

# 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

**Tuesday 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

[murp@lism.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mshpmurwillumbah@lismore.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Mr. Brendan Ryan

### St. Joseph's Primary School

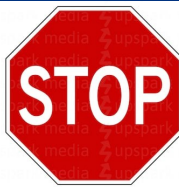
Greville Street, South Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1867

[smurp@lism.catholic.edu.au](mailto:smurp@lism.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Mr. Jason Clarke

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A | 14 DECEMBER 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.

## Accepting God's commands

When Joseph learns that his young fiancée is pregnant, he must have been quite distressed. He probably thought that she had been unfaithful, had been attacked, or was delusional. He knows that the child is not his, so his long genealogy linking the family to David would be irrelevant. We can only imagine the confusion, hurt, and anger of this 'man of honour'.

According to Jewish law, Joseph had the right to shame Mary publicly and have her stoned if she was found to be unfaithful. He decides to divorce her quietly, but God intervenes, and an angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream and tells him to proceed with his plans to marry Mary. The angel also tells him, that the child that Mary bears has been conceived by the Holy Spirit and is to be named Jesus.

However, there is a surprise in the next sentence when we hear that Jesus is to be named Emmanuel which means "God is with us." This seems to be a contradiction, so how can we explain the two names? The name "Jesus" is derived from the Hebrew name "Yeshua" which means "The Lord saves." This name emphasises the purpose of the incarnation and ministry of Jesus which is about His mission which is the salvation of humanity.

The name "Emmanuel" also comes from the Hebrew and means "God is with us." "Emmanuel" is not used as a proper name for Jesus in the New Testament, but it serves as a powerful theological statement about His nature. The dual significance of these names, "Jesus" and "Emmanuel," provide a comprehensive understanding of who Jesus is and what He came to accomplish. "Jesus" highlights his role as Saviour, while "Emmanuel" emphasises the divine presence with humanity.

Joseph was faced with a decision, to either put his trust in the law given by God to Moses, and to leave Mary, or to put his trust in something new that God was to do. In making his decision, Joseph is a reminder to us that while observing the law is important, one must always be open to what God is asking of us in the concrete circumstances of our own lives.

This brings us to the question of how we listen to God and allow God to speak to us.

Listening to God will mean that we must continue to wrestle with the complexity of our own lives. We need to listen to the wisdom of tradition, and to the law of the Lord handed down to us, while remaining open to any new initiative that God might be attempting in us and through us.

As we prepare for Christmas, let us pray that we might be able to say yes, like Joseph, to the questions and challenges that we face in life's journey knowing that God is with us and calling us to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Michael A Kelly CSsR © Magellan Media 2025

# This week in the Parish

Sunday 21	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year A</b> 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass
Monday 22	<b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED</b>
Tuesday 23	<b>5:30 pm - Mass   OLPS Sth Murwillumbah</b>
Wednesday 24	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE - VIGIL</b> 6:00 pm - Mass Midnight - Mass
Thursday 25	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY)</b> 9:00am - Mass
Saturday 27	9:00 am - Rosary   OLPS 5:30 pm - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass   Fr Michael Alcock
Sunday 28	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - A</b> 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass   Fr Nicolas Maurice

## 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 weekday & weekend Mass

## WEDNESDAY WORD

Copies of Wednesday Word, are available in the Church.

## EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Friday 2 January 2026  
6 am - 6 pm | OLPS Church

## CHRISTMAS DAY SPECIAL COLLECTION

**This year at our Christmas Masses, we will be Having a special collection for Wedgetail Retreat, our local Palliative Care Hospice.**

Envelopes are available in the Church this weekend for this collection.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Tom van den Broek, Neil de Closey

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Mons. Michael Quinn (PP 1912-1935), Jim Larkin, Carmel Donnelly, Pattie O'Keefe, Tom Sterling

### THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Margaret Perkins, Isobel Grant, Fr Joseph Guinea, Anne Daley, Gabrielle Hackenberg, Albert Albertini, Maive Collett, Narelle Martin, Pam Willock, Patrick Fox, Margaret Traves, Lorraine Green, David Burke, Paul Calvino, Fr Anthony Lemon

## 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 is an option 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 and Christmas Mass on the [Diocesan YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/LismoreDioceseAU) channel - [youtube.com/LismoreDioceseAU](https://youtube.com/LismoreDioceseAU)

## PLEASE NOTE:

- ♦ All weekend Masses from 27/28 December until late January/early February will be held at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, South Murwillumbah.
- ♦ There will be NO weekday Masses in January.
- ♦ There is no Christian Meditation or Scripture Study Group on Tuesday during the school holidays - to resume in February.

## PRAYER CHAPEL

Please note: the Prayer Chapel is **Not Open** - won't be accessible until at least February 2026.

