

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 - Yr A 18 DECEMBER 2022

Little fanfare for Jesus' birth

When there is a major announcement of a forthcoming event, it is usually accompanied by a media statement and even a press conference. Sometimes social media influencers are also invited to create some excitement and "buzz" around the announcement. Companies like Apple, Tesla and Boeing spend millions of dollars to launch their latest products worldwide.



Similarly, when a famous celebrity couple welcomes a new addition to the family, it's all over the news services and social media, sometimes for days on end. It's like no other news is worthy of airtime.

However, when God chose human form in Bethlehem, there was no spectacular announcement. There were no bells and whistles, no fireworks. In fact, there was nothing but a bright star that attracted little attention except for a few wise men who travelled from the east. The birth of Jesus probably didn't attract much interest outside the immediate families of Joseph and Mary, perhaps to spare Mary embarrassment such as the unusual nature of the baby's arrival.

The biggest event the universe has witnessed had taken place with little fanfare. In the scheme of things, this was even bigger than the creation of the universe itself. Even the universe must have 'held its breath'.

That speaks of God preferring to work quietly, unseen and unnoticed. Choosing to be like many of us who work quietly in our offices, schools, our homes.

For many people, our lives are simple and uneventful. Nothing spectacular happens and little that would warrant much outside attention. But it is in that simple, uneventful and unspectacular 'living' that God comes as one of us in order to bring us all closer to God. That's what happened to Joseph and Mary and that same invitation is also open to everyone. That's the underlying meaning of the name Emmanuel, "God is with us". That God wants to be with us in the very ordinariness of our lives.

The world today can sometimes be loud, vulgar and crass which is opposite to God coming to us in a quiet, ordinary way as a normal man. That's why the angel said to Joseph that there is no need to be afraid because God will come to be his son like any ordinary boy.

Big announcements and even big events will come, and they will go. Prominent companies and famous people will come and eventually be confined to the history books, but God is the one constant. Perhaps it is not us who waits for God, but God with loving patience who waits for us. We need to realise that God is amongst us now in our everyday, mundane lives and will be with us for all eternity.

Mark Chia CSsR © Majellan Media 2022

This week in the Parish

Sunday 18	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year A Rosary - 7:30 am Reconciliation: 7:30am - 7:50am 8:00 am - Mass 10:00 am - Mass 11:15 am - Baptism 12 noon - Baptisms
Tuesday 20	5:30 pm - Mass
Wednesday 21	5:30 pm - Mass
Thursday 22	8:15 am - Mass 12 noon - Legion of Mary - Parish Meeting Centre
Friday 23	Reconciliation - 11:00 am 12 noon - Mass
Saturday 24	CHRISTMAS EVE - VIGIL 6:00pm - <u>Vigil Mass</u>
Sunday 25	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY) - Yr A 9:00am - <u>Mass</u>

HOUR FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

from 4:30 pm
before Tuesday & Wednesday
5:30 pm Mass

RECONCILIATION

Friday: 11:00 am - 11:40 am

ROSARY

'The Rosary is prayed half an hour before each weekend Mass. Please join us in front of the tabernacle to pray for our parish and prepare for Mass.'

WEDNESDAY WORD

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

ROSARY STATUE

Resumes 15 January



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Ken Doyle, Anthony Ephraums, Ben McShane-Hill

ANNIVERSARIES: Monsignor Michael Quinn (M'bah Parish Priest 1912-1935) Fay Albury, Robert Turner, Thomas Sterling, Edmund & Lavinia Roche, Frank & David Roche, Betty & Mary-Anne Franks, Arthur & Rita Salter, Veronica Carroll

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

ROSTERS

READING ROSTER

24 Dec | CHRISTMAS VIGIL | Yr A
6pm - Kay Ryder

25 Dec | CHRISTMAS DAY | Yr A
9am - Philomena Zambelli

READINGS FOR 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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We 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.



BAPTISMS:

Please welcome

Dex Alfred De Mezieres,
Naith Albert McCarthy
& Royce Patrik McCarthy
to our faith community.

CHRISTMAS /NEW YEAR CLOSURE:

The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas /New Year period from
12 noon Friday 23 December 2022
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, we will only have one Sunday Mass at 9 am.
- ♦ From Tuesday 27 December there are no weekday Masses until Wednesday 1 February.

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 Mass and the Christmas Day Mass, for this collection.

ADVENT BANNERS

During the fourth week of Advent we reflect on the fact that God's chosen Messiah is about to come into the world.

