

# 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

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

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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. Gavin Dykes

### 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

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

YEAR B | 12 May 2024

### What do we do now?

Imagine how many times, through their days living with and following the Lord, that the disciples found themselves dumbstruck. His teaching fell on them like thunder. Parables, like mysterious worlds, snapped and popped about, opening new, wonderful, bottomless points of view.

And his symbolic actions! He cursed the fig tree. He forgave sins. He woke up in the boat and rebuked the storm. He marched right into the temple and, like a whirlwind, drove out the moneychangers. And, of course, there were the miracles! He touched and healed lepers, the infirm, the blind from birth. He turned water into wine. He walked on water. He even raised a man from the dead!

And all of this was like a plane on a runway, gathering speed, faster, faster, to go ... where? To the cross! The man died. The spear went into His side. They saw his blood spill. They saw His naked body hanging lifelessly from the wood. They saw him taken down and placed into the earth. They were certainly confused then: the whole movement, the whole world-changing, upside-down, inside-out revolution he started ends in total defeat?

Of course, from our place in the long line of heirs to this story, we know it's not over: on the third day He returns from death. Reading or hearing the story ourselves, we can almost taste the mixture of confusion with unutterable joy and amazement that drenches the page.

And there's more. He is with them, from that first Easter morning, for forty glorious and strange days, days beyond comprehension, where time and space were surely refigured around his presence—heaven, as they say, on earth. There's little said about this time, but, yes, it's strange: they struggle to recognise him. He appears and disappears. He passes through locked doors. He eats fish. He breaks through Thomas' doubt: 'Here, put your hand in my wounded side!' He reconciles and recommissions Peter: 'Feed my sheep!'

And you can just as palpably taste the disciples' wondered confusion now at His ascension. Before their very eyes he passes on into the heavenly realm, the cloud of glory hiding him from their sight. He suffered, died, descended to hell, and returned—and wait, he now leaves for heaven? The story has been strange all along. But three of the gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—end with this event.

'And what do we do now?' You can almost hear the disciples saying to themselves. In the gospel story that is exactly the question we, who also believe, are supposed to ask. The Lord ascended to heaven, to the place of all authority. He, that man, Jesus of Nazareth, sits on the divine throne. And it's still not over. The rest of the story includes us. It includes all creation. It's still being written!

Our question today is the same as the disciples' then: 'What do we do now?' Keep reading, keep listening, to find out.

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# This week in the Parish

Sunday 12	<b>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - YEAR B</b> 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass
Wednesday 15	10:00 am - Catholic Men's Group - see note below
Friday 17	9:30 am - Legion of Mary   Parish Meeting Centre
Saturday 18	9:00 am - Rosary 5:30 pm - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 19	<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY - YEAR B</b> 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass 10:15 am - Baptism 10:30 am - Working Bee at Parish Meeting Centre

Fr. Peter will be attending the annual Clergy Retreat in Lismore this coming week. Therefore there are no weekday Masses in the parish.  
St Joseph's Tweed Heads will have Mass Monday to Friday at 9:10am.

**PRIVATE PRAYER**  
from 4:30 pm before  
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 on  
Saturday morning at 9:00 am.  
As well as half an hour before  
each weekend Mass.

**WEDNESDAY WORD**  
Copies of Wednesday Word,  
with this weekend's readings,  
are available in the Church.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Trish Hufton, Fabian Okeke, Betty Foster,  
Beryl Barlow, Donna Pearson

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Joe Johnson

### THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Patrick Fox, George Flack, Joan Kean, 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

## READINGS | ROSTERS

### READINGS FOR TODAY AND NEXT SUNDAY:

#### The ASCENSION of the LORD - Year B

Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mk 16:15-20

#### PENTECOST SUNDAY - Year B

Acts 2:1-11; Gal 5:16-25; Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

### READING ROSTER

#### 18/19 May | Pentecost Sunday | B

6pm - Barbara Grant

9am - Kay Ryder

### ALTAR SERVER ROSTER

Sat 18 May | Rose Seamer & Lily Daly

Sun 19 May | Charlotte Dowling & Siena Alexander

### ROSARY STATUE

12 May | Evelyn Cook

19 May | Jenny Wallace 26 May | Faith Buchanan



## CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP

May morning tea

Wed 15 May | 10:00 am | Mbah Services Club

Enquiries: Alex Lever 0458 817 021

**ALL MEN ARE WELCOME**

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Saturday 1 June | 6pm Vigil  
or Sunday 2 June | 9am



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*

Anyone interested in learning more about serving Christ in the poor through becoming a member of the Mary MacKillop Conference of St Vincent de Paul is invited to contact Denise 0409 243 147, or write their name and phone number on the sheet available on the table near the church entrance. Thanks.

## 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:

- Freeview TV - Channel 10 Sunday 6 am
- 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)



### Gospel Reflection...

The purpose of today's Gospel is that Jesus sends his followers out 'to the whole world' to continue his ministry.

