

# 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

02 6672 1118

[www.shpmurwillumbah.com.au](http://www.shpmurwillumbah.com.au)

[murwillumbah@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:murwillumbah@lismore.catholic.org.au)

PO Box 45

Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Queensland Road

Murwillumbah NSW 2484

## PARISH SCHOOLS

### Mt. St. Patrick College

Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 2340

[mshpmurwillumbah@lismore.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mshpmurwillumbah@lismore.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Mr. Paul Reidy

### Mt. St. Patrick Primary School

Mooball Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1821

[mshpmurwillumbah@lismore.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mshpmurwillumbah@lismore.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Mr. Brendan Ryan

### St. Joseph's Primary School

Greville Street, South Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1867

[mshpmurwillumbah@lismore.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mshpmurwillumbah@lismore.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Mr. Jason Clarke

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR B 24 DECEMBER 2023

### Like Mary we are called to be prophets

In preparation for the birth of Jesus tomorrow, today we celebrate the Annunciation, the announcement to Mary that she is being invited to become the mother of the Saviour. Moreover, we hear the story in the Gospel of Luke who portrays Mary as a true believer and first disciple of Jesus. While Mary is not a disciple like the Twelve who accompany Jesus in his ministry, she is presented as the true disciple who hears the Word of God and acts upon it.



Birth announcements play a significant role in the Hebrew Scriptures turning supposed barren wombs into surprising conceptions: Ishmael is born to Hagar; Isaac to Abraham and Sarah; John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth ["She who was thought to be barren is now in her sixth month!"]. Israel's God is ever full of surprises!

The telling of the Annunciation story is also significant because it follows the pattern of the calling of the Jewish prophets (e.g., Moses and Jeremiah): there is a heavenly messenger or angel; the 'prophet' expresses fear but is told to not be afraid; God's intention is announced; objections are given; finally, a sign of divine power is presented.

Mary's objection to the idea of bearing a son is grounded in biological reality: "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel's answer is that the Holy Spirit will overshadow her and enable this 'miracle' to occur in the same manner the Spirit hovered over the waters at the origin of creation. This same Spirit was again present at the baptism and transfiguration of Jesus.

Mary's final response – "I am the handmaid of the Lord; let what you have said be done to me" – is not an expression of passive servitude. Mary's fiat ('let it be done') demonstrates a conscious and active faith; and it shows an almost outrageous authority as she first questions the angel before making a decision that implies enormous risk and danger. After all, if the law of Deuteronomy was applied, as an unwed mother Mary could be stoned to death!

The birth of the Lord in human flesh coming into the world to deliver us from power and greed relies on this poor, peasant Jewish woman saying yes to God's invitation. Certainly, Mary's call is unique insofar as she alone is invited to conceive and deliver Jesus. Yet, like Mary, we are all called to give Jesus Christ in our own lives.

God's gracious care and desire to repair our lives and planet earth is occurring today. Do we have Mary's faith, hope and courage to say "Yes" to the divine invitation to be missionary disciples of Jesus in the way of Mary. Like Mary, we are all called to be prophets, people who denounce the world's injustices, and cry out to God to bring peace and reconciliation to all peoples. As we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ may we, like Mary, learn to hear the Word of God and put it into practice.

Gerard Hall SM © Magellan Media 2023

# Two weeks in the Parish

Sunday 24	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B</b> 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass <b>CHRISTMAS EVE - VIGIL</b> 6:00 pm - Mass
Monday 25	<b><u>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY)</u></b> 9:00am - Mass <i>Please note: there are no weekday Masses this week</i>
Saturday 30	9:00 am - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 31	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH - B</b> 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass (including Baptism)
<b>JANUARY</b>	
Monday 1	<b>MARY, the HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</b> No Mass today (see note below for nearby parishes)
Saturday 6	10:00 am - Baptism 5:30 pm - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 7	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR B</b> 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - 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.

