

# 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. Gavin Dykes

### Mt. St. Patrick Primary School

Mooball Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1821

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

Principal: Mr. Brendan Ryan

### St. Joseph's Primary School

Greville Street, South Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1867

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

Principal: Mr. Jason Clarke

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - YEAR B

31 DECEMBER 2023

### Hidden treasures

Many would have seen the 2016 movie, "Hidden Figures," which focused on the roles of three African American women mathematicians - Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson - who worked at NASA during the Mercury program. Few would have known how these three women played crucial roles in the success of John Glenn's historic spaceflight.

The film highlights their struggles against racial and gender discrimination while contributing significantly to the US space program during the early 1960s. It is a powerful portrayal of their achievements and the challenges they faced in a segregated society. In today's gospel, we encounter two other "hidden" women, whose contribution to the Jesus' story is often overlooked or underestimated.

Mary, Jesus' mother is well known; but her role is often glossed over with pious niceties and elevated titles, which tell us very little about her true strength of character. In the opening chapters of Luke, Mary accepts a divine call to be the mother of Jesus, embarks on perilous quests to fulfil that vocation, and embraces a challenging vision of a coming end time revolution when paupers will displace kings (Lk 1:2).

Similarly, the elderly widow and seer, Anna, appears exercising matriarchal privilege and prophetic authority. Luke tells us that for many decades she "never left the temple, where she worshiped with fasting and prayer night and day" (Lk 2:37). This description implies that her role as a prophetess involved both religious and political activity. It is significant that she carries out this role in the Temple, the Jewish centre not only of social, political, and religious life, but also end time expectations. Like Mary, Anna "began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were expecting the redemption of Jerusalem" (Lk 2:38).

Anna and Mary lived in a society with its own set of challenges and expectations. As wives and mothers, one would normally expect them to be portrayed as homemakers concerned with cooking, cleaning, clothing, and childrearing. In the first century, a Jewish woman could exercise considerable freedom in domestic affairs, including managing servants in larger households. In the absence of a male authority, either through the death of her husband or other factors, a woman could govern her own affairs.

But women did not normally exercise authority in the public sphere. Even the privileged wives, widows and daughters of nobles and powerful officials could only aspire to employing influence within their immediate circles of friends and family.

Anna's very public allegiance to her faith and Mary's heroic role in pursuing her vocation were remarkable acts that broke societal norms. Anna and Mary showed strength and resilience in the face of the ruling patriarchy, and, ultimately, had a substantial impact on the subsequent events of history.

Ian J Elmer © Magellan Media 2023



INVEST WITH PEACE OF MIND

Paying 4.15%

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

# This week in the Parish

Saturday 30	5:30 pm - 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>	<b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>
Monday 1	<b>MARY, the HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</b>
Wednesday 3	10:00 am - Requiem Mass—Jim Larkin
Saturday 6	10:00 am - Baptism 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 7	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR B</b> 9:00 am - Mass 10:00 am - Baptism

**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 during January.

**MONDAY 1 JANUARY | MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**  
Mass times in nearby parishes | Kingscliff - 9 am | Tweed Heads - 9:10 am

## THE HOLY FAMILY - YEAR B

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**R: The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!**



## BAPTISMS:

Please welcome  
**Julia Izaszek**  
to our faith community.

## 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:** Tony Simpson, Jim Larkin, Noel McDonald, John Irby, Irene Hall, Rita Daly, Kerry Alcock, John Kennedy, Michael Bowe

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Pope Benedict XVI, Peter McLaughlin, William Wood (Fr Peter's dad)

**THOSE WHO ARE SICK:** 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

**6/7 Jan | The Epiphany | Yr B**

6pm - Barbara Grant

9am - Mary-Ann Thackray

### READINGS FOR THIS WEEK & NEXT SUNDAY:

**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

**The Epiphany of the Lord - Yr B**

Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

## THANK YOU FROM LEGION OF MARY...

On Saturday 9th December the Legion of Mary celebrated the Annual Reunion. We thank Fr Peter for the warm welcome extended to Fr Rego and for concelebrating Mass with him. It was very special. Thanks also to the many parishioners who shared lunch with us afterwards. It was indeed a joyful occasion.

**2024 JOSEPHITE CALENDARS** on sale in the church | \$10.00 each | Only a few left!

## VIEW MASS AT HOME -

- Freeview TV - Channel 10 Sunday 6 am

## 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.*