Mar:

6pm Vigil: Margaret Mumford
Sunday 8am: Peter Callaghan
Sunday 10am: Lorraine Green

*"This is my beloved Son,
with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him" - Matthew 17:5*

PEW CUSHIONS

16 cushions have been made that fit neatly into the seats in the pews in the middle of the church. These cushions are available from the back of the church and we ask that following use, they are returned to the storage space. Each cushion will need to be individually cleaned after each use.

Your comments/feedback on the cushions and their use is appreciated.

ORDINATION NEWS...

Prodencio Bognay will be Ordained to the Diaconate in St Carthage's Cathedral on Friday 12 March by Bishop Gregory Homeming, at 5:30pm.

We are required to book our seats for the Ordination. If you are interested in attending, please phone the Parish Office 66721118 to reserve your seat.

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

Pregnancy Help Line: 1300 139 313

Readings for the coming weeks:

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - Yr A readings

Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - Yr A readings

1 Sam 16:1, 6-7; 10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

VIEW MASS AT HOME

There are several options to tune into Mass at home when you can't join us:

ONLINE:

- ◆ Bishop Greg's livestreamed Sunday Mass at 8:00 am. Follow the link from 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 6:00 am for 'Mass for You at Home'.



A JOURNEY THROUGH THE MASS A LENTEN RETREAT LED BY FR ANTHONY

Wednesday 3, 10, 17 March at 6pm

Fr Anthony will offer a series of talks through Lent gently explaining the Mass from a priest's perspective and highlighting some of the beautiful prayers that we say each weekend.

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

BISHOPS GREG'S LENTEN TALKS SERIES CONTINUES!

This year's Lenten talks will focus on *Reflections on COVID-10*. The talk will begin at 6pm in St Carthage's Cathedral on:

Tuesday - 2, 9 & 16 March

It will not be live-streamed, but will be recorded and on YouTube by close of business on the following Thursdays.

All are most welcome!



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Solomon Islands



Margret is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands that suffered long-term water shortages and damage from Tropical Cyclone Harold. With Caritas Australia's support, Margret's school installed water tanks, repaired cyclone damage and implemented COVID-19 prevention measures, and is now planning to boost food security.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help people living with disabilities in the Solomon Islands gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to protect our common home.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

St Joseph's School South Murwillumbah 51st Anniversary Celebrations!



In 2021 St Joseph's School will celebrate 51 years of catholic education in Murwillumbah. Planning has begun for our celebrations which will take place later this year.

We need your photos and memories please!

Due to the loss of some of the school history, particularly photos, in the 2017 flood, we are hoping to get the news out to our ex-students and their families, past staff and parishioners to ask if the school could borrow your photos for scanning and saving as we rebuild our history book.

Photos and newspaper articles may be taken to the St Joseph's School Office or to the Sacred Heart Parish Office for scanning or may be emailed to smurp@lism.catholic.edu.au.

Other memorabilia or stories that you would like to share are also welcome.

*"It's not how much we give,
but how much love we put into giving."
Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

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.

READINGS FOR TODAY

FIRST READING: GEN 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Ps 115)

**R: I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.**

SECOND READING: ROM 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

REFLECTION... Dianne Bergant CSR

We all have dreams for the future, dreams about success and well-being. We all want a better world for our children and grandchildren. Our religious tradition sets before us aspirations that call for personal transformation. However, sometimes when we follow the inspiration of our most devout aspirations, obstacles are thrown in our path preventing us from following our dreams. Still, God does not call us out of our dreams into a vacuum. If we are asked to relinquish a possible future, it is only to be offered God's future. Our aspirations may be noble, but the possibilities that God offers will outstrip them in excellence. Abraham was promised an heir; he relinquished his hold on his heir, and he was granted heirs beyond counting. Jesus came as a Rabbi; he allowed himself to be handed over to death, and he was revealed as the beloved Son of God.

Those preparing for Baptism might be asked to relinquish the dreams that they previously held in order to embrace the future God has in store for them. We who are already joined to Christ will be asked to recommit ourselves to this transformative experience. Do we have faith, or do we need a glimpse of Christ's transfiguration in order to believe in his resurrection? Do we have to see and touch Jesus, or are we able to believe because we have heard his message? God's future in Christ is open to us, but we must accept it in faith, even when we do not fully understand what it means.



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

Paying .45%

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