

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

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

Principal: Mr. Gavin Dykes

Mt. St. Patrick Primary School

Mooball Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1821

mtsp@lism.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Brendan Ryan

St. Joseph's Primary School

Greville Street, South Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1867

stj@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.

Lighting our way during Advent

What are you like at waiting? As one person said: "I'm no good at waiting, but one day as I stood in line at a local supermarket, I realised I was waiting. Waiting! I was doing what Advent is all about."

That's what John the Baptist, one of the striking Advent figures, is doing in this week's gospel. Waiting in prison for news of the Messiah, wondering is this the one he'd been expecting? We all know the feeling given the expectations we might have of Jesus.

But Jesus says to John's disciples, tell him what you see and hear, that the blind, the lame, the deaf, the lives of those cast out have been transformed. He isn't fulfilling John's expectations so much as calling our attention to the prophecy of Isaiah which is referred to in the first reading.

The lives of those cast out are transformed and, as in Isaiah, where the wilderness blooms now the exile in Babylon is over, they too may return from a kind of exile, full of hope. In the gospel these are the signs of the kingdom that Jesus points too, rather than God's retribution.

So, what do we see and hear? Can we glimpse the working of God among us in Advent? This may seem a daunting task because we're so caught up in the 'festive season' that any talk of slowing down is best left till Boxing Day. But what if we're able to see something else in what we're already doing? That's what the woman standing in the queue at the supermarket is doing; she's waiting and that's what Advent is about.

Could standing there, or wherever we find ourselves waiting, be such a moment? Why not put the phone away and wait? And what about a more formal moment, as we light the third, pink candle of the Advent wreath, on Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday?

Amidst the call to pray and to fast, we seek to light a candle and share that light with the forgotten ones, inviting them to eat with us, welcoming them into our lives. In pointing to the Christ who is to come John bears witness to this light. That's the point of his life, doubts and all, and why Jesus says there is none greater.

The point of our lives is to become more Christ-like and discover our 'greatness' in him. In doing so 'the least in the kingdom of Heaven will be greater' than John is. We rejoice that we're invited to help build up the kingdom and to enable this we must learn to be patient. As the second reading says, waiting in expectation of the Lord's coