

# 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

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | Yr C 8 DECEMBER 2024

### Preparing a way for the Lord

One of British street artist Banksy's famous pictures is *The Flower Thrower*. In this powerful image of peaceful resistance, a figure leans backwards with his arm poised to throw an object. A similar figure in other protest posters would be poised to hurl a violent projectile. Instead, Banksy subverts a potentially violent image with his figure holding a bouquet of colourful flowers.



John the Baptist emerges from the wilderness, clothed in camel's hair, surviving on a diet of locusts and honey. His wild appearance is juxtaposed against his peaceful, steadfast call to repentance and the forgiveness of sins. He calls people to turn towards the One who is coming, the One who will be the embodiment of all that John currently preaches.

Jesus's spiritual kingship subverts and overturns all notions of a powerful earthly leader who dominates his subjects and rules with power. Indeed, the God whom John proclaims not only meets his people in love but also accompanies them all the way to the cross. Jesus embodies a love which is tender and compassionate but which is also fiercely committed to accompaniment and solidarity with us, in the entirety of life's circumstances.

Philosopher Hannah Arendt explained that power is the human ability not just to act, but to act in concert (On Violence, 1969). In contrast to conventional notions of power, she held that power is the ability to communicate and cooperate, not to coerce and dominate.

In contemporary times, John's call to prepare for the Lord's coming, by making rough roads smooth so that humanity will see the salvation of the Lord can perhaps be heard in the voices calling to us from the margins: the voices of women, LBGTIQ+ sisters and brothers, ethnic minorities, victims of abuse, and those fleeing persecution among others. We are invited to welcome everyone with compassion, to collaborate and stand with them. Together, we are witnesses to a community of faith which is united by love.

Building God's kingdom is almost always an uphill struggle, yet it helps to hold fast to the vision that his kingdom is both "now and not yet" and to persist with our efforts for mercy, justice and unity.

In the first reading, the prophet Baruch uses the metaphor of beauty to encourage Jerusalem to hold fast to its vision of God: Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress; put on the beauty of the glory of God forever.

In challenging times, a helpful way to remind ourselves of the presence of God is to notice and rejoice in the beauty which surrounds us, to recognise God's presence, amidst our struggles. French philosopher Simone Weill in *Waiting for God* describes it quite profoundly: The beautiful is the experiential proof that the incarnation is possible ... "Christ is really present in the universal beauty ... the beauty of this world is Christ's tender smile coming to us."

# This week in the Parish

Sunday 8	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - C</b> 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass 10:15 am - Baptism
Monday 9	<b>The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> 8:15 am - Mass
Tuesday 10	10:00 am - <b>Advent Study Group   Hope Reigns</b> No Mass today
Wednesday 11	No Mass today
Thursday 12	No Mass today
Friday 13	9:30 am - Legion of Mary   Parish Meeting Centre No Exposition or Mass today
Saturday 14	9:00 am - Rosary 10:00 am - <b>MASS OF ANOINTING</b> 5:30 pm - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 15	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - C</b> 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass 10:15 am - Baptisms 11:00 am - Baptism

**PRIVATE PRAYER**  
from 4:30 pm before Tuesday  
& 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,  
are available in the Church.

**Advent Study Group |  
Hope Reigns**  
Tuesdays | until 17 Dec  
10 am | Parish Office  
*All are Welcome!*

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Joy Rose, Rita Anderson (mother of Chris Anderson),  
Maree Loughman, Michael Collins, Evelyn McGuinness,  
Marie Ensbe, Terry Twohill, Trish Rickard

### 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



## WEDDING:

Please pray for God's blessing on  
**Daniel Henalla & Jessica Hopgood**  
who were married in the  
Sacred Heart Church this weekend.

## BAPTISM:

Please welcome  
**Vincent James Ryan-McGinn**  
to our faith community.



## READINGS | ROSTERS

### READINGS FOR TODAY AND NEXT SUNDAY:

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year C

Baruch 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6:

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year C

Zeph 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18:

### READING ROSTER

**14 | 15 Dec | Third Sunday of Advent | C**

6pm - Louis Staunton

9am - Mary-Ann Thackray

### ALTAR SERVER ROSTER

Sat 14 December | Mia Cook & Amelia Bennett

Sun 15 December | Sienna Alexander

### ROSARY STATUE

8 Dec | Dana Fuller

15 Dec | Jenny Wallace



### Christmas Carnival 'Evaluation' Meeting

Tuesday | 17 December | 4:00 pm

Parish Administration Centre

## 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](https://www.youtube.com/LismoreDioceseAU) channel - 9:00 am -  
[youtube.com/LismoreDioceseAU](https://www.youtube.com/LismoreDioceseAU)



The Sacred Heart Catholic Parish and our Parish Schools thank you for your generous support of our Annual Christmas Carnival and Nativity Tableau

Parish Raffle Results  
1st Prize: David McLeod  
2nd Prize: Matt Thackray  
3rd Prize: Rose Turner

## 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



## ADVENT WREATH

The season of Advent invites us to renew our lives in preparation for the coming of Jesus. The people who heard the message of John the Baptist repented for their sins and were baptized as a sign of God's forgiveness. In Baptism, our sins are forgiven, and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who helps us in our life of discipleship. Led by the Holy Spirit, we use this Advent season to renew our lives so that we, like John the Baptist, might prepare the way for Jesus.

## LIGHTING THE CANDLE - PRAYER

Fr Peter:

God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.  
**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.

*(Used with permission: One License A-641466)*

Save the Date:

LEGION OF MARY

MARIAN VALLEY BUS TRIP

Saturday 15 February 2025

More details to follow.

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.  
Baruch 5:5, 4:36

## Christmas Gifts from Palms!



Are you looking to give something really special this year?

Something that makes a tangible difference? Palms has the shop for you!

Whether it be a GIFT directly supporting our overseas development program, or some unique Timorese GIFTS for your loved one's home, you'll find that perfect GIFT here!

Just scan the QR or go to [palms.org.au/donate/palms-gift-shop](https://palms.org.au/donate/palms-gift-shop)

Happy shopping! And yes, your purchase assists the amazing communities overseas.



## MERRY CHRISTMAS!





## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - C

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (125)

**R: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

### IF SUNG:

**R: The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.**

**Alleluia!**

## 'MASS OF ANOINTING'

**10AM | SATURDAY | 14 DECEMBER**

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is a prayer of healing which may be celebrated individually and communally, and may be received more than once.

**All Parishioners Are Welcome.**

## HOOR OF GRACE - LEGION OF MARY

**Sunday 8 December | Noon - 1pm**

**St Joseph's Church Tweed Heads**

**All parishioners are welcome!**

## CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP

**December morning tea**

**Wed 18 Dec | 10:00 am | Mbah Services Club**

**Enquiries: Alex Lever 0458 817 021**

**ALL MEN ARE WELCOME**

There is no 'Gloria' during Advent. As Advent is a time of preparation for the great celebration of Christmas, it is like we are "fasting" in the liturgy to prepare for the "feast" of Christmas! Also, remembering where the first words of the Gloria came from: the Angels sang it to the shepherds the very night that Jesus was born! So we wait until the Christmas Masses to sing it again.

## 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.



## 2024 Renewal Update: Pastoral Projects Leader Dr Madeline Beveridge



This year marked significant progress across five key projects in the Diocese of Lismore's Renewal Journey. It's been an honour to visit many parishes, meeting clergy, parishioners, and staff, and witness our shared vision for a vibrant future. Special thanks go to the coordination team and Chancery staff for their steadfast support.

### **Youth Ministry Renewal**

The Youth Ministry team, led by Fr Joy D'Souza, Gemma Ballantine, Travis Lyon, and Sister Di Moralde CM, presented a robust proposal to Bishop Greg. The plan, targeting youth engagement across age segments, aims to establish a hybrid model with regional and parish-specific youth activities.

### **Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) Development**

Led by Fr Paul McDonald and Margaret Gill, the DPC team proposed three models for a new council, inspired by Pope Francis' call to synodality and discipleship. After consulting clergy and lay leaders, the team prepared a handbook to guide potential council members and will present their work to the Council of Priests in early 2025.

### **Inter-Parish Collaboration**

The Interparish Collaboration team, led by Fr Roland, Trevor Cooper, Jerome Fernandez facilitated workshops in Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah, and Kingscliff, focusing on financial sustainability, organisational capacity, and parish vitality. Following this success, the team plans to expand to parishes in Coffs Harbour region.

### **Lay-Led Liturgy Implementation**

After researching protocols and parish needs, the Lay-Led Liturgy team, led by Fr Michael Roohan and Kurt Challinor developed a comprehensive guide for lay-led services. They presented to Bishop Greg in November, with work in 2025 to support the formation of leaders and resources for parishes.

### **Clergy Induction and Transfer Processes**

The "Clergy Welcoming" team, led by Cathy Donnelley crafted protocols for international priest inductions and parish transfers. In November, Fr Philip Borla's induction into St Carthage's Parish, Lismore, was a pilot that highlighted valuable refinements; strengthening these processes are an essential part of the Renewal Journey.

For more information about these projects see the full annual update on the Diocese Renewal website <https://www.lismorediocese.org/renewal>

## Annual Update

Madeline Beveridge

Pastoral Projects Leader

The Diocesan Renewal is an exciting undertaking that seeks to bring our community to an encounter with Christ, to examine and celebrate our successes, and to continue to work towards a vibrant future as a Diocese by exploring new aspects and avenues for our ministries. 2024 has been a busy year for the Diocese of Lismore's Renewal Journey, with much progress made across five project areas. This annual update provides an overview of the work that has been achieved by these hard-working teams to date and signposts possible future directions for the Renewal Journey.