It is the 'whole world' to which they are sent; not

just their cosy little corner of the world but the whole world. It's what Christian people for the last 2,000 years have been called to do: continue Jesus' ministry to the whole world. It's what each and every one of us is called to do today: 'proclaim the Good News to all creation'.

That doesn't mean standing on street corners with a Bible in our hands but it means proclaiming the Good News through our everyday actions and by being open and honest about our faith. It means treating all people as Jesus would.

- Greg Sunter

### Working Bee

**Next Sunday 19 May from 10:30 am | Parish Meeting Centre & Tennis Courts | Ewing St**

Volunteers are needed for a working bee at the Parish Meeting Centre to tidy up the grounds and tennis courts areas - morning tea and lunch will be provided - we need chain saws, whipper snippers, weed sprayer, ute (or a large truck) to take all the green waste to tip... and people power (lots of people power). The last few months of humidity and rain etc have created a jungle!

If you are able to help please let the Parish team know. If you can't help physically perhaps you could help by donating sandwiches or cakes/slices for morning tea and lunch.

*Closed in shoes or work boots and sun safe workwear will be mandatory for those helping on the tools.*

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ...

**Response to anonymous letter from parishioner, presented at meeting 2.5.2024**

At its meeting of 2.5.24 the Parish Pastoral Council received an anonymous letter from a parishioner expressing concern at the location where cuppas are held after Mass. It is a long letter so cannot be included here, but the basic concern was that the church is a sacred space therefore not appropriate to be used for this purpose; and that it is irreverent to be holding the cuppa in front of the tabernacle. There were a number of comments and possible changes suggested.

The Pastoral Council appreciated the sincerity of the person writing but did not believe the concerns were justified. This notice will try to address some of the matters raised.

Firstly, the Church is the People of God – us – and the church building enables us to gather and worship. Yes, it is a consecrated space and that must always be kept in mind. As well as the tabernacle holding the Blessed Sacrament, Jesus is also present within the people of the congregation and sharing a cuppa is another expression of being a Eucharistic Community – which is about relationships, loving and serving others as Jesus did. It is a way of showing his presence in our community.

The area where the cuppa is prepared and distributed is in the section of the church called the narthex, an assembly and greeting point before the nave or main body of the church. It also gives easy access to the outdoors, and when the weather is clement there can be no better place for parishioners to go with their cuppa than out in the warmth and sun. This will be encouraged.

None of the letter's suggestions for an alternate location were feasible. The former hall is now leased to the school and is not a parish facility - but the rental paid enables the parish to manage financially. It contains valuable equipment and furnishings belonging to the school, and sadly some parishioners have not respected this when the parish utilised the building in the recent past. It can only be used for very select purposes.

There are serious Work Health and Safety issues when dealing with urns and food, meaning there must be full-time supervision and protection. One suggestion made in the letter was to use the foyer - but this is too small, it is an exit point, has no power and is therefore unsuitable. The power drawn by an urn if used on the south eastern side of the church blows all fuses within the building.

In regard to the letter's comment on holding prayer before the cuppa, those attending have just shared in the greatest possible prayer, the Mass. No other prayer is needed. Parishioners attending are not irreverent, or disrespectful of where they are, but are uniting in Christian fellowship. The Parish Pastoral Council hopes this response may be helpful.

**THE CATENIANS**  
**GOLD COAST TWEED CIRCLE**

Join the Catenian Association, enjoy the benefits of membership and form long lasting friendships. We meet on 3rd Thursday of each month. Why not come along to one of our meetings and share a meal with us - it might be just what you need! Your first dinner is on us. No pressure to join if it's not for you.

**South Tweed Sports Club | Thurs 16 May | 6 pm**

Contact:  
Bernard Nolan 0419 023 108 | 02 6672 3733  
Chris Gallagher 0428 416 288

**SAFEGUARDING YOUR CHILDREN**

Would parents please keep their children **supervised at all times** in the church and surrounding grounds - including taking them to the bathroom. For their safety, please ensure you can always see them while on Parish grounds.

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Ps 46)

**R: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!**



## Happy Mother's Day

### A Prayer for Mothers

On this Mother's Day,  
we pray for blessings on all women who have loved  
and nurtured us throughout our lives.

We give thanks for the mothers who have guided and  
protected us, who have taught and encouraged us.

We give thanks for mothers who have passed away,  
birth mothers, adoptive mothers, foster mothers,  
grandmothers, aunts, sisters,  
and for all women who take on a motherly role.

We ask your blessing, dear Lord,  
upon mothers who have lost children,  
that they may have your continuing strength  
and courage.

We ask your blessing too, upon those  
who would like to be mothers.

Pour your blessings upon all women here today.

Give them the strength to live the faithful  
and loving lives you call them to live.

Protect and guide them. Keep them in your care.

Our Lady, a role model for all women, pray for us.

Amen

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ...

Preparation for the election of new Parish Pastoral Council Members: Having been in their roles since 2019 members of the Parish Pastoral Council including the Chair and Secretary expressed the view it is time to stand down. Therefore the process of calling for new PPC members will take place over the coming weeks. There will be more information on this process in next week's Parish Bulletin.

## 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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