

# 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

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## PARISH STAFF

### Administrator

Fr. Peter Wood

### Parish Manager

Mary-Ann Thackray

### Parish Secretary

Beth Gorton

### Pastoral Associate

Barbara Grant

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## 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

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## PARISH SCHOOLS

### Mt. St. Patrick College

Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 2340

[mshpcmbah@lism.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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](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

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

(DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

YEAR A | 16 April 2023

### Our journey of faith

In the dramatic encounter between Jesus and the disciple Thomas after Jesus's resurrection, Jesus invites Thomas - who is stricken with doubt - to put his hand into Jesus' side. It provides a vivid example of how God draws close to us, despite our fears and doubts, when we struggle to find a way forward.

As a child, I used to watch my father develop photographs in a dark room illuminated only by a dim red light. As the photographic paper was dipped successively in different trays of chemicals, the latent photographic image emerged. At first, only a vague outline of the image would be visible. Increasingly, the image improved in clarity. The final product was always a sharp, focused and vivid black and white image. Our journey of faith is something like this, our understanding and insight slowly developing.

Thomas the disciple has often been portrayed in a negative light for voicing his doubts. Like Thomas, we desire God, yet are filled with doubt because we are unsure how to proceed. However, these moments of doubt, in both Thomas's and our experience, rather than being viewed as falling short of the mark, should be regarded as opportunities where we are invited to take a step forward in faith. We need to remember that in life, as in this Gospel account, Jesus takes the initiative by coming amongst us, blessing us with his peace and breathing upon us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

It is also worth noting that the opposite of doubt is not the elimination of all uncertainty but an invitation to faith. Faith holds a candle to the path forward: yet the path is not necessarily one that is easy or carefree. The path forward, even when taken in faith, can still be filled with pain and uncertainty.

Nevertheless, Jesus accompanies us in this journey of faith. He lovingly invites Thomas to see his hands, to put his hand in his side. He says to Thomas and to all of us, "Feel my wounds." This is no rebuke but an intimate, loving, bodily embrace of our flesh-and-blood humanity.

Jesus takes his place in our lives not just in the joyful certainties of our life but amidst those doubt-filled gaps. He faced those moments himself: in Gethsemane on the eve of his death and in those final moments on the cross. In his loving embrace of our humanity, he transforms those dark nights of the soul. "Reach out your hand and put it into my side," he says encouragingly.

As children of the Resurrection, our awe-filled response, "My Lord and my God", allows the flooding in of his remarkable grace and peace and redemption. It embeds his presence in our midst. Let us remember, as Thomas Merton observed, "There is no such thing as a prayer in which 'nothing is done' or 'nothing happens,' although there may well be a prayer in which nothing is perceived or felt or thought."

Sophie Clements @ Majellan Media 2023

# This week in the Parish

Saturday 15	5:30 pm - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 16	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Divine Mercy Sunday)</b> 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass
Tuesday 18	10:30 am - Requiem Mass for John Flanagan NO 5:30 pm Mass today
Wednesday 19	10:00 am - Catholic Men's Group (note below) 5:30 pm - Mass
Thursday 20	8:15 am - Mass
Friday 21	No Mass today
Saturday 22	8:30 am - Rosary 5:30 pm - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 23	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 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

## 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:

Elsie Graham (cousin of Bev Guinea), Les Rose (uncle of Gary Bewes), John Flanagan

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Alan Wilson, Ray Grant

### THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Stephanie Lemon, Malcolm Reid, Paul Calvino, Margaret Hyde, Leo Kelly, Maureen McCabe, Fr Anthony Lemon, James Wallace

## ROSTERS | READINGS

### READING ROSTER

22/23 April | Third Sunday of Easter | Yr A

6pm - Christine Wightley

9am - Lorraine Green

### READINGS FOR TODAY & NEXT SUNDAY:

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - Year A

Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pet 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - Year A

Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pet 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

## ROSARY STATUE

Susan & Vince Kean



## CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP

April morning tea

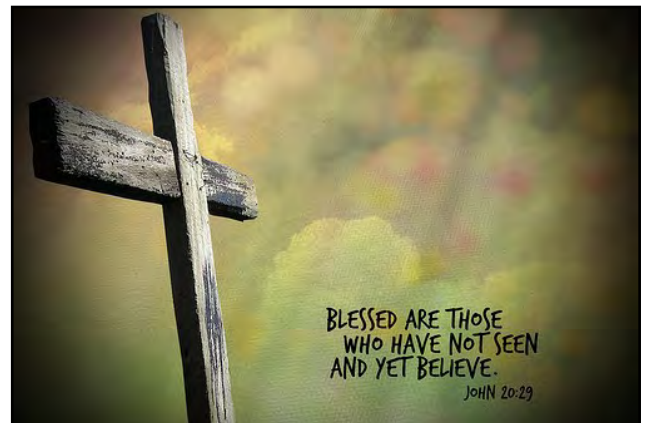
Wed 19 April | 10:00 am | Mbah Services Club

