

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

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -
YEAR B

29 August 2021

Pondering God's purpose

Have you ever experienced something that becomes more absorbing the more you spend time with it? Maybe it's a piece of music, a novel, a spot in the park. You could watch that movie a million times. The bible is similar. It was written to be pondered; it is 'meditation literature'.

For example, there is a verse tucked away in today's second reading from the Letter of James. In the version of the bible that I am reading (NRSV, Catholic Edition), it says: *In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.* Let's ponder it, break it down into its parts and see how they are connected:

(a) In fulfillment of his own purpose

(b) he gave us birth by the word of truth

(c) so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures

God has a purpose, and he acts. A carpenter has the plan in his mind, for example, for a beautiful wooden chair. He executes that plan by gathering, cutting, and shaping the pieces of wood and then fitting them together.

(a) is the general description: God has a purpose to fulfill; (b) is the action: he executes this purpose by giving birth to us 'by the word of truth'. What about (c)?

The logical connection between (c) and the preceding phrases is revealed in its first two words: 'so that'. God does something. Why does he do anything? Because he has a reason to. He has a purpose. So (c) specifies what remains general in (a): God's 'purpose' named in (a) is described in (c), accomplished through (b). He 'gives us birth' (the action) *so that* or 'in order to' make us 'first fruits'.

In other words: God's plan is to make us 'first fruits of his creatures' by giving birth to us 'by the word of truth'. The language is strange and wonderful. What does it mean?

Consider this: (b) 'birth by the word of truth' is Early Church language for baptism. Birth is a metaphor: at baptism we are born again, not into this world but out of it, into the new world. Jesus died and rose into 'new life' - eternal life - and in baptism we share in his new birth *in advance* of our own physical death. We share in the life of the world to come - eternal life - *in advance* of the end of this world. (c) is the effect of (b), our baptism, realising (a) God's purpose.

Baptism makes us 'first fruits of his creatures'. The 'first fruits' is an agricultural metaphor. Early Christians knew that the world since Jesus's resurrection is in 'harvest time'. When someone enters the Church through baptism, God is gathering the earliest ripened fruit in advance of the ultimate harvest, when he will transform the whole universe on the model of Jesus's resurrection.

W Chris Hackett @ Majellan Media 2021
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This week in the Parish 29 Aug - 5 Sept



Sunday 29 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B
SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY
8:00 am - Mass - [online Mass](#) with Fr Anthony

30 Aug - 3 Sept NO WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday 5 Sept 23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B
8:00 am - Mass - [online Mass](#) with Fr Anthony

Please note: there will be NO Rosary & Prayers on Monday 6 September

6 - 10 Sept NO WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK

Mass times are subject to change
depending upon future NSW health orders.

THE PARISH OFFICE
is closed to visitors during
the current lockdown;
however we are still
available by email & phone
E: shpmah@norex.com.au
T: 6672 1118
M: 0413 277 700

PLEASE PRAY FOR

ANNIVERSARIES:

Jason Cook, Maria Procopio, Mary Roberts.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

James Wallace

MAKE A SPIRITUAL CONNECTION

An ancient practice of the Church for those who cannot be present at Mass is to make a spiritual communion.

We have a simple prayer you can pray with longing in your heart to be united to Jesus.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Readings for today and next Sunday:

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year B

Deut 4:1-2, 6-8; James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27;
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year B

Is 35:4-7; James 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

This weekend Fr Anthony will be using Preface of
Ordinary Time I and Eucharistic Prayer II.

WEDNESDAY WORD

Copies of Wednesday Word,
with this weekend's readings,
will be with your Bulletin this weekend.

FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE PARISH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Included with this weekend's bulletin is the financial
summary for the parish for the year ended 31
December 2020.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed
financial summary or planned giving, please speak to
one of our Parish Finance Council members or to our
Parish Business Manager, Mary-Ann Thackray.

*"It is essential to show special care for indigenous
communities and their cultural traditions. For them,
land is not a commodity but a gift from God and from
their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with
which they need to interact if they are to maintain
their identity and values."*

- Francis, *Laudato Si'* n 146

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge the Bundjalung people who are the Traditional Owners of this land on which we gather and pray today. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people past, present and emerging.



SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2021-22

CRY OF THE EARTH, CRY OF THE POOR



In their Social Justice Statement for 2021-2022, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, the Australian Catholic Bishops say, “the signs of the times are clear - we know that we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour”. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded.

The Bishops invite us to join them in responding to Pope Francis’ invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si’ Goals. The Goals are: *response to the cry of the earth; response to the cry of the poor; ecological economics; sustainable lifestyles; ecological spirituality; ecological education; and community engagement and participatory action.*

Scripture, the theological tradition, Catholic social justice teaching, and the wisdom of the world - including insights of the First Nations - are all placed in dialogue with human experience. Four theological foundations for a genuinely Christian response to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor emerge from this dialogue. They are: *creation in and through the Trinity; the sacramentality of all created things; the wonder and beauty available to the contemplative eye; and the need for conversion and change of life.*

Catholic families, communities and organisations are encouraged to: listen to the First Nations; reflect on the theological foundations offered by the Bishops; and, plan their next steps towards the Laudato Si’ Goals.