**ROSARY STATUE**  
To resume 14 January

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
There are NO weekday Masses or Adoration from 26 Dec 2023 until 6 Feb 2024.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE:**  
The Parish Office is closed **until 9am Monday 8 January 2024.** Phones and emails will be monitored throughout the holiday period.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** John Kennedy, Michael Bowe, Belle Dunne, Darryl Johnson

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Ken Gillespie

## THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Jim Larkin, Noel McDonald, Violet Albury, Margaret Traves, John Lee, Wendy Bolden, Margaret Hyde, Lorraine Green, Colin Brooks, Kathy Dawson-Malone, David Burke, Malcolm Reid, Paul Calvino, Maureen McCabe, Fr Anthony Lemon, James Wallace

## ROSTERS | READINGS

### READING ROSTER

**30/31 Dec | Holy Family | Yr B**

6pm - Denise Banner

9am - Kay Ryder

### READINGS FOR THIS WEEK & NEXT SUNDAY:

**Fourth Sunday of Advent - Yr B**

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Rom 16:25-27;

Lk 1:26-384

**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

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Yr B**

Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19;

Lk 2:22-40

## ADVENT WREATH

### LIGHTING THE CANDLE - PRAYER

*All Sing:* O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come again  
and with us ever dwell.

## PLATINUM JUBILEE

Congratulations to Sr Colleen McDonald PBVM who celebrated the 70th Anniversary of her Religious Profession as a Presentation Sister on 15 December.

## ALTAR SERVER ROSTER

Sat 30 Dec | Bailey & Jana Lofts

Sun 31 Dec | Annabel Casey & Sienna Alexander

Roster will resume 3/4 February 2024

**Monday 1 Jan | Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

**Mass times in nearby parishes**

**Kingscliff - 9 am | Tweed Heads - 9:10 am**

**There is No Mass in Murwillumbah**

**2024 JOSEPHITE CALENDARS - on sale**  
in the church | \$10.00 each.

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - B**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**R: Come, O Lord and set us free.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.**

**Alleluia!**

## **CHRISTMAS EVE - VIGIL**

*(Missal - Mass during the Night)*

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Ps 95)**

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

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Good news and great joy to all the world:  
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

**Alleluia!**

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## **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!**

## **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.

## **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.

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH (NICENE CREED)**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*(All bow during these two lines)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. 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](http://www.dif.org.au) Phone 1800 802 516 Paying 4.15%

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



## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - YR B | 25 DECEMBER 2023

# Merry Christmas

### Christmas is a feast of the heart



Some years ago, I was invited to Christmas lunch by a young family – dad, mum and two gorgeous little girls, living in a suburban Department of Housing flat. The menu featured ham and salad, with Christmas pudding and custard for dessert!

After lunch, the girls asked me to sit beside their homemade crib while they told me the Christmas story, filled with imaginative descriptions of all the characters and animals, including koalas, wombats and kangaroos! Clearly, a nativity story with a very unique Aussie twist! Then came time for the presents, with wrapping paper flying in all directions as it was ripped with great gusto; revealing some wonderful treasures that brought beaming smiles to the faces of two very excited little girls.

The family shared with me their joys: the love and affection they have for each other, their closeness as a family, the importance of faith in their lives, their gratitude for God's blessings, and the immense pride in how well the girls were doing at school.

The family also spoke of their struggles: the difficulties to make ends meet, the challenges they face around the block of flats where they live, including, crime, drugs, gang violence and lack of privacy. They also told of their sadness in being unable to find a more suitable place to live, and their concerns about the direction of the world, the uncertainties of life and the children's future.

For the little family, Christmas was all about opening their hearts, sharing their love and being present to each other; a loving presence which was warm and affirming, in the midst of the joys and struggles of life. For me, the encounter was a wonderful witness to the richness, blessing and reality that *is* the birth of Jesus. God has given us everything through the gift of *Emmanuel*, who lives with us and loves us into fullness of life.

The encounter was also a reminder that God so often works in and through our human experiences and, in particular, our relationships, and how important it is that we nurture and care for our families and the various communities to which we belong.

Christmas is a feast of the heart, revealing to us God's heart. It also reveals to us the potential and capability of the human heart. This Christmas, may we open our hearts more fully to God and to each other, and in doing so, experience the "great joy" that the angels announced to the shepherds.

David J Hore CSSr © Majellan Media 2023

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



Painting by Von Hornthorst, 1622

"Ensure that Holy Christmas is never a celebration of commercial consumerism, of appearances or of useless gifts, or of excessive waste, but that it is a celebration of joyfully welcoming the Lord into the crib and into the heart."

- 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 all weekend & Christmas Masses, for this Christmas 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).