

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

Administrator

Fr. Peter Wood

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

19 December 2021

Importance of women in the church

Fresh from her encounter with the angel Gabriel, "Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country" to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was herself bursting with pregnancy in her old age. This meeting of two Spirit-filled pregnant women, seeking to understand what God is doing in their lives, is remarkable in the way it captures their very human interaction along with their prophetic voices. In Scriptural terms, all this occurs with the highly unusual absence of male voices in the conversation.

Although the meeting occurs in Zechariah's house, he had been struck dumb. Joseph is presumably back in Nazareth. Elizabeth no doubt had long resigned herself to being childless, but now has to deal with her unexpected blessing. Mary has to come to terms with a blessing that seems to cause more problems than it solves. How will she explain her pregnancy to Joseph?

In Luke's account, the encounter between Elizabeth and Mary is presented in the form of two scriptural hymns or songs of blessing. Today we hear the first of these, which is Elizabeth's song prophetically proclaiming Mary to be the "mother of my Lord". Even though filled with joy in her own blessing of pregnancy, Elizabeth exudes humility, compassion and living faith by focusing on the blessing that Mary's presence is for her - and that Mary's child will be for the world.

Mary's response to Elizabeth is the second song - the 'Magnificat' - which proclaims God's redeeming love for the oppressed and downtrodden people of our world. Together then, Elizabeth and Mary are presented to us as two Spirit-filled, peasant women prophets supporting each other in adversity.

In doing so, they stand in the long Jewish tradition of female voices - Miriam with her tambourine, Deborah, Hannah and Judith - who likewise sing provocative songs of God's coming salvation for the poor and oppressed. Although the Visitation has been used to depict such lofty themes as the Church's march throughout history crossing mountains to proclaim Christ to the world (St Ambrose 4th century), we also do well to recognise how the story highlights the role of women throughout Luke's Gospel. They are not only major figures associated with Jesus' birth, but they are clearly friends and disciples of Jesus during his ministry.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us ask for the gift of being open to the surprise of grace in our own lives in the ways of Mary and Elizabeth. May we, like them, sing of God's transforming power coming to life in the birth of the Messiah. Perhaps too we are invited to highlight the importance of women's ministry in 'giving birth' to a less clerical church!

Gerard M Hall SM @ Majellan Media 2021

This week in the Parish 19 – 26 December

Sunday 19	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year C 8:00 am - Mass 10:00 am - Mass
Tuesday 21	5 pm-5:20 pm - Reconciliation 5:30 pm - Mass
Wednesday 22	5 pm-5:20 pm - Reconciliation 5:30 pm - Mass
Thursday 23	8:15 am - Mass 3:00 pm - Parish Office Closed
Friday 24	CHRISTMAS EVE - VIGIL 6:00pm - <u>Vigil Mass</u> 8:00pm - <u>Vigil Mass</u>
Saturday 25	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY) 9:00am - <u>Mass</u>
Sunday 26	The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Year C 9:00 am - Mass (No 8am or 10 am Mass today)



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

THIS WEEK

Saturday : 5.30 pm - 5.50 pm
Sunday: 7.30 am - 7.50 am
Tuesday: 5:00 pm - 5:20 pm
Wednesday: 5:00 pm - 5:20 pm

Prayer Chapel:

The Sacred Heart Prayer Chapel is open for private prayer each weekday from 9am - 3pm.

The Sacred Heart Church will be open for Prayer & Reflection Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday this week from 4pm - 5pm. (entry via side door)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Nigel Logan (Melbourne - brother in law of Bev Guinea), Hayley Lenahan, Fr Lyall Cowell, Mary Minahan, Sr Judith Quirk, Sr Joan Reynolds, Ricky Toms

ANNIVERSARIES: Monsignor Michael Quinn (M'bah Parish Priest 1912-1935), Tom Sterling, Pattie O'Keefe, Lavinia & Edmund Roche, Frank, David & Jan Roche, Betty & Mary-Anne Franks, Rita & Arthur Salter.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Fr Anthony Lemon, James Wallace

Readings for today and next Sunday:

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year C
Micah 5:1-4; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-44

CHRISTMAS VIGIL - (Mass during the Night)
Is 9:1-7; Titus 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

CHRISTMAS DAY - (Mass at Dawn)
Is 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

HOLY FAMILY - Year C
1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24;
Lk 2:41-52

WEDNESDAY WORD

Copies of Wednesday Word, with this weekend's readings, are available for you in the Church.

CHRISTMAS PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE:

The Parish Administration Centre will be closed from **3pm Thursday 23 December and will reopen 9am Tuesday 4 January 2022.**

If there are any urgent matters during this time, please phone the Presbytery: 6672 1118.

CHRISTMAS DAY SPECIAL COLLECTION

This year at all our Christmas Masses, there will be a special collection for Wedgetail Retreat, our local Palliative Care Hospice.

Envelopes are available this weekend, and at the Christmas Vigil Masses and the Christmas Day Mass, for this collection.

READING ROSTER

24 Dec | CHRISTMAS VIGIL | Yr C

6pm - Kay Ryder

8pm - Denise Banner

25 Dec | CHRISTMAS DAY | Yr C

9am - Bernard Nolan

26 Dec | THE HOLY FAMILY | Yr C

9am - Mary-Ann Thackray

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.