Reflecting on my past few months in the role of Pastoral Projects Leader, I have enjoyed immensely the time to visit many (not quite all!) the Parishes in our beautiful Diocese and the opportunity to meet with clergy, parishioners, and staff. I am so grateful that God's plan has led me to this opportunity to serve the Diocese as we collaborate for a bright and vibrant future.

Many thanks to the members of our coordination team for their leadership and guidance: Fr Felix Ekeh; Dr Atat Li-Kim-Mui, (Coordinator); and Mary-Ann Thackray. Our heartfelt thanks also to the staff at the Chancery and beyond who have supported the Renewal, particularly Greg Isaac (Business Manager); James Hay (Programme Manager); Barry de Silva (Communications Officer) and Margaret Haydon.

## Youth Ministry Renewal

Team members: Fr Joy D'Souza, Gemma Ballantine, Travis Lyon, Sister Di Moralde CM, Bianca McInnes, and Fr Anselm Okeke.

The Youth team presented their proposal for Youth Ministry and Engagement to Bishop Greg in late October. Their proposal focused on key themes, such as 'youth are not uninterested, but unengaged', the needs of specific age segments from birth to 30+ years, and the importance of being present and accompanying parishes. They proposed a hybrid model for supporting youth ministry that included a focus on both regions and age-segment, emphasising the importance of youth ministry that was active, involved, and 'on the ground' in parishes. Following the meeting with Bishop Greg the team sought additional feedback from clergy and laity and presented to the Council of Priests (CoP) in mid-November. The CoP provided invaluable feedback and refinements, which will help to progress the proposed model.

## Development of a model for a Diocesan Pastoral Council

Team members: Fr Paul McDonald (Vicar General); Margaret Gill; Margaret Condon; Jim O'Brien; and Brendan Kiely.

The Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) team examined thoroughly the history of the DPC in the Diocese, whilst also considering models of DPC that are in operation throughout other dioceses in Australia. They reflected on Pope Francis' emphasis on synodality and a call to missionary discipleship and proposed three potential models in their presentation to Bishop Greg in late October. The team also developed a handbook that could be used by a potential DPC. Following the meeting with Bishop Greg, the team consulted a wide range of highly qualified clergy and laity for feedback on their proposal. They look forward to presenting to the CoP in early 2025.

## Exploring inter-parish collaboration via regional workshops

Team members: Fr Roland Agrisola; Trevor Cooper; Jerome Fernandez; Geoff Melville; Kerri Olsen; Ann Pereira; and Christine Wightley.

An exciting development of the Interparish Collaboration team was holding several workshops between the Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah, and Kingscliff parishes. These workshops addressed three broad areas: financial sustainability; organisational capability; and parish life vitality, while drawing together clergy and laity. These workshops provided delegates with the opportunity to work together to explore options that support the ongoing work of their parishes. The working party has commenced plans to work with a second 'hub' of parishes in the Coffs Harbour region in early 2025.



## Preparation of resources, protocols and processes for lay-led liturgy implementation in parishes

Team members: Fr Michael Roohan; Kurt Challinor; Mahalia Day; Peter McConnell; Angela Orrego; and Liz Watts.

The Lay Led Liturgy team has conducted extensive research into the protocols and processes for lay-led liturgies, producing an informative and useful guide that could be used in parishes. They surveyed parishes to develop an understanding of the current landscape of lay-led liturgies in the Diocese and to clarify the next steps for the process. This will include developing training and formation plans, and resources for parishes, with an interactive process of ongoing feedback and refinement. The team presented to Bishop Greg in late November and move towards an implementation phase in 2025, which will include a focus on formation of leaders and resources for parishes.

## Design of protocols and processes for clergy induction into the Diocese; and process design and preparation for clergy and parish for clergy transfer to a new parish

Team members: Fr Alex Munyao; Matt Digges; Cathy Donnelly; Julie Nowland; and Lew Wallace.

This team, more colloquially referred to as “clergy welcoming,” developed comprehensive processes for the welcoming of international priests to the Diocese as well as the transfer of priests between parishes. Following a presentation to the Council of Priests mid-year, the team refined these guidelines to incorporate feedback received. In late November, they then ran a ‘pilot’ case as the Diocese welcomed Fr Philip Borla from the Philippines to St Carthage's Parish, Lismore. This provided an invaluable experience of applying the guidelines to an authentic case and provided further scope for refinement whilst enhancing opportunities for collaboration with parishes as an important element of the Renewal Journey.