Enq: Alex Lever 0458 817 021

**ALL MEN ARE WELCOME**

## Welcome...

This Sunday we welcome members of the Gold Coast Tweed Catenian Society to Murwillumbah. They will be with us for the 9am Mass.



## 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.*

## 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](https://www.youtube.com/LismoreDioceseAU) - 9:00 am - [youtube.com/LismoreDioceseAU](https://www.youtube.com/LismoreDioceseAU)
- Freeview TV - Channel 10 Sunday 6 am

# THANK YOU



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2023. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) and donate online.

**Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can still donate to Project Compassion by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

A colorful poster for 'Back to the 80s' musical. It features a rainbow road leading to a city skyline. The text includes 'Mt St Patrick College presents', 'BACK TO THE 80'S ...THE TOTALLY AWESOME MUSICAL!', 'Written by Neil Goding', 'By arrangement with David Spicer Productions', and a schedule for Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday performances. A QR code is at the bottom right.

**Wednesday** 3rd of May, 2023 7:30 pm  
**Friday** 5th of May, 2023 7:30 pm  
**Saturday** 6th of May, 2023 7:30 pm

**Tickets available now!**

Tickets available at TryBooking via the QR Code!

## Gospel Reflection...

Because the focus of this week's gospel passage is usually placed on poor old doubting Thomas, we sometimes overlook the way the passage begins.

The disciples are huddled in a room, 'for fear of the Jews'. Just a couple of weeks earlier they had been on top of the world. Jesus was enormously popular with the people, and the disciples, by association, were caught up in that affection. Their man, the one they had chosen to follow, was making waves and stirring the authorities – thumbing his nose at the rules. This, of course, made the disciples feel good to be around Jesus.

However, in the space of just a few short days, their world had turned upside down. They'd gone from riding the crest of a wave to being utterly dumped! They were cowering in a closed up room, afraid for their lives in case those who handed Jesus over for death came for them as well. They'd already had an experience of the resurrected Jesus yet they were still hiding and afraid. Into this fear and uncertainty steps Jesus who says, 'Peace be with you'. It is a reminder of Jesus calming the storm out on the lake – in the midst of turmoil and anxiety he brings peace and calm.

Thomas has received a pretty bad rap for the last 2000 years, forever labelled as 'Doubting Thomas' because he wasn't prepared to take someone else's word for the fact that Jesus had risen. However, despite his demand for evidence, once Jesus is before him, he abandons all his thoughts about placing his fingers in the wounds and proclaims, 'My Lord and my God!' This is an absolutely extraordinary statement of faith. For the very first time, someone recognises Jesus, not as Messiah, prophet or Lord, but as God.

-Greg Sunter

## Alstonville|Wardell Parish

presents

**Fr Ray Sanchez**

speaking on

## GRIEF AND LOSS

Two sessions available

- ◆ **Friday 12 May at 6:30 pm** - followed by wine and cheese (BYO)
- ◆ **Saturday 13 May at 9:30 am** - followed by morning tea (please bring a plate to share)

**in McCarthy Hall**

(next to Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Alstonville)

**Everyone is most welcome**

**Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia. (John 20:27)**



The Incredulity of St. Thomas  
- Caravaggio, 1603

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Ps 117)

**R: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
his love is everlasting.**

### IF SUNG:

**R: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
his love endures forever.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**You believe in me, Thomas, because you have  
seen me; happy those who have not seen me,  
but still believe.**

**Alleluia!**

## TODAY IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter (within the Easter Octave).

It is a devotion based on revelations to Saint Faustina Kowalska including promises of grace related to devotion to Divine Mercy.

This day celebrates the richness, meaning, participation in and

application of God's mercy for us.

This day we cry out with St. Thomas "My Lord and My God" (John 20:28).

### DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Legion of Mary will lead the Divine Mercy Chaplet this Sunday, after the 9am Mass in the Sacred Heart Church.

## 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 3.20%

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

