

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Yr A
11 DECEMBER 2022

The need for patience while we wait

What are you like at waiting? As one person said: "I'm no good at waiting, but one day as I stood in line at a local supermarket I realised I was waiting. Waiting! I was doing what Advent is all about."



That's what John the Baptist, one of the striking Advent figures, is doing in today's gospel. Waiting in prison for news of the Messiah, wondering is this the one he'd been expecting? We all know the feeling given the expectations we might have of Jesus. Perhaps we like what John has said, his stress on the power and judgement of the One to come.

But Jesus says to John's disciples, tell him what you see and hear, that the blind, the lame, the deaf, the lives of those cast out have been transformed. He isn't fulfilling John's expectations so much as calling our attention to the prophecy of Isaiah which is referred to in the first reading.

The lives of those cast out are transformed and, as in Isaiah, where the wilderness blooms now the exile in Babylon is over, they too may return from a kind of exile, full of hope. In today's gospel these are the signs of the kingdom that Jesus points to, rather than God's retribution.

So, what do we see and hear? Can we glimpse the working of God among us in Advent? This may seem a daunting task because we're so caught up in the 'festive season' that any talk of slowing down is best left till Boxing Day. But what if we're able to see something else in what we're already doing? That's what the woman standing in the queue at the supermarket is doing; she's waiting and that's what Advent is about.

Could standing there, or wherever we find ourselves waiting be such a moment? Why not put the phone away and wait? And what about a more formal moment, as we light the third, pink candle of the Advent wreath today, on Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday?

Amidst the call to pray and to fast, we seek to light a candle and share that light with the forgotten ones, inviting them to eat with us, welcoming them into our lives. In pointing to the Christ who is to come John bears witness to this light. That's the point of his life, doubts and all, and why Jesus says there is none greater.

The point of our lives is to become more Christ-like and discover our 'greatness' in him. In doing so 'the least in the kingdom of Heaven will be greater' than John is. We rejoice that we're invited to help build up the kingdom and to enable this we must learn to be patient, as the second reading says, waiting in expectation of the Lord's coming, for he will come and is already present among us, not attempting to force God's hand.

In Advent, we're preparing a way for the Lord, realising, once again, that God so loves the world.

Damien Coleridge © Majellan Media 2022

This week in the Parish

Sunday 11	THIRD 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 - Baptisms 12 noon - Baptisms
Tuesday 13	5:30 pm - Mass 6:00 pm - Twilight Retreat (see note page 4)
Wednesday 14	5:30 pm - Mass
Thursday 15	8:15 am - Mass 12 noon - Legion of Mary - Parish Meeting Centre
Friday 16	Reconciliation - 11:00 am 12 noon - Mass
Saturday 17	8:30 am - Rosary & Prayers - Legion of Mary 9:00 am - Mass of Anointing (see note below) 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
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 - Baptisms 12 noon - Baptisms

HOUR FOR PRIVATE PRAYER
 from 4:30 pm
 before Tuesday & Wednesday
 5:30 pm Mass

RECONCILIATION
 Friday: 11:00 am - 11:40 am
 Saturday: 5.30 pm - 5.50 pm
 Sunday: 7.30 am - 7.50 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 
 Evelyn & John Cook

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Anthony Ephraums, Ben McShane-Hill, Daphne McLennan, Fr Louis Molloy SM

ANNIVERSARIES: Eileen Gear

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

ROSTERS

READING ROSTER

17/18 Dec | Fourth Sunday of Advent - Yr A

6 pm - Barbara Brodbeck
 8 am - Bernard Nolan
 10 am - Lorraine Green

ALTAR SERVERS:

6pm | Yasmin Van Rosi | Lucia Calvino
 8am | Bailey & Jana Lofts

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Yr A
 Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

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
Ella Jean Youngman,
Imani Aud Rensen,
Hadley Lu Rensen
Evie Margaret Clarkson,
Joseph Peter Reynolds
& Jackson Hamers
 to our faith community.

CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP

December Morning Tea
 Wednesday 14 December | 10:00 am
 Murwillumbah Services Club
 Enquiries: Alex Lever 0458 817 021

ALL MEN ARE WELCOME

'MASS OF ANOINTING'

9AM | SATURDAY | 17 DECEMBER

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is a prayer of healing which may be celebrated individually and communally, and may be received more than once.

All Parishioners Are Welcome.

ADVENT BANNERS

Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday. Its name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." This is a quotation from Philippians 4:4-5, and in Latin, the first word of the antiphon is Gaudete - "rejoice."

In the readings we hear about miracles associated with the Messianic age, its coming, and what we need to do to prepare. We also learn about the doubts of John the Baptist, how he dealt with them, and the blessing that makes us even more fortunate than John was. We reflect on the ways in which we can help others to follow Jesus more closely in their lives and the symbols for our banner this week are for people who helped to save others; David – a harp; and John – shell and water.

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.
| cf. Isa 35:4

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.

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.



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



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.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Yr A

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Psalm 145)

R: Lord, come and save us.

IF SUNG:

R: Come O Lord, come and save us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

*Twilight Retreat
for Advent
'Waiting with Mary'
Tuesday 13 December
6pm College Library/
Catholic Hall
following 5:30 pm Mass*



World Mission Month Appeal Thank you

A big thank you to all who prayerfully and financially supported the 2022 World Mission Month Appeal. Your compassion, generosity and missionary heart will vastly improve the lives of families in Emdibir, Ethiopia through resourcing the Deberety Goat Rearing Centre and providing nutritious milk for the local community. God bless you.

Loana Wallace
Catholic Mission

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

As another school year draws to a close, we wish all the staff and students of our three Parish Schools, a safe and happy holiday.

JOSEPHITE CALENDARS

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

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

An Update from Fr. Anthony...

A couple of weeks ago I was sorting through some boxes, in one of them was all the cards and gifts that had been sent to me during my long stay in hospital. Every card had well wishes and the assurance of prayer. Those prayers have made an enormous impact on my recovery, I am very grateful for the hours so many of you have put in to praying for my recovery. I'm also grateful for your constant inquiries as to my current state of health. I miss very much being in active ministry, no doubt it will come in good time.

Last week was my one year anniversary of my surgery, I visited PA hospital to see my surgeons. The news was good and they were amazed at how well I had recovered in the previous twelve months. I still have a way to go but at least now I have the hope of a reasonable recovery and return to ministry sometime in the future.

My next appointment is in mid February which hopefully all going to plan should indicate a possible return to ministry. My guess is that I will return and start slowly and see what I can reasonably achieve, all this of course will be on the advice of my surgeon and doctor. So no firm date yet but getting closer.

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Parish Team at Sacred Heart Parish who have made sure that everything I need for a successful recovery is in place. The Diocese of Lismore has also been remarkable in their care and support for me. Thank you for your prayers and may you have a blessed, safe and Holy Christmas.

Fr. Anthony Lemon



INVEST WITH PEACE OF MIND

www.dif.org.au Ph: 1800 802 516 Paying 1.75%

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