

# 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

[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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B 17 December 2023

### God's flock will not go without

For centuries, the Jewish people had treasured the words of prophets like Isaiah. They would have had the promises we see in today's gospel and first reading inscribed on their minds and hearts.



Isaiah, particularly, spoke of the promise of God's decisive response to the suffering of his people and to evil in the world. Through Isaiah, God promised his people that, in the "year of favour from the Lord and the day of vindication", he would "reveal his glory", "feed his flock like a shepherd" and "gather the lambs in his arms". On that day, God would raise a king from the house of David, whom he would anoint to "bring good news to the poor", "bind up hearts that are broken" and "proclaim liberty to captives".

And after years of waiting, John the Baptist was telling his people that the day was arriving.

By quoting Isaiah 40, John casts himself as Isaiah's prophesied "voice crying out in the wilderness". John proclaims that he is the herald for the moment when, as Isaiah describes, "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together".

The mention of God's glory is a crucial point, as the glory of the Lord was often described in the Old Testament as a pillar of consuming fire that showed God's strength and holiness. This glory would go before them in extraordinary moments of salvation and deliverance, such as during the Exodus, or moments of the revelation of God's will, such as the giving of the Law at Sinai. God's presence was so holy and mighty that when it appeared before them, it needed to be concealed from the people of Israel in a pillar of cloud or, later, in the Temple.

The prophets spoke forward to a day when God's glory would be revealed in a way that was no longer concealed but fully disclosed for all to see. John the Baptist's quoting of Isaiah calls to mind this promise of the day when the one true God would dwell among them without barrier or division between them.

So, when John the Baptist explains that he is preparing people to meet "the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie", he is describing this person as the revelation of God's glory, coming with the power and holiness of God himself.

Through Jesus, the glory of God witnessed in the gospels is not the fiery presence of the Old Testament but the radiance of the character of God, the grace and truth about which Moses heard and Isaiah witnessed, in the person and life of Jesus.

In Jesus, who John the Baptist will soon reveal as the "lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world", we can know the God who is so powerful, holy and unlike us that there should be barriers between us. But we know him now as God with us, anointing us with the same Spirit that Isaiah promised would anoint the Messiah.

Joseph Doyle © Magellan Media 2023

# This week in the Parish

Sunday 17	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B</b> 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass 10:15 am - Baptisms 11:00 am - Baptisms 12:00 pm - Baptisms
Tuesday 19	<b>4:00 pm - Retreat 'Waiting with Mary'</b> 5:30 pm - Mass
Wednesday 20	10:00 am - Catholic Men's Group 5:30 pm - Mass
Thursday 21	8:15 am - Mass
Friday 22	<b>Reconciliation: 11:30am - 11:50am (during Advent)</b> 12 noon - Mass
Saturday 23	9:30 am - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 24	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B</b> 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass <b>CHRISTMAS EVE - VIGIL</b> <b>6:00pm - Vigil Mass</b>
Monday 25	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY)</b> <b>9:00am - Mass</b>

**PRIVATE PRAYER**  
from 4:45 pm before Tuesday & Wednesday 5:30 pm Mass

**RECONCILIATION**  
Saturday: 5.30 pm - 5.50 pm  
Sunday: 8.30 am - 8.50 am  
Friday: 11:30 am - 11:50 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, are available for you in the Church.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

John Kennedy, Michael Bowe, Belle Dunne, Darryl Johnson

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Monsignor Michael Quinn (PP Murwillumbah 1912-1935), Veronica Carroll, Pattie O'Keefe, Robert Turner, Tom Sterling

### 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

**23/24 Dec | Fourth Sunday of Advent | Yr B**

6pm - Lisa Dusi-Fox

9am - Mary-Ann Thackray

### READINGS FOR TODAY & NEXT SUNDAY:

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year B**

Is 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thess 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year B**

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

Lk 1:26-38



## BAPTISMS:

Please welcome  
**Khloe May Joy Hawkins,**  
**Abigail Skye Handy,**  
**Billy Bear Burns**  
**& Romeo Leo Burns**  
to our faith community.

### ALTAR SERVER ROSTER

Sat 23 Dec | Grace Severs & Yasmin van Rossi

Sun 24 Dec | Bonnie Lindsay & Nate Linkins

### ROSARY STATUE

17 Dec | Paula Thornton

To resume 14 January

## 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.*

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

# CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

## CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL Sunday 24th December

6:00pm | Sacred Heart Church

## CHRISTMAS DAY Monday 25th December

9:00am | Sacred Heart Church

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES IN NEARBY PARISHES

### 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 - 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm, Midnight

Christmas Day - 8:00 am

### ST CAMILLUS' CHURCH, BILAMBIL

Christmas Day - 9:00 am



## *Retreat for Advent 'Waiting with Mary'*

*Tuesday 19 December  
4pm MSPC Library/ Hall*

## CHRISTMAS MASS ROSTER

### 24 Dec | CHRISTMAS VIGIL | Yr B

6pm Acolyte | Ray Daley

Altar Server | Annabel Casey

First Reading | D Banner

Second Reading | G Molloy

Prayer of the Faithful | K Ryder

Offertory | C Wightley & B Grant

### 25 Dec | CHRISTMAS DAY | Yr B

9am Acolyte | tba

Altar Server | tba

First Reading | Bernard Nolan

Second Reading | Lisa Dusi - Fox

Prayer of the Faithful | Bernard Nolan

Offertory | tba

## ADVENT WREATH

### HAVE YOU THOUGHT? A TIME TO REJOICE!

This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin word for Rejoice! Advent was originally celebrated as a five week season and with the same fasting and penitential nature as the season of Lent. The third Sunday, Gaudete, was like a break for rejoicing in the midst of the fasting.

When Advent was reduced to four weeks and the nature of the season altered, Gaudete Sunday was retained. The colour of this Sunday is rose – a celebratory colour – and it is reflected in the vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths.

- Greg Sunter

## LIGHTING THE CANDLE - PRAYER

Fr Peter:

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*All Sing:* O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home:  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come again  
and with us ever dwell.

## CHRISTMAS /NEW YEAR CLOSURE:

The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas /New Year period from  
**3 pm Thursday 21 December 2023 and  
will reopen 9am Monday 8 January 2024**  
Phones and emails will be monitored  
throughout the holiday period.

## WARNING!!

### SCAM EMAILS & TEXT MESSAGES ARE ABOUT

There have recently been reports of scam emails and texts that appear to be from members of the clergy. Clergy and parish staff will NEVER request you to donate cash, gift cards or pre-paid visa cards for a non-specific purpose. **Please be alert to suspicious emails or text messages.**

## 'THE SYMBOLIC GIFTS' | \$25

Hand made **Christmas Oils:** gold, frankincense and myrrh with a pebble from the Sea of Galilee. Profits to the Michaelite Mission  
Priests in PNG.

Orders: P Zambelli 0414 201 940



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - B

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

R: Come, O Lord and set us free.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

## CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP

December morning tea

Wednesday 20 December | 10:00 am

Murwillumbah Services Club

Enquiries: Alex Lever 0458 817 021

**ALL MEN ARE WELCOME**

## 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.

## 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 from the Church for this collection at the Christmas Vigil Mass and the Christmas Day Mass.

## With Expectant Hearts

### 2023 Advent & Reflection

Short daily reflections for Advent. \$7.00 each available from the Church and Parish Office.  
Still a few left!

**2024 JOSEPHITE CALENDARS** - on sale in church or at the Parish Office. \$10.00 each.

## 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 Phone 1800 802 516 Paying 4.15%

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