More information: ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or phone (02) 6201 9845.

Copies of the Statement will be available from the Church or the Parish Office, when we reopen.

*By listening with an open heart
to those who are most affected,
we can begin,
with the help of the Holy Spirit,
to discern the signs of the times.*

**Lord, when we listen with your ears we hear:
the bush grown more silent,
the birdsong less vibrant,
the stream’s sluggish ripple.
Have mercy and open our ears.**

**Lord, when we look with your eyes we see:
the soil depleted,
the sky smudged,
the oceans rubbished
and the great currents slowed.
Have mercy and help us to see.**

**Lord, when we look with your eyes we see:
the workers who struggle to get by,
the women subjected to violence,
the people who are excluded.
Have mercy and help us to see.**

**Lord, when we listen with your ears we hear:
the sound of hungry children,
the distress of the mentally ill,
the silent pain of homeless women and men.
Have mercy and open our ears.**

**Send your Spirit upon us Lord
to renew our sight,
to restore our hearing,
and to reclaim your reign of justice
for all people
and peace for creation.**

AMEN

CRY OF THE EARTH, CRY OF THE POOR



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - B

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (14)

R: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

SUPPORTING YOUR SPIRITUAL AND PRAYER LIVES DURING COVID-19

View Mass at Home

There are several options to tune into Mass at home this weekend:

ONLINE:

- ◆ Fr Anthony will stream Sunday Mass at 8:00 am from our Sacred Heart Church for you at home this weekend on our [Sacred Heart Parish YouTube channel](#)
- ◆ Bishop Greg Homeming will celebrate Sunday Mass Online at 9:00 am on the [Diocesan YouTube channel](#)
- ◆ Mass on Demand: <http://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>

FREEVIEW TV:

- ◆ Tune in to channel 10 on Sunday mornings at 6:00a m for 'Mass for You at Home'.

Read the Mass Readings as a Family

A great resource is available from Diocese of Wollongong - [Daily Mass Readings](#)

Please visit the [Parish website](#) for other links and resources.



INVEST WITH PEACE OF MIND

www.dif.org.au Phone 1800 802 516

Paying .45%

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

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS

There are many today who do not accept hard truths, who promote false news, and whose main concern is for their own power, comfort, gain, notoriety, celebrity, image, or profit. Truth is replaced with versions of reality that serve an agenda, or interpretations of events that make people less uncomfortable about their attitudes and choices. People, animals, and the earth can be rationalised as commodities to exploit, use, abuse, and discard. The desire to possess, dominate and consume disrupts the delicate balance and harmony needed to sustain healthy communities and ecosystems. Countries are increasingly referred to as economies, and the values of an often-grasping marketplace push to replace the intrinsic value and uniqueness of each integral part of God's sacred creation.

A sacramental vision of a dynamically connected, diverse, and inclusive universe is one that is rooted in the truth, goodness, and beauty of the Kingdom and Reign of God. As Christians, we are called to open and form our hearts in this radical and counter-cultural vision that expresses God's true law as part of a mutual and loving covenant relationship. Moses reminds the people of Israel and us today that there is wisdom and understanding in following God's law. Those who have opened and shaped their hearts to God's law of love see, hear, speak, and live the truth of this way of being and acting in the world every day. This contributes to God's Kingdom breaking through in the here and now.

The psalmist encourages people to stand firm in God's truth and to act justly in dealing with people in their daily lives, including their business dealings. God's presence is found in integrated and right relationships with people, characterised by detachment from material gain, especially when it comes at the hurt and expense of others. This psalm highlights an ongoing temptation in our world for people to seek material riches and social advantage as false markers of blessedness and success. God is not interested in status as defined by worldly standards but completely subverts and rejects any system or behaviour that seeks to exploit, disadvantage, or harm anyone or anything.

James gets to the heart of things in calling people to listen to the God who dwells within them and to take action to defend those most defenceless and vulnerable as a visible marker of their true identity in Christ. God's goodness never changes and never ends. We are called to embrace and foster this in ourselves, doing our part to come to the aid of all who most need our help. God has created each with purpose and value, just as they are.

Jesus calls out the hypocrisy and self-serving behaviour of anyone, especially leaders, who would seek to absolve themselves from the real work of conversion of heart and life. Hiding behind the details of traditions, rules, and the finer points of external rituals alone is not what is called for in faithfully following Christ. Our beautiful Christian traditions, prayers, liturgies, and rituals point us to the gift and glory of God and God's beloved creation. Our faith is built on who we are following, what we believe, and how we relate to others in Christ. Relationships of compassion, mercy, and forgiveness are direct encounters with God's amazing grace alive and active in our hearts and lives. This is where we are asked to focus, and to live.

