

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

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

Principal: Mr. Gavin Dykes

Mt. St. Patrick Primary School

Mooball Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1821

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

Principal: Mr. Jason Clarke

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | Yr C 22 DECEMBER 2024

The vital role of women

Fresh from her encounter with the angel Gabriel, "Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country" to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant in her old age. This meeting of two Spirit-filled pregnant women, seeking to understand what God is doing in their lives, is remarkable in the way it captures their very human interaction and their prophetic voices.



In Scriptural terms, all this occurs with the highly unusual absence of male voices in the conversation. Although the meeting occurs in Zechariah's house, he had been struck dumb. Joseph is presumably back in Nazareth. For the most part, we can only imagine the conversations between Elizabeth and Mary as they share their joy and confusion in the unforeseen events.

Elizabeth no doubt had long resigned herself to being childless, but now has to deal with her unexpected blessing. Mary has to come to terms with a blessing that seems to cause more problems than it solves. How will she explain her pregnancy to Joseph?

In Luke's account, the encounter between Elizabeth and Mary is presented in the form of two scriptural hymns or songs of blessing. Today we hear the first of these, which is Elizabeth's song prophetically proclaiming Mary to be the "mother of my Lord". Even though filled with joy in her own blessing of pregnancy, Elizabeth exudes humility, compassion and living faith by focussing on the blessing that Mary's presence is for her – and that Mary's child will be for the world.

Mary's response to Elizabeth is the second song – the 'Magnificat' – which proclaims God's redeeming love for the oppressed and downtrodden people of our world. Together then, Elizabeth and Mary are presented to us as two Spirit-filled, peasant women prophets supporting each other in adversity by singing of God's justice and mercy.

In doing so, they stand in the long Jewish tradition of female voices – Miriam with her tambourine, Deborah, Hannah and Judith – who likewise sing provocative songs of God's coming salvation for the poor and oppressed.

Although the Visitation has been used to depict such lofty themes as the Church's march throughout history crossing mountains to proclaim Christ to the world (St Ambrose 4th century), we also do well to recognise how the story highlights the role of women throughout Luke's Gospel. They are not only major figures associated with Jesus' birth, but they are clearly friends and disciples of Jesus during his ministry, are present at the crucifixion, and are the first to encounter the risen Lord.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us ask for the gift of being open to the surprise of grace in our own lives in the ways of Mary and Elizabeth. May we, like them, sing of God's transforming power coming to life in the birth of the Messiah. Perhaps too we are invited to highlight the importance of women's ministry in 'giving birth' to a less clerical church!

Gerard Hall © Magellan Media 2024

This week in the Parish

Sunday 22	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - C 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass
Tuesday 24	CHRISTMAS EVE - VIGIL 6:00 pm - Mass Midnight - Mass
Wednesday 25	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY) 9:00am - Mass
<i>Please note: there are no weekday Masses this week</i>	
Saturday 28	5:30 pm - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 29	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - C 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass
	RECONCILIATION Saturday: 5.30 pm - 5.50 pm Sunday: 8.30 am - 8.50 am



SUPPORT VANUATU EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Thousands of people have been severely impacted by the earthquake in Vanuatu. Please help provide emergency shelter, food and other essentials, psychosocial support to those who are experiencing hardship.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Sr Ursula O'Dwyer, Brian Sullivan, Brian Gillett, Henryk Drewek, Ian Konrad, Joy Rose, Rita Anderson, Maree Loughman, Michael Collins, Evelyn McGuinness, Marie Ensbey, Terry Twohill

ANNIVERSARIES:

Mons. Michael Quinn (PP 1912-1935), Jim Larkin, Noel McDonald, Irene Hall, John Irby, Tony Simpson, Vera Paine, Doss Dodds, William Wood

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Libby Varela, Marie (George Flack's sister), Narelle Martin, Pam Willock, Patrick Fox, George Flack, Margaret Traves, Lorraine Green, David Burke, Malcolm Reid, Paul Calvino, Maureen McCabe, Fr Anthony Lemon

Names removed after a considerable time. Please assist the Parish Office by advising if you wish names to remain.