ADVENT WREATH



We have reached the final Sunday in the season of Advent – a time of preparing ourselves to recognise and celebrate Christ’s presence in the world, both historically and in an ongoing, timeless way. This week’s gospel account of the Annunciation is an ideal culmination to this season as we recall Mary’s emphatic ‘Yes’ to all that was being asked of her. At the end of the Advent season of reflection and preparation to recognise Christ’s presence in the world and in our lives, what better response could there be than to simply say, ‘Yes’?

In a world that is driven by selfishness and the drive to push one’s self ahead of others, Mary’s selfless act stands as a challenge to our modern society. Even in her own time, Mary’s decision must have been an enormously difficult one – one that had the potential to bring great shame on herself and Joseph. Yet, her decision is made swiftly and in faith. She trusts God absolutely and gives her life over into God’s hands. That is perhaps the supreme act of faith; to say ‘Yes’ to God so completely that you are prepared to hand over direction and control of your own life.

Few of us tend to be visited by angels who lay out God’s plan for us as clearly as Gabriel did for Mary. For most of us, it is a challenge to discern God’s desire for us; to realise what it is that we are called to do and then give ourselves fully to that call. In the hustle and bustle of life, it is difficult to hear anything that God may be trying to ask of us. Perhaps the example of Mary’s ‘Yes’ is a reminder to be still enough to hear the question in the first place! - Greg Sunter



LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFTS THAT MAKE A LASTING IMPACT



You can make a big difference to the lives of people living in poverty this Christmas.

While it has been a difficult and burdensome year for communities around the world, the season of Advent prepares us for the coming of Jesus Christ; a time

of celebration, joy and hope.

Despite the challenges this year has brought, we hope that you will consider purchasing a Global Gift this Christmas – a gift that makes a real difference to the lives of people living in poverty.

A Global Gift is a gift that delivers twice the joy, and packs double the impact. Through the Global Gifts website, you can purchase digital Christmas cards for your family and friends, with the proceeds going towards supporting the world’s most vulnerable.

This Christmas, please consider buying a gift that changes lives. A Global Gift can provide life-changing essentials like clean water, nutritious food and an education to those doing it tough this year.

Visit www.globalgifts.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse our range of Global Gifts today.

JANUARY SUNDAY MASS TIME CHANGES

Please Note: While Fr Peter is on holidays in January, we will only have one Sunday Mass at 9 am. The 8 am & 10 am Masses will resume in February.

CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER FOR THE MICHAELITE MISSION PRIESTS WORKS.

Hand made Christmas Oils: gold, frankincense and myrrh with a pebble from the Sea of Galilee. Cost: \$25 each.

To order: phone Philomena Zambelli 6672 4635

JOSEPHITE CALENDARS

2022 Josephite Calendars are on sale in the Church or at the Parish Office. Only a few left. \$10.00 each.



St Vincent de Paul Society Mary MacKillop Conference Murwillumbah

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thanks to everyone who has supported this appeal so far! Your generosity will make a big difference to many who struggle to just get by.

Envelopes are available in the church for those who would still like to donate. They can be left at the Parish Office, Vinnies shop, or on a collection plate at Mass.

Donate online: <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal> BUT when you reach the option asking for ‘Comments or Conference Name’ please write “Conference 43-427” SO YOUR GIFT STAYS IN THIS AREA.

Thank you very much for anything you are able to do.

Denise Banner, President
Mary MacKillop Conference



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR C
RESPONSORIAL PSALM (PS 79)**

R: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark this season of Advent with loving and serving others with God’s own love and concern.” - *St Teresa of Calcutta*

MASS – The latest COVID-19 changes you need to know ...

Density limits have changed to “unlimited” from 15 December; however, as a precautionary measure, due to a local positive case in our school community, we will **not lift** our current density limit of 2 square metres until after Christmas.

QR check in on arrival is still required for places of worship.

All Masses will continue to be celebrated in the Sacred Heart Church. Country churches remain closed.

Masks are no longer required to be worn; however, we encourage you to continue to wear a mask inside and to continue to use the hand sanitiser provided.

Distribution of communion remains strictly **BY HAND** only.

From this weekend we can enjoy singing together as a congregation.

We will still maintain a covid-19 safety plan for the foreseeable future.

Thank you all for your care and consideration of each other throughout the past 2 years!

VIEW MASS AT HOME -

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

- Bishop Greg continues to online-stream Sunday Mass on the [Diocesan YouTube](#) channel - 9:00 am.
- Freeview TV - Channel 10 Sunday 6 am

**CHRISTMAS
MASS TIMES**

**CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL
Friday 24th December**

6:00pm - Sacred Heart Church (*Full*)

8:00pm - Sacred Heart Church

**CHRISTMAS DAY
Saturday 25th December**

9:00am - Sacred Heart Church

**HOLY FAMILY
Sunday 26th December**

9:00am - Sacred Heart Church

Please note:

There is no Vigil Mass on Saturday 25 December.

There is no Reconciliation at the 9am Mass on Sunday 26 December.

**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.



INVEST WITH PEACE OF MIND

www.dif.org.au Phone 1800 802 516 Paying .45%
Agents: ALG/Egan Simpson Solicitors: 15 Prince Street, Murwillumbah.