- An excerpt from *Social Justice Sunday Liturgy Notes*



Sacred Heart Parish

Murwillumbah

Financial Report to the Parish for the year ended 31 December 2020

A message from the Parish Finance Council on behalf of Fr Anthony Lemon, Parish Priest

This financial summary has been prepared so that you are aware of the financial activity of our parish during 2020.

Members of the Parish Finance Council during 2020 were Peter McDonald-Chairperson, Leo Kelly, Jim Grennan, Kevin Twohill, Ray Daley and Marie Morrin.

The financial summary for the year ended 31 December 2020 shows that the Parish, with the income stream from the decision to lease the Parish Hall to the College; and with the availability of JobKeeper to supplement wages during 2020, has for the first time in many years not had to use parish reserves to pay our bills.

Challenges remain though as our congregation ages and in many instances retire to new parishes.

Our Parish assets are also ageing and many of the buildings are in constant need of repair and maintenance, which causes a continual drain on Parish funds. Our maintenance program is to be updated and will form part of our strategic planning through 2021 and beyond.

Throughout 2020 and this year the Parish Finance Council remains committed to a review of our Strategic Plan and is currently exploring options for some of the Parish assets. The leasing of the Parish Hall to Mt St Patrick College for use as a learning hub/library for the College for a short-term period, providing the Parish with additional income for the three-year lease period (2020-2022), is a good example of how we can make Parish assets work to our advantage. All Parish assets are to be reviewed and the results of this review will be integrated into our strategic plan in due course. Community consultation will form part of the review for the strategic plan

The Parish Finance Committee remains committed to the ongoing financial viability of the Sacred Heart Parish.

The generosity of you, our parishioners, keeps our Parish financially viable. We sincerely thank you all for your ongoing financial commitment throughout 2020 and the covid lockdowns and ongoing restrictions.

Since the first Parish Planned Giving Programme was established by Monsignor O'Rourke in 1964, the programme has remained a central part of our parish's income sources. We encourage all Parishioners to participate in the programme according to your financial capability.

Registered Givers may choose to use a numbered set of envelopes to donate by cash or cheque or make their donation by electronic funds transfer (EFT). We found that during the covid lockdown/restrictions last year, many registered givers changed to the EFT method for donation.

As you know we have two regular "collections". Our donations support:

1. our Clergy – funds received support our Parish Priest and provides the funds for clergy sustenance and general housekeeping in the Presbytery. Funds received in this collection also support other priests in our Diocese (*please note that the following financial summary does not include income or expenses related to this collection*).

and

2. our Parish – supports the maintenance of our churches, parish buildings and gardens, keeps the lights on and pays wages and insurance, and our day to day operating expenses.

The Planned Giving Programme remains vital for the financial viability of our Parish. We encourage everyone to consider joining the program, especially if you are new to the parish. Please contact the Parish Business Manager to discuss how you can participate.

If you have any questions about the Planned Giving Programme; other ways to donate to the Parish without being a part of the Planned Giving Program; or want to know more about the parish finances generally, please contact the Parish Business Manager or the Parish Finance Council Chair.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your donations through the planned giving program and for some of you through anonymous donations throughout the year.

We thank you sincerely for your continuing presence in our parish community and your ongoing support of the Sacred Heart Parish.



Sacred Heart Parish

Murwillumbah

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

INCOME	Notes	2020	2019
Second Collection – Planned Giving		83,986	78,155
Second Collection – Loose Plate		9,188	15,026
Donations & Sponsorships	2	5,000	15,010
Miscellaneous Income		4,497	8,814
Pastoral Income		1,954	4,988
Rental Income	3	220,443	160,314
Extraordinary Income – JobKeeper Allowance	4	97,050	0
Total Income		422,118	282,307
EXPENSES			
Diocesan Quotas	5	0	27,045
Electricity & Gas		9,716	9,759
General Operating Expenses		43,154	40,044
Insurance		36,194	36,631
Interest on Loan Parish Administration Centre		11,922	11,906
Motor Vehicle Expenses	6	6,016	12,010
Pastoral Expenses		1,295	1,274
Payroll Expenses	4	191,883	136,771
Rates Water		19,369	8,777
Rental Commission & Charges		12,788	11,534
Repairs Maintenance Improvement		46,042	82,887
Total Expenses		378,379	378,638
Net Surplus / (Loss) for 2020		43,739	(96,331)

Notes:

1. Cash Reserves available for Parish use at 31 December 2020 total \$170,193.
2. No Christmas Carnival donation in 2020 as Carnival was cancelled due to covid restrictions & uncertainty.
3. Parish Hall currently leased to Mt St Patrick College as Learning Hub/Library for a period of 3 years.
4. The Parish was able to obtain JobKeeper Allowance during 2020.
5. Diocesan Quota was suspended during 2020 due to covid-19 pandemic & financial uncertainty of Parishes
6. Diocesan Car Scheme was suspended during 2020 due to covid-19 pandemic & financial uncertainty of Parishes
- 7 A copy of the full audited financial statements for the Parish is available for inspection at the Parish Administration Centre.