READINGS | ROSTERS

READINGS FOR TODAY AND NEXT SUNDAY:

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year C

Micah 5:1-4; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-44:

THE HOLY FAMILY - Year C

1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52:

READING ROSTER

28| 29 Dec | The Holy Family | C

6pm - Denise Banner

9am - Bernard Nolan

ALTAR SERVER ROSTER

Roster will resume 1/2 February 2025

ROSARY STATUE

To resume 5 January 2025



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.

JOSEPHITE CALENDARS

2025 Josephite Calendars | on sale in the Church | \$10.00 each

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).

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL

Tuesday 24th December

6 pm | Murwillumbah | Fr Michael Alcock

6 pm | Kingscliff | Fr Paul McDonald

6 pm | Pottsville | Fr John Darbyshire

6 pm | Tweed Heads | Fr Nicolas Maurice

8 pm | Tweed Heads | Fr Michael Brady

Midnight | Murwillumbah | Fr Peter Wood

Midnight | Tweed Heads | Fr Michael Alcock

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday 25th December

7:30 am | Pottsville | Fr Paul McDonald

8 am | Tweed Heads | Fr Nicolas Maurice

9:00 am | Murwillumbah | Fr Peter Wood

9 am | Kingscliff | Fr Paul McDonald

CATHOLIC LIFE MAGAZINE

Catholic Life has returned after 5 years! December's issue is filled with stories and updates that capture the vibrant life of the Diocese of Lismore. The magazine includes articles on Bishop Greg's Christmas message, the true spirit of Christmas, and celebrates the end of the school year. Copies will be available at the parish, otherwise you can read it online now at lismorediocese.org or by scanning the QR code:



LEGION OF MARY MARIAN VALLEY BUS TRIP

Saturday 15 February 2025

The Legion Of Mary has booked a bus trip to Marian Valley - Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians - for Saturday February 15th.

The cost is \$30 per couple (bring a friend / plus one) or \$25 per person. (Murwillumbah Auxiliary Legion Members \$15 with Murwillumbah Members - FREE)

A light sandwich lunch will be included - you are also welcome to bring your own food/drinks/snacks.

Book tickets now with Legion Of Mary President Philomena Zambelli.

DETAILS:

Pick Up Location: Mt St Patrick College ... 143 Murwillumbah Street

Pick-Up Time: 0830 (for 0900 departure) NSW time

Arrival Time at Marian Valley (est): 0930 QLD time

Return Departure Time: 1330 (for 1400 departure) QLD time (We would be at Marian Valley for approx. 4hrs)

Estimated Time to Arrive back in Murwillumbah: 1630 NSW time

Wheelchair Access: NO

ADVENT WREATH

LIGHTING THE CANDLE - PRAYER

Fr Peter:

All powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

All Sing:

O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
bid now our sad divisions cease,
and be your self our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come again and with us ever dwell.

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2024 CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL EVALUATION

Thank you to the parishioners who attended the recent carnival evaluation meeting and to those who provided feedback prior to the meeting.

The 2024 Carnival made a net profit of \$9,723 which is \$1,459 less than 2023. A copy of the financial results with last year comparatives by stall is available from the back of the church and in the Bulletin online. Year on year the income from the Carnival is steadily declining.

We know that crowds were down due to the inclement weather this year but it is also becomingly increasingly difficult to encourage volunteers to help in the preparation and planning and running of the carnival.

After careful consideration over the past 12 months, the Evaluation Team have agreed that some changes are needed for the format of the Christmas Carnival. There is no doubt that the Nativity Tableau remains an integral part of our Christmas preparations, and no major changes are foreseen for the Tableau itself at this point in time (noting that the evaluation meeting for the Nativity Tableau has not yet been held with the parish schools' organisers); however there is general agreement that the "carnival/fete" activities need to be updated.

A summary of the proposed changes to the format for the Carnival is available with the financial results at the back of the church (and also included in the Bulletin online). We invite you to review the proposed changes and comment back to the Evaluation Team by Friday 31 January 2025. A follow up meeting will be planned for late February for the Evaluation Team to review your feedback and make a recommendation to Fr Peter on the future Carnival format.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - C

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (79)

R: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE:

The Parish Office will be closed from 12 noon Tues 24 December until 9am Mon 6 January 2025.