## READINGS | ROSTERS

### READINGS FOR TODAY & NEXT SUNDAY:

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR A

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

#### THE HOLY FAMILY - YR A

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21;  
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

### READING ROSTER

#### 27/28 Dec | Holy Family - A

6pm - tba

9am - tba

### ALTAR SERVER ROSTER

Altar server roster will resume February 2026.

### ROSARY STATUE

21/12 Debbie Kaehler

28/12 Paula Thornton



## BISHOP of LISMORE

- GREGORY HOMEMING OCD -

### BISHOP GREG'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR 2025

December is always a month in which Jews and Christians rejoice in the Festival of Light. For Jewish communities, it is the feast of Hanukkah, and for us it is Christmas. As such, both communities greet each other with *Happy Hanukkah* or *Merry Christmas*. This year, it is different. On Sunday, 14 December 2025, the terrible Bondi Massacre occurred as Jewish people were celebrating the first day of Hanukkah. This was a heinous attack on the Jewish people in Australia.

I join with so many other religious and community leaders in rejecting what is happening in Australia. This is not the Australia that I was born in.

Christmas is a time in which we remember the love of God made manifest in a small baby born into poverty. I pray, that as we celebrate Christmas, this child may bring peace to anguished hearts and friendship between peoples. Let us not allow hatred and evil to overcome goodness and love.

In wishing you a *Merry Christmas*, I ask you to reach out to all in need and, in particular, to all who may be suffering as a consequence of the Bondi Massacre.

Most Revd Gregory Homeming OCD  
*Bishop of Lismore*

#### DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

Bishop Greg Homeming has appointed members for the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Members have been appointed for a term of three years commencing 1 January 2026.

**Congratulations to Christine Wightley who has been appointed as one of the ten members of the new Diocesan Pastoral Council.**

Please join the Bishop in praying for the Council as it embarks on its mission; to listen, discern, and encourage participation so that the life of the Church reflects the gifts and needs of all its people.

#### Diocesan Jubilee Art Prize

We congratulate two students from our parish schools who placed First and Second in the Diocesan Jubilee Art Prize. Congratulations to Bonnie from St Joseph's Primary who was awarded First Place and to Mia from Mt St Patrick Primary who was awarded Second Place, in the 9-12 years category of the Diocesan Jubilee Art Competition.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL Wednesday 24th December

6:00 pm | Murwillumbah

5:30 pm | Carols | Kingscliff

6:00 pm | Kingscliff

6:00 pm | Pottsville

6:00 pm | Tweed Heads

8:00 pm | Tweed Heads

Midnight | Murwillumbah

Midnight | Tweed Heads

### CHRISTMAS DAY Thursday 25th December

7:30 am | Pottsville

8:00 am | Tweed Heads

9:00 am | Murwillumbah

9:00 am | Kingscliff

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR A

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (23)

R: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

### Changes to Mass Venue whilst remediation works continue around Sacred Heart Church

For safety reasons and to allow maximum work to be completed on the Sacred Heart site over the coming weeks, we'll be moving to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour 22-24 River Street South Murwillumbah **for WEEK DAY MASSES** until Tuesday 23 December.

**There will be NO weekday Masses from Friday 26 December until the first week in February.**

Christmas Masses will be celebrated in Sacred Heart Church.

For those unable to manage the stairs at South Murwillumbah, there is ramp access at the back of the church in Wardrop Lane. (DROP OFF ZONE)

Thanks for your patience and understanding as we move through the construction mess and noise around Sacred Heart Church over the coming months. Weather permitting the works should be completed by early to mid February.

Any queries or concerns, please contact Mary-Ann in the Parish Office.

### 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 at 9:30 am (EST) on ABC TV and ABC TV HD 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).

### CHRISTMAS /NEW YEAR CLOSURE:

The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas /New Year period from

**12 noon Wednesday 24 December 2025  
and will reopen 9am Tuesday 6 January 2026.**

## ADVENT WREATH

*"And in the end,  
everything else will  
turn out to be  
unimportant and  
inessential, except  
for this: Father,  
Child, and Love."* –



St. (Pope) John Paul II

The fourth candle of Advent represents **Love**, the ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us. Called the "**Angel's Candle**," the fourth candle of Advent is lit the Sunday before Christmas, and it is the colour **purple**, leading us to eagerly await the new Kingdom of God on earth.

In our last week of Advent, we are invited to experience the love of Christ, as well share that gift with others. It is love that brings Jesus into our world and it is love that transforms our being.

*Prayer: Lord God, may we, your people,  
who look forward to the birthday  
of Christ experience the joy of  
salvation and celebrate that feast  
with love and thanksgiving.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

### ADVENT CHANT | Phil Porter

Twilight, then darkness,  
night falls and candles glow.  
Gently surrounding us a new birth of Love.  
Watching, waiting, awak'ning  
a new birth of Love.

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## December issue out now



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