

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B 7 March 2021

Gospel Reflection ...

The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is rich in historical and cultural nuance that enhances our understanding and interpretation of this passage. When he asks the woman for a drink, Jesus breaks two cultural taboos: firstly, for a man to speak directly to an unchaperoned woman was somewhat scandalous; secondly, as the woman points out, Jesus is a Jew and directly addresses a Samaritan – another scandal. Jesus successfully gains the woman's attention by ignoring these social taboos but she fails to fully understand his reference to 'living water'.

The reference to the woman's five husbands has often been construed to suggest that she was either a prostitute or a serial widow. However, it may in fact be a reference to the Samaritans binding themselves (wedding themselves) to the five books of the Torah and ignoring the writings of the prophets and other later writings. This reference is followed by another fact that set Jews and Samaritans apart: the Samaritans worshipped God on a local mountain, Mt Gerazim, whilst the Jews held that true worship could only take place in Jerusalem. Jesus dismisses this major difference between Jews and Samaritans by declaring that soon 'true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth'. He is indicating the much more personal relationship with God that he models; not bound up by ritual, place and law.

Having set the scene for breaking down the walls between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus then reveals to the woman unequivocally that he is the promised Messiah. The woman rushes back to the town to spread the good news about Jesus. She becomes a missionary for him; and a remarkably effective one. The people are convinced by her testimony and flock to Jesus where they have their own personal faith encounter with him.

Historical Context – Jews and Samaritans

Samaritans descended from one of the tribes of Israel. They held faithful to Mt Gerazim as the first place for the worship of God even when the prophet Elijah declared a new place for worship. In the 7th and 8th Centuries BCE, the Assyrians descended on the Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel. The Samaritans in the north assimilated with the Assyrians, whilst the Jews were taken into exile in Babylon. When the Jews returned from exile, the Samaritans offered to assist in the reconstruction of the Temple. This infuriated the Jews and led to centuries of distrust and animosity.

Gospel Focus – Transformation

The woman has obviously come to the well to draw water for herself. Her encounter with Jesus is a moment of transformation for her. At first, she fails to comprehend his reference to 'living water' and never being thirsty again. However, in the end 'the woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town.' Leaving her water jar behind was a sign of the transformation that had taken place within her.

She had indeed drunk of the living water of Jesus and no longer paid attention to the need for water that had brought her to the well.

- Greg Sunter

This week in the Parish



Sunday 7 Mar	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YR B 8:00 am - Mass 10:00 am - Mass
Tuesday 9 Mar	5:30 pm - Mass 7:00 pm - Baptism Preparation Meeting
Wed 10 Mar	10:00 am - Catholic Women's Group 'Cuppa & Chat' 5:30 pm - Mass 6:00 pm - Fr Anthony's Lenten Talks
Thursday 11 Mar	<u>8:15 am - Mass - note change of time</u> 9:15 am - Legion of Mary - South Meeting Room
Friday 12 Mar	9:30 am - Reconciliation Retreat & First Reconciliation <u>12:30 pm - Mass - note change of time</u>
Saturday 13 Mar	6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 14 Mar	FOURTH 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, Ann Manning.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

READING ROSTER:

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

6pm Vigil: Margaret Mumford

Sunday 8am: Peter Callaghan

Sunday 10am: Lorraine Green

READING ROSTER - Fifth Sunday of Lent 20/21 Mar:

6pm Vigil: Christine Wightley

Sunday 8am: Kay Ryder

Sunday 10am: Barbara Cook

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 travelling by bus to the Ordination. We only have a few seats left. If you are interested in attending, please phone the Parish Office 66721118 to reserve your seat.

You are invited to attend

THE LEGION OF MARY ANNUAL ACIES CEREMONY

9am Mass Saturday 27 March

St Joseph's Church,
Tweed Heads

followed by refreshments

Please bring a plate to share

Contact: Lesley Dowling 0419 143 117
Elaine Thill 0755 909 817



Readings for the coming weeks:

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - Yr A readings

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - Yr A readings

Ezek 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

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.

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

Wednesday 10 & 17 March at 6pm

Fr Anthony continues his 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 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 - 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!

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S GROUP

'Cuppa and Chat'

Barbara Cook's home,

63 Byangum Road

10:00 am - Wednesday 10 March

Enquiries to Barbara 6672 3377

ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME



BAPTISMS:

This week we welcomed
**Cleo Ruby Green
& Charlize Mia Green**
to our faith community.

MEN'S GROUP

Next morning tea (cuppa)

Wednesday 17 March

10:00 am - Murwillumbah Services Club

'St Patrick's Day'

Enquiries to Alex Lever 6672 1908

ALL MEN ARE WELCOME



For more information, visit
<https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>

"In the depths of every heart, love creates bonds and expands existence, for it draws people out of themselves and towards others."

- Pope Francis



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Tanzania



Oliva, 22, could not read, write or count, and her business was losing money. Then she attended Caritas Australia-supported literacy and numeracy classes, and set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours. Now her classes, business and family are thriving, and she aims to become a pastor and run for local leadership.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and support people like Oliva's gain access to education to build a brighter future and live in communities that upholds everyone's dignity.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, phoning 1800 024 413 or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

READINGS FOR TODAY

FIRST READING: Ex 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Ps 94)

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

SECOND READING: ROM 5:1-2, 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst
again.
Glory to you, Word of God, 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.

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 .45%

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