Phones and emails will be monitored throughout the holiday period.

FINAL MASSES UKI AND BURRENBAR

After a lengthy discernment process, the Bishop has given approval for the churches at Uki and Burringbar to be alienated and the properties sold.

As we prepare to close the churches, we will have a final celebration Mass at each church. The dates chosen by Fr Peter are:

St Columba's Uki – 10 am Sunday 9 February

St Brigid's Burringbar – 10 am Sunday 23 February

If you would like to be involved in the planning of the Masses or in organizing morning tea or lunch after Mass, please contact the Parish Office. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

LEGION OF MARY

Eucharistic Adoration – 1st Friday of the month

In honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, there is a 12-hour Eucharistic Adoration on the 1st Friday of each month.

At the back of the Church is a roster to print your name and phone number and the time you prefer. Starts from 6am to 6pm. Choose the time slot that suits you. There must be 2 or more people present for each hour of the day. Contact Trish Jandura for more information.

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.

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BISHOP of LISMORE

— GREGORY HOMEMING OCD —

Bishop Greg's CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2024

For a brief time, each year our thoughts turn from the business and worry of life to a newborn child in a manger. In the silence of Christmas night, we hear the secret hopes of our hearts and rekindle the trust and gaze of our childhood. The past is gone, if only we could fashion our future from the joy of Christmas. This is a season of hope in which we are called to believe in goodness, truth and beauty. Moreover, we are challenged to believe in ourselves and each other.

As we look at the crib we tend to identify with the baby. Curiously we do not associate with Mary or Joseph, and certainly not with the shepherds or the wise men. The baby Jesus carries our hopes, our fears and our future. He does not threaten us, we are not afraid of him. God comes into the world as a baby so that he can grow with us. We can also grow with God. Jesus shares each of our pains, difficulties and joys. In the baby, God and humankind are one. Jesus comes into the world to show us how to believe in ourselves and each other with confidence.

Take some time to pray. In prayer we are moved by Christmas. Suddenly joy becomes part of us, and we begin to see life with greater optimism and hope. This is the miracle of Christmas. May you be gifted with the spirit of Christmas.

With my prayers and wishes this Christmas and New year.

Bishop Greg Homeming OCD

Welcoming

Children aged 0-5 years and their families
to the Parish



DIOCESE OF
LISMORE

2

We are a community on a journey

Children need Church as a **FIRST** step on their faith journey: we welcome every person, no matter their age, social status, ethnicity, or gender.

5

Join in!

- Sit close to the front, so your children can see what is happening
- Please join in with the hymns and prayers as you feel comfortable
- If your children need to move around, step outside, or take a break, that's ok! Please accompany them so they are safe.
- If your children make a noise, don't worry about it! It's wonderful that you have joined us.

1

Jesus Blesses Little Children

"People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.'" (Luke 18:15-17)



3

We gather, we belong

Church is a place where we gather to seek God. God values and loves children and they should be included.



4

All are welcome

You are **welcome** here.
You **belong** in this community.
You can **worship** God with us.



6

Questions?

If you have any questions please feel free to ask your priest, a fellow parishioner, or usher.

We are glad you could join us to share the Good News about Jesus.



SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE FORMAT OF THE PARISH CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL

There is no doubt that the Nativity Tableau remains an integral part of our parish's Advent and Christmas preparations; however most of us would agree that changes are needed to the Carnival format; so what might the future of the Carnival look like?

Proposed changes / ideas include the following:

- Decrease the number of stalls removing all the "fete" style stalls – bottles, cakes, craft, plants and produce
- Change the start time of carnival from 4 pm to 6 pm and a slightly later start for Tableau e.g. 7:30 pm or 8:00 pm (darker and cooler) – it would remain on stage in the Gilbey Centre
- Retain the chocolate wheel, parish raffle and cent auction as fundraisers for the parish
- Retain BBQ with a simpler menu e.g. hamburger, sausage sandwiches, hot dogs, veggie burgers only – no steak sandwiches; no carrot, no beetroot; simply onion, lettuce and tomato on burgers with tomato sauce.
- Introduce other food options e.g. Filipino community; pizza; food vans – food vans parish charge a small space rental fee and van operator takes all proceeds.
- Retain Cold Drinks – perhaps one of the schools or a class group could run this stall and keep the proceeds for their school?
- Remove Bar – this reduces the costs of liquor licence and security guards
- Stop the expensive kids' activities that operate at a significant loss; or offer operators the opportunity to come along without charge to parish and the operator takes proceeds (perhaps small "rent" payment \$100 to parish for space?)
- Explore simpler options to amuse kids e.g. side show ideas, bubbles. Involve the students in ideas for amusement
- Retain Snow Cones and Glow Candles and Face Painting activities currently run by the College – explore option of College operating these activities and taking sales proceeds
- Expand on the Santa/Christmas Corner Photo Booth idea
- Explore the idea of a picnic setting from 6 pm to 7:30 pm with families on the grass areas (wet weather under the Gilbey Centre) with carols music playing – either busker style or through loudspeaker system
- Explore the idea of offering the schools the opportunity to run their own stalls at the Carnival and take the proceeds (perhaps with a small donation back to the Parish, say \$100 per stall)

We invite you to review the proposed changes and comment back to the Evaluation Team by Friday 31 January 2025. A follow up meeting will be planned for late February for the Evaluation Team to review your feedback and make a recommendation to Fr Peter on the future Carnival format.

Please provide your feedback in writing by email to murwillumbah@lismore.catholic.org.au or by sending us a letter the old-fashioned way – your sealed letters can be left in the collection plates on the weekends up to the end of January; dropped into the parish office after 6 January or posted to PO Box 45 Murwillumbah NSW 2484.

20 December 2024

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL | 30 November 2024

Profit & Loss Statement | December 2024

<u>Christmas Carnival Income</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Wheels/Raffles	\$7,653.41	\$8,796.75
Food/Drink	\$4,313.05	\$6,315.35
Stalls Income	\$6,448.10	\$7,735.05
Children's Activities - Rock Wall Castle	\$715.00	\$2,107.00
Donations	\$1,756.65	\$197.15
Total Christmas Carnival Income	\$20,886.21	\$25,151.30
<u>Christmas Carnival Expenses</u>		
Wheels/Raffles	\$3,227.03	\$3,363.80
Food/Drink	\$3,214.70	\$3,709.05
Stalls	\$635.21	\$981.90
Children's Activities - Rock Wall	\$2,030.00	\$4,045.00
Sundry Expenses	\$1,255.64	\$1,103.89
Advertising	\$800.00	\$765.00
Total Christmas Carnival Expenses	\$11,162.58	\$13,968.64
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$9,723.63	\$11,182.66

Income & Expenses by Stall/Activity

GAMES OF CHANCE	Total Income	Total Expenses	Profit/(Loss)
Chocolate Wheel	3,856.50	977.03	2,879.47
Parish Raffle	3,796.91	2,250.00	1,546.91
	7,653.41	3,227.03	4,426.38
FOOD & DRINKS			
BBQ & Hot Dogs	2,418.00	2,139.54	278.46
Cold & Hot Drinks	699.05	332.20	366.85
Bar	1,196.00	742.96	453.04
	4,313.05	3,214.70	1,098.35
STALLS			
Bottle Stall	1,300.80	100.00	1,200.80
Cakes	1,420.00	0.00	1,420.00
Cent Auction	1,560.90	0.00	1,560.90
Craft Xmas Corner Booth	663.50	0.00	663.50
Glow Candles	286.00	0.00	286.00
Plants	308.90	0.00	308.90
Face Paint + Lucky Dips	414.00	252.14	161.86
Hoopla	252.00	169.81	82.19
Snow Cones	242.00	113.26	128.74
	6,448.10	635.21	5,812.89
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES			
Rock Wall	715.00	2,030.00	(1,315.00)
	715.00	2,030.00	(1,315.00)
OTHER			
Donations	1,756.65	0.00	1,756.65
Advertising	0.00	800.00	(800.00)
Sundry expenses	0.00	1,255.64	(1,255.64)
	1,756.65	2,055.64	(298.99)
TOTAL	20,886.21	11,162.58	9,723.63