

# Sacred Heart Catholic Parish



## PARISH CHURCHES

### Church of the Sacred Heart

Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah

### Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

River Street, South Murwillumbah

## 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@lism.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mshpmurwillumbah@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:mshpmurwillumbah@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

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A | 30 NOVEMBER 2025



The Parish carpark will be **CLOSED** to all traffic from Monday 24 November until further notice as contractors continue the next stage of parish remediation works on the retaining wall and church grounds.

## Exciting news is coming.

"Stay awake!" It's not exactly the most comforting advice for people who might already be tired at the end of a long year – especially as we join the throngs flocking to shops for the usual Christmas spend-up. Yet that's the cry that greets us on this first Sunday of Advent. The season opens not with tinsel and cheer, but with Jesus telling his disciples to be alert, watchful, and ready for something new.

Isaiah paints a hopeful picture of what this newness might mean: nations streaming to the mountain of the Lord, swords beaten into ploughshares, war replaced with peace. After a year marked by wars, famine and political mayhem, this is a vision for which we would be prepared to stay awake. The psalm aptly echoes our present longing, calling us to pray for peace in Jerusalem and to rejoice at the prospect of God's house filled with pilgrims.

And then comes Jesus' story about Noah's day. People were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, carrying on with ordinary life. Nothing wrong with that, of course—except that they were asleep to the bigger picture. When the flood came, they weren't ready. Jesus says the same will be true of the coming of the Son of Man: two people at work side by side, one ready, one not. So: "Stay awake."

Paul, writing to the Romans, makes it even plainer: "You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep." His message feels urgent, like an alarm clock going off before the dawn. We wake with a start and wonder, "Is it too late?"

It's tempting to hear this only as a warning about the end of the world and a possible pending judgement for our sins. But Advent is not about dire predictions or even more dire penitential practices. Advent invites us to hear this biblical message in a gentler, more everyday tone. Stay awake to what God is doing in your life right now. Stay awake to the small gifts that slip past us when we're on autopilot. Stay awake to the people around you who might need attention, kindness, or encouragement.

Advent is a season that sneaks up in the middle of ordinary life. The shops have been in Christmas mode for weeks already. Work deadlines pile up. Social calendars start filling. Christmas lunch planning is pressing. And in the middle of all that noise, the church whispers, "Wake up. Pay attention. Something new is coming."

Staying awake doesn't require us to drink more coffee or get less sleep. It means living with our eyes wide open — choosing not to drift through December in a haze, but to notice where God's peace, hope, and joy are breaking in.

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## BASKET OF HOPE

### A Heartfelt Thank You For Your Generosity

Dear Sacred Heart Family

On behalf of our Basket of Hope ministry, I would like to extend my deepest thanks for your outpouring of generosity. Your kindness is already making a real and immediate difference.

When our parcel was delivered last week, the shelves at the Community Centre were almost bare. The staff were moved to tears when they saw the gifts of hope you had provided. Your donations arrived at the very moment they were needed most.

Please know there is no expectation to give every week - simply when you feel able. Every contribution, given whenever you can manage it, is deeply appreciated and helps keep this ongoing work of hope alive.

We are especially grateful for non-perishable items suitable for cooking meals. They also welcome bags of potatoes, fruit, and vegetables, as we deliver these fresh items the very next day.

Thank you for being a parish family that lives out Christ's love in such a tangible way. May God bless you for the hope and dignity you continue to bring to others.

*Whatever you did for the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it for me - Matthew 25:40*

## ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY

are searching for memories and photos of





These are the only images we have.



email memories and scanned photos directly to [smurp@lism.catholic.edu.au](mailto:smurp@lism.catholic.edu.au)



Write your memory down, sign your name on it, and place it in the St Joseph's box at the back of the church OR drop into our school or Parish Office.



Place your **labeled envelope** of hard copy photos at the St Joseph's school or Parish office, or in the St Joseph's box at the back of the church, for an ASAP return.