We think about Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the risks she was taking when she said yes, to becoming the mother of the Messiah. Mary was a young girl from a small village where everyone knows everyone and everything they are doing. Mary lived in an occupied land and faced an unknown future with courage and joy. Her decision made it possible for us to discover what it means to live in Jesus.

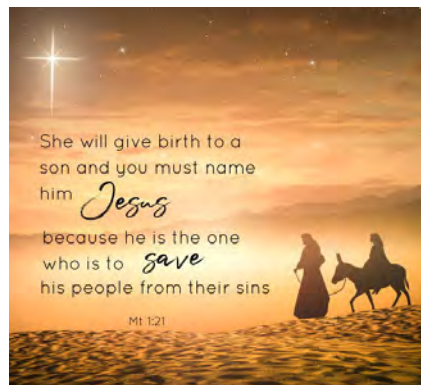
We think about Joseph an honest, caring man who finds himself in a situation he does not expect. With help from God, Joseph makes a choice to protect, to nurture and care for Mary and her unborn baby. In his faithful listening and open heart, Joseph is a model for all to understand and love Jesus whose birth we prepare to celebrate.

Our symbols for this week are for Mary – a lily and Joseph - a hammer and a saw.

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.



REFLECTION Greg Sunter LIVING THE GOSPEL – ADVENT

Emmanuel; God-is-with-us – that's what we celebrate through Christmas and that's what we've been preparing for during Advent. We celebrate God-with-us in a particular time and place through our celebration of the birth of Jesus. But we remember it every year because we also use the Christmas celebration to remind ourselves that God continues to be with us. That is what is so remarkable about the Christmas season: that God-is-with-us **now**, not just in a stable in Palestine so many years ago, but now! Advent is the time to remind ourselves of this incredible truth and prepare ourselves to acknowledge it once again.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

It appears from the passage that Mary's child is to be called both Jesus and Emmanuel. Emmanuel is not intended as a different name for Jesus but rather one of the many titles that will be applied to him. The title means God-is-with-us. That one word, Emmanuel, sums up the essence of Jewish and Christian belief. The Jewish people's faith in God was built on the basis that God travelled with them and through their lives. Christians believe that God took on an even closer sense of being with us through God's incarnation in the life of Jesus.



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST | LITURGY & MUSIC CONFERENCE 28-30 SEPTEMBER 2023 IN BRISBANE

The Pastoral Council invites interested parishioners to lodge an expression of interest to attend "The Art of Liturgical Celebration" Conference in September 2023. The Parish will partly subsidise registration fees for this Conference noting that those chosen to attend will be responsible for their own transport and accommodation fees. The amount subsidised for each attendee by the Parish will be dependent on the number of people who we register.

The international keynote speakers are well-known British liturgical composer Bernadette Farrell and U.S. liturgist and author Timothy O'Malley (Notre Dame). In addition, there will be many expert local workshop presenters and facilitators with 42 workshops on offer across the three days. It is rare to have expert liturgical musicians, liturgists and educators together in one place for three days of focused input, so this is a fabulous opportunity for some of us to attend. In addition to the high-quality keynotes and workshops, there will also be opportunities to engage in facilitated discussions and to build networks with liturgists, liturgical musicians and educators from around the country.

To register your interest, please send an email to murwillumbah@lismore.catholic.org.au by 19 December 2022. Copies of the Information flyer for this event are available at the back of the church or from the Parish Office. The full cost of registration is \$480 per person (3 days). One day registrations are also available at \$200 per day per person.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Yr A

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Psalm 23)

R: Let the Lord enter, he is King of glory.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

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.

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 Saturday 24th December

6:00pm | Sacred Heart Church

CHRISTMAS DAY Sunday 25th December

9:00am | Sacred Heart Church

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH, KINGSCLIFF

Christmas Eve Vigil - 6:00pm

Christmas Day - 9:00am

STS MARY & AMBROSE CHURCH, POTTSVILLE

Christmas Eve Vigil - 6:00pm

Christmas Day - 7:30am

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, TWEED HEADS

Christmas Eve Vigil - 5:30pm, 8:00pm, Midnight

Christmas Day - 8:00am

ST CAMILLUS' CHURCH, BILAMBIL

Christmas Day - 9:00am

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 0414 201 940

"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

Pope's Prayer Intentions for December...

Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organisations: We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

JOSEPHITE CALENDARS

2023 Josephite Calendars are on sale in the Church and the Parish Office. \$10.00 each.



INVEST WITH PEACE OF MIND

www.dif.org.au Ph: 1800 802 516 Paying 2.60% (effective 1 January 2023)

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