

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

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

Principal: Mr. Brendan Ryan

St. Joseph's Primary School

Greville Street, South Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1867

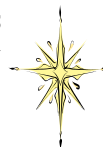
smurp@lism.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Jason Clarke

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR C 5 January 2025

The profound significance of incense

We may not use incense in our liturgies as often as we did in the past, but there is something very precious about the reverencing with incense of the body God has given us at the end of a funeral Mass. The great feast of the Epiphany, which we are celebrating, reminds us that frankincense was among the symbolic gifts brought to the child in Bethlehem by those mysterious wise men from the east.



In his gospel, Matthew is at pains to ensure that his audience – his own Jewish community – realise that Christ had come not only to redeem them, but all peoples. This feast completes the Christmas story: it reminds us that Christ is to be made *manifest* to all the nations. The prophet, Isaiah, sets the scene: the light begins in Jerusalem, but will attract the nations, who will flock with their camels and their gifts of gold and incense. St Paul in his letter reinforces the message by assuring the Ephesians that pagans can now share the same inheritance as his people. And Matthew uses the “wise men” to reveal the mystery of Christ.

Matthew's story is rich in symbolism as he goes out of his way to ensure that we make all the necessary connections: he reminds us of the prophet Micah's reference to Bethlehem as well as Isaiah's mention of the gifts. He wants us to reflect on the fact that the Spirit of God must have prompted these men into action. to make their pilgrimage and be led to “fall on their knees” in homage to the child, whom they were able to recognise as the promised Messiah.

They clearly possessed those mighty gifts of the Holy Spirit: gifts of *wisdom, knowledge and understanding*, which enabled them to *judge* that God would give them the *courage* to undertake their undoubtedly hazardous pilgrimage and the discernment to realise that Herod was up to no good – a clear pointer to the persecutions that awaited Jesus and his followers.

Then, when they see the child, they are filled with *awe and reverence*, going down on their knees to pay homage. Make no mistake, their gifts are also full of meaning. The gold speaks to us of this new kingdom to be established in our hearts: a kingdom of love, hope, forgiveness and reconciliation. The myrrh speaks to us of the suffering foretold by the prophets, and the need for Christ's body to be anointed after his death.

And finally, we come to the frankincense: this invites us to be like the wise men and recognise that Jesus is truly the Son of God. At the end of his gospel, Matthew will remind us that this act of faith was made by a foreigner, the centurion, as he stood by the cross. May we go home reminding ourselves that Jesus, in turn, told us that we are his adopted brothers and sisters, also children of his Father: hence the profound significance of the incense at a funeral Mass.

Timothy J Buckley CSsR © Magellan Media 2025

This week in the Parish

Sunday 5	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR C
	8:30 am - Rosary
	8:30 am - Reconciliation
	9:00 am - Mass
Monday 6	9:00 am - Parish Office reopens
	9:30 am - Rosary & Prayers (see note below)
Wednesday 8	10:00am - Funeral Prayers Carmel Donnelly
Saturday 11	5:30 pm - Rosary
	5:30 pm - Reconciliation
	6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 12	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR C
	8:30 am - Rosary
	8:30 am - Reconciliation
	9:00 am - Mass

PLEASE NOTE: Weekday Masses 9:30 am Tue-Fri until 24 January



*"We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord."*

Matthew 2:2

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Carmel Donnelly Sr Ursula O'Dwyer, Brian Sullivan, Brian Gillett, Henryk Drewek, Ian Konrad

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.

THE EPIPHANY

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (71)

R: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.**

Alleluia!

READINGS FOR TODAY & NEXT SUNDAY

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR C

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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR C

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7;
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

ROSTER | READING

11/12 Jan | The Baptism of the Lord | Yr C

6pm - Christine Wightley | 9am - Jan Bruce

ROSARY STATUE

5/1 Faith Buchanan 12/1 Pauline Weber

ROSARY & PRAYERS

for God's Precious Infants and the Unborn Child -
Monday 6 January - **9:30 am** - Sacred Heart Church.
Pregnancy Help Line: 1300 139 313

FINAL MASSES UKI AND BURRINGBAR

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 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 - Saturday 15 February.

The cost is \$30 per couple (bring a friend / plus one) or \$25 per person. (*Murwillumbah Auxiliary Legion Members \$15 with Murwillumbah Members - FREE*). Book tickets now with Legion Of Mary President Philomena Zambelli.

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

DETAILS:

Pick Up: Mt St Patrick College | 0830 NSW time

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

Return Departure Time: 1330 QLD time

Estimated Time to Arrive in Murwillumbah: 1630 NSW time

Wheelchair Access: NO