

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

**6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -
YEAR A
12 February 2023**

Living as gospel people

In today's gospel it seems Jesus is asking too much of us! Following the commandments is not enough. We must also avoid anger, abusive language, lustful thoughts, and not take oaths of any kind! Even calling someone a 'fool' or 'renegade' is an offence. But is Jesus actually asking us to follow an impossible set of commandments ... or is he doing something else?

First, we need to note Jesus' statement in Matthew's Gospel: *"I have not come to abolish the law or the prophets, but to complete them"*. The community of disciples Jesus is addressing are all Jews who show great respect for the Law. The pharisees, in particular, are suspicious of Jesus because he doesn't speak much about major Jewish rules such as circumcision, food laws or Sabbath requirements. At times, they think, Jesus even acts against them!

However, Jesus is not interested in debating them about any particular law. Instead, he challenges their inadequate, superficial - at times hypocritical - thinking that assumes God's favour is won by following the letter of the Law.

In fact, Jesus says the Law does not go far enough unless it highlights love of God and neighbour. So, Jesus reinterprets the Law according to the spirit of the Beatitudes: *"Blessed are the pure in heart; blessed are the poor in spirit; blessed are the merciful; blessed are the peacemakers"*.

But, who among us can claim to be these perfect "Beatitude people"? We are still left with this problem of what seems to be the "impossibility of the gospel" captured in Jesus' statement: *"You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect"*. Now, Jesus is not naïve. He is perfectly aware that none of us - scribes, pharisees or his own disciples - is able to claim this degree of spiritual conversion to the law of love. So, do we just wash our hands, shrug our shoulders and carry on as before?

Or do we take the second option of turning to the God of love and mercy who challenges us to change our ways, forgives our failures, and assists us to become more effective "gospel people"? To be a gospel person is to be on a journey. This call to deepening conversion is not only needed in the current world of geo-politics; it is also needed in our own Christian communities.

Let us together look to God's revelation in Jesus and the Scriptures so wonderfully summarised in today's reading from St Paul: *"The things no eye has seen, no ear has heard, things beyond the human mind, all that God has prepared for those who love him"*. The gospel is not impossible because it is the wisdom and work of God in process. As we continue on our life's journey, living and growing as gospel people, let us play our small but important role in bringing the gospel to birth in our families, communities and world.

Gerard Hall SM @ Majellan Media 2023

This week in the Parish

Sunday 12	6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass 10:15 am - Baptism
Tuesday 14	5:30 pm - Mass
Wednesday 15	10:00 am - Catholic Men's Group (see note below) 5:30 pm - Mass
Thursday 16	NO 8:15 am Mass today 11:00 am - Requiem Mass for Rob Smith 12 noon - Legion of Mary Parish Meeting Centre 5:30 pm - Finance Council Meeting
Friday 17	12:00 pm - Mass
Saturday 18	9:00 am - Rosary 5:30 pm - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 19	7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass

HOUR FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

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

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 5.30 pm - 5.50 pm
Sunday: 8.30 am - 8.50 am

WEDNESDAY WORD

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

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Rob Smith, Julie Dawson, Patrick Flanagan, Malcolm Caden, Brian Flanagan, Ken Woodhead

ANNIVERSARIES:

Max McCabe, Margaret O'Neill, Mary Lazenby, Guilio Bottacio, Bob Flanagan

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Maureen McCabe, Fr Anthony Lemon, James Wallace



BAPTISMS:

Please welcome
Harriet Mac Campbell
to our faith community.

CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP

February morning tea

Wed 15 February | 10:00 am | M'bah Services Club

Enquiries: Alex Lever 0458 817 021

ALL MEN ARE WELCOME

ROSTERS | READINGS

READING ROSTER

18/19 Jan | 7th Sunday in Ord Time | Year A

6pm - Barbara Brodbeck

9am - Lorraine Green

READINGS FOR TODAY AND NEXT SUNDAY:

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A

Sir 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A

Lev 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

ROSARY STATUE

Kay Ryder



ASH WEDNESDAY

MASS TIMES

22 FEBRUARY

7:30 am - Sacred Heart Church

5:30 pm - Sacred Heart Church

God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

- John 3:16

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.

SACRED HEART PARISH YOUTH GROUP

The Parish Pastoral Council is seeking preliminary interest from parents in regard to the establishment of a [Sacred Heart Parish Youth Group](#). With World Youth Day being held in Lisbon this August it seems an ideal time to focus on the needs and wishes of our local youth.