**MORE INFO:**  
Contact: St Joseph's (02) 66721867



## Vinnies Christmas Appeal



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*

**Please consider donating any of the following:**

- ♦ **Gift cards or vouchers** – especially on outlets where gifts, toys or something special can be purchased;
- ♦ **Money** – can be left in a specially marked envelope for the Conference at Parish or School offices or Vinnies shop, or on a collection plate at Mass;
- ♦ **Donate online** to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal> **BUT WHEN YOU REACH THE OPTION ASKING FOR 'COMMENTS OR CONFERENCE NAME' please write "Murwillumbah 43-427" so your gift stays in this area.**

Thank you very much for anything you are able to do.

Christine O'Brien, Interim President,

Mary MacKillop Conference

### To Jesus Through Mary - THE LEGION OF MARY ANNUAL GENERAL REUNION -

All parishioners are invited to attend the Sacred Heart Church on Saturday 6 December for the Annual General Reunion of the Legion of Mary.

Rosary and prayers at 9:30 am. Holy Mass at 10am, followed by light luncheon in the Parish Hall/MSPC Library. We will be welcoming visitors from Tweed Heads, Kingscliff and Byron Bay.

Our guest speaker is Mrs Michele Rosevear who has recently walked the Camino. She will entertain us with anecdotes from her adventures and show us her pictures. Please come and join us.

If you need transport please call Evelyn 0423 394 622 or Philomena 0414 201 940

FOR MORE INFO FOLLOW @TOPENDYOUTH

# TOP END YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

## JOIN US NEXT WEEK TO CELEBRATE THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS!



**WHEN: DECEMBER 5TH**  
**TIME: 5:00PM-7:00PM**  
**WHERE: ST ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, KINGSCLIFF**



## ADVENT WREATH

*Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by **the light** of God made man.*

*- Pope Francis*

During Advent, we prepare for His coming – He who brought Light into the darkness – for four weeks, represented by the four candles around the Advent wreath.

Within the four weeks of Advent, the church's liturgy draws attention to different facets of God's plan by focusing on **hope, peace, joy and love**. These themes guide the faithful through a season of spiritual preparation, reflecting on the coming of Christ in the past, his present reality in every Mass, and his future glory at the end of time.

It is only fitting that the first candle on the Advent wreath represents **Hope** – the first Sunday of Advent not only leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ but celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical season as well. The first candle is **purple**, the primary colour of Advent and a colour symbolizing royalty. Sometimes called the **"Prophecy Candle,"** the first candle harkens us back to Isaiah's foretelling of the birth of Christ and all of the promises God gave us in the Old Testament that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus.

*Prayer: All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever.*  
*Amen.*

### ADVENT CHANT | Phil Porter

Twilight, then darkness, night falls and candles glow.

Gently surrounding us a new birth of hope.

Watching, waiting, awak'ning a new birth of hope.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR A

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (121)

**R: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.**

**Alleluia!**



### PARISH CUPPA | MORNING TEA

Please join us for a Cuppa | Morning tea after 9am Mass next Sunday 7 December.

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

### 'MASS OF ANOINTING'

**10AM | SATURDAY | 13 DECEMBER**

**All Parishioners Are Welcome.**

### In Holy Stillness | 2025 Advent Resource

Short daily reflections through until Christmas Day.  
**\$8 each | available from the Church & Parish Office**

### Advent Study Group | In Holy Stillness

Tuesdays | until 16 Dec | 1 pm | Parish Office

*All are Welcome!*

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Advent asks us to be watchful people, ready to catch glimpses of God's kingdom in unexpected places: in conversations with friends, in moments of silence, even in the messy, imperfect preparations for Christmas.

Ian Elmer © Magellan Media 2025



### 2026 JOSEPHITE CALENDARS

on sale at the Church & Parish Office. \$10.00 each.



**Interest Rate - 3.40%**

**For further information and our current interest rate, please visit our website [www.dif.org.au](http://www.dif.org.au) or contact us on 1800 802 516**