

# 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](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

---

## PARISH SCHOOLS

### Mt. St. Patrick College

Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 2340

[mshpmbah@lism.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mshpmbah@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 NATIVITY OF THE LORD - YR A 25 DECEMBER 2022

### The love God shows us at Christmas

What to do with Wally? Wally was an awkward and shy child at his local primary school. It was time to hand out roles for the Christmas play, but what role could the teacher give Wally? She decided on the innkeeper. It wasn't a key role and only required Wally to shake his head and say one line, "Sorry, we've no room." Wally grinned from ear to ear when he learned of his role, and he couldn't wait for the big night.



It arrived soon enough, and the play was proceeding according to plan. Mary and Joseph had travelled to Bethlehem and come to the door of the inn. Joseph knocked on the door and it was opened by Wally.

"Please sir, do you have a room we could take?" asked Joseph.

Wally shook his head and replied. "I'm sorry, we've no room."

Now the boy playing Joseph was a confident child, and while the script called for the couple to turn away, Joseph decided to exercise some dramatic license. "But sir," he said to the innkeeper, "My wife is about to have her baby and we need somewhere to stay. Couldn't you find us a room?"

Wally's face went white - this was not in the plan! He paused a moment before repeating his line. "I'm sorry, we've no room."

"But sir" replied Joseph, "We have travelled a long way, we've nowhere else to go and my wife is very tired. Surely you can find us some space."

Wally bowed his head, shook it sadly and said, "I'm sorry, we've no room." Forlornly, Joseph and Mary started walking away. Wally felt shamed and saddened. A tear trickled down his cheek. He then called out. "Wait! Please come back. You can have my room."

It may not have been according to script, but at that moment Wally gave perfect expression to the Christmas story. This story has no known author, but it touches the hearts of all and invites us to reach out to others to offer hospitality and not just at Christmas. Naturally, we offer hospitality to our family and friends, but are there others in the community to whom we could offer hospitality either in our home, or we could visit, pick up the phone or drop off food.

What would it mean to welcome a person or a family who are not Christian to be our guest and learn about our traditions? What would it mean to welcome a newcomer in our street or a recent migrant family? There are also those who have lost a loved one recently who might appreciate a place when their own place seems empty. We might even invite them to come with us to our parish Christmas carols and Mass. Christmas means God is among us in the person of Jesus. Can we bring others to know the presence of the Lord through the gift of our hospitality?

Michael A Kelly CSSR @ Majellan Media 2022

# This week in the Parish

Saturday 24 Dec **CHRISTMAS EVE - VIGIL**  
6:00pm - Vigil Mass

Sunday 25 Dec **THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY)**  
9:00am - Mass

*Please note: there are no weekday Masses this week*

Saturday 31 Rosary - 9:00 am  
Rosary - 5:30 pm  
6:00pm - Vigil Mass

Sunday 1 Jan Rosary - 8:30 am  
**MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD - YR A**  
9:00 am - Mass  
10:00 am - Parish Cuppa in the Church

## RECONCILIATION

**Saturday 31/12 & Sunday 1/1**

Saturday: 5.30 pm - 5.50 pm

Sunday: 8.30 am - 8.50 am

'May we be in this world  
a ray of that **light**  
which shone forth from Bethlehem,  
bringing joy and peace to the  
hearts  
of all men and women.'  
- Pope Francis

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Ken Doyle (husband of Thelma, Banora Point),  
Anthony Ephraums

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Betty Byrnes, Mark Biltoft, William Wood,  
Vera Paine, Doss Dodds, Pattie O'Keefe

### THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Rina Anderson, Mary Stewart, Julie Dawson,  
Maureen McCabe, Mark Hanna, Deb Craig,  
Fr Anthony Lemon, James Wallace

## CHRISTMAS /NEW YEAR CLOSURE:

The Parish Office is now closed  
**and will reopen 9am Monday 9 January 2023.**

**Phones and emails will be monitored  
throughout the holiday period.**

## JANUARY MASS TIME CHANGES

Please Note:

- ◆ While Fr Peter is on holidays in January, our weekend Mass times are Saturday Vigil 6pm and one Sunday Mass at 9 am.
- ◆ After Christmas there are no weekday Masses until Wednesday 1 February.

## ROSTERS | READINGS

### READING ROSTER

**31 Dec/1Jan | Mary, The Holy Mother of God**

6 pm - Christine Wightley

9 am - Mary-Ann Thackray

### READINGS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK:

**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

**Mary, The Holy MOTHER of GOD - Year A**

Num 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it." - Pope Francis

## 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 at both the Christmas Vigil Masses and the Christmas Day Mass, for this collection.

## CHRISTMAS MASS FROM THE VATICAN

**His Holiness Pope Francis will celebrate Midnight Mass in St Peter's Basilica on Christmas Day.**

**This will be telecast on ABC 1 commencing 9:30am (EST) on Christmas Day.**

It can also be viewed live on the internet, through the websites of Vatican TV and The Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN).

## 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 BANNERS

Luke connects Jesus' birth to the world-wide stage. The Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus was praised as saviour and bringer of peace, which he accomplished by defeating his enemies. Luke contrasts Augustus's accomplishments with Jesus the Saviour. While the world looks to the political centre for peace, Luke tells us to look at the outskirts of the empire.

Jesus is born in humble circumstances. He is wrapped in swaddling clothes as a sign of his humanity. Jesus is laid in a manger, a feeding trough for animals, as a sign that Jesus is to be food for the world. The Gospel of Luke is especially concerned for the poor, the outcast, those on the margins of society. This concern is never more apparent than in the proclamation of the Saviour to the shepherds. Shepherds lived on the margins and were not well respected by society, yet they are the first to hear of the Messiah. They were also the first to step out in faith to celebrate his birth.

When we celebrate Jesus' birth this Christmas season, we will be following in the footsteps of the shepherds. Like Mary, we will have much to reflect upon in our hearts. Our Jesse Tree banners depicting our Advent journey will stay up in the Church during the Christmas Season to remind us to make room in our hearts for Jesus in whatever form he may appear in our lives.

As the number of Covid cases are on the rise parishioners have raised concerns with the Pastoral Council regarding *The Sign of Peace* and the reception of *Holy Communion*.

We take this opportunity to remind everyone that at *The Sign of Peace* some members of the congregation might be more comfortable with a smile or a wave rather than a handshake.

A reminder also to those who are kneeling and/or receiving *Communion* on the tongue to please wait until the end of the Communion line.



## Bishop's Greg's CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2022

2022 has been a difficult challenging year for us all. Floods, displacement, loss of property, and the fear of another flood have so occupied us that, at times, we lost the joy of life and the appreciation of each other.

The year is drawing to a close, Christmas and New Year are upon us. The Feast of Jesus' birth and the festive season mark the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023. Each year at Christmas, we celebrate a new beginning. Jesus is born as a little baby and in this carries the hopes of the human race.

For all eternity the heart of God has been crying out and longing for you and me. We are so often hard of heart and do not respond to God's desire. At this time of the year as Advent disappears into Christmas our hearts begin to fill with hope and the desire for love and friendship. Our hearts begin to mirror the unbounded desire of God. Our emptiness longs to be filled. On Christmas day the heart of God the Father and our hearts meet. These hearts meet in the Child Jesus who carries the hopes of the world.

Let us gaze on the Child, in whom God and humans are united. He is our hope, our future and our life.

With my Christmas prayers and wishes,

+  Bishop Greg Homeming OCD

## CHRISTMAS EVE - VIGIL

*(Missal - Mass during the Night)*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Ps 95)**

**R: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**CELTIC ALLELUIA**

**Christmas Verse | Christopher Walker**

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**I bring you news of great joy,**

**joy for all nations,**

**for today is born**

**our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

*(Used with permission: One License A-641466)*

## CHRISTMAS DAY

*(Missal - Mass at dawn)*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Ps 96)**

**R: A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Glory to God in the highest,**

**peace to his people on earth.**

**Alleluia!**

## WITH THANKS AND APPRECIATION

Fr. Peter would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the life of the Parish during the past twelve months.

Your efforts are greatly appreciated.



# Merry Christmas

Wishing you a Happy and Holy Christmas  
and a Peace filled New Year to all  
Fr Anthony, Fr Peter, Mary-Ann, Beth,  
Barbara, Belinda, Bernice & Shirley.  
May the peace of Christ  
find a home in your heart.



Every Christmas the Christ Child in the manger at Bethlehem invites us to stop – and pay attention to the things that are especially important in our lives: our loved ones, our family and friends - and our loving God who holds us in existence, *‘in the palm of his hand’.*

When Christmas is over, an excellent way to grow in faith and to develop one’s relationship with God is to be part of our community as we celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays.

You will be most welcome!

**Wishing you and your family a happy  
and holy Christmas!**

## THANK YOU!

Murwillumbah Mary MacKillop Conference of St Vincent de Paul expresses sincere thanks to all who supported in any way our 2022 Christmas Appeal.

61 families will have a much brighter Christmas because of your kindness. It is wonderful to experience how generous our parishioners and schools are, and we wish you all God’s good blessings for a very Happy Christmas.

## VIEW MASS AT HOME -

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

- Bishop Greg is online-streaming Christmas Day Mass, available on Christmas morning. Go to the [Diocesan YouTube](#) channel.
- Bishop Greg continues to online-stream Sunday Mass on the [Diocesan YouTube](#) channel - 9:00 am.
- Freeview TV - Channel 10 Sunday 6 am.

## 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.

## INVEST WITH PEACE OF MIND

www.dif.org.au Phone 1800 802 516

Paying 2.60% (effective 1 January)

Agents: ALG/Egan Simpson Solicitors:

15 Prince Street, Murwillumbah.

(Office re-opens Tuesday 10 Jan 2023)