Would you please forward your comments and ideas by email to either or both Barbara Grant (barbara.grant@lism.catholic.edu.au) and/or Annette Lofts (jebaholdings@gmail.com).

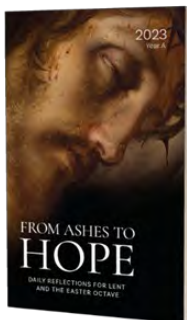
Some aspects you may consider would be how the group would be set up, ages, activities, frequency of gatherings etc. Your suggestions will be very welcome.

CUP OF TEA - FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH - HELPERS INVITED!

The Parish Pastoral Council invites interested parishioners to volunteer to help the Social Committee run the morning tea held after 9am Mass on the first Sunday of each month.

A sheet is available at the table near the church entrance - if you're willing to share this work of service to our Parish community please add your name and contact details and a roster can be drawn up. Many thanks for your help!

2023 LENTEN PROGRAMME 'From Ashes To Hope'



Short daily reflections for Lent, Holy week and to the Second Sunday of Easter. *From Ashes To Hope* will nourish and nurture prayer each day during Lent and into the first week of Easter.

The daily reflections invite the reader to contemplate a verse from the Scripture reading of the day. This is followed by a quote from

Pope Francis and a simple prayer.

You are invited to join us for prayer and reflection during the weeks of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday 22 February.

If you would like to take part in a Lenten Group, please write your name and phone number on the sheet provided. Also nominate preferred day and time, and if you are willing to be a leader.

Please note Parish Administration Centre is available to hold Lenten Group meetings.

Lenten books are available at the Parish Office and the Church - \$6.00 each.

NATIONAL APOLOGY DAY



National Apology Day in Australia will be observed on February 13.

On Monday, we commemorate the first-ever national apology made by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in 2008 to reset the federal government's rehabilitation, justice, and reconciliation agenda for all Indigenous Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders and the Aboriginal children who were forcibly removed from their families.

National Apology Day remembers the official apology to the tens of thousands of children and families traumatised by forced child removal and assimilation government policies.

It is separate to National Sorry Day, or the National Day of Healing, which is held on May 26.

National Sorry Day marks the initial tabling of the Bringing Them Home report in the federal Parliament. The report was the result of a 1995 inquiry by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission into government policies and practices between 1910 and the 1970s. Those policies forcefully separated many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

The affected children, known as the 'Stolen Generations' — estimated to be 10% to 33% of all Indigenous children between 1910 and the 1970s — suffered significant abuse and trauma, as they had to live under harsh conditions and abusive treatment, and were compelled to reject their Indigenous heritage.

The report also made recommendations for addressing past wrongs, including the issuance of formal apologies by state and federal governments, and the provision of funding to rehabilitate the victims.

Prime Minister Rudd subsequently issued a formal public apology on behalf of the federal government for the policies which inflicted grief, suffering, and loss on the Stolen Generations.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

During Term One a number of children from our parish will be preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

There will be a Parent Information Meeting on Tuesday 28 February at 6:30pm in the Sacred Heart Church.

Parents of children who were Confirmed in 2022 and would like their children to continue with their Sacraments, are asked to attend.

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - A

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (PS 118)

R: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

REFLECTION...

Jesus continues to instruct the disciples in the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. The readings for today focus our attention on the nature of true wisdom. It is this true wisdom which prompts us to choose the right course of action. It is true wisdom that directs us in our interpretation of the law.

The longer we live, the more we realise that life experiences open up for us a series of choices. With these choices we chart the path that we will take. Circumstances might be thrust on us, but we can still make choices about how we will deal with them. Obedient people do what they are told; wise people choose what good they will do. True wisdom calls us to choose life and whatever enhances life. If we are truly wise, we will come to realise that what was acceptable and life-enhancing in one situation may not be appropriate in another. Life is fluid, and our thinking and acting must be flexible enough to adapt when necessary.

True wisdom, which comes to us through the Spirit, will enrich us with insight into life in ways we never thought possible. We will realise where and how we fit into the vast and interrelated ecosystems of the universe, and we will be overawed with the majesty and intricacy of its workings. We will understand once and for all that the value of anything is determined by its capacity to enrich life, and we will commit ourselves to and cherish every manifestation of that life.

- Julie Bergant CSA

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*

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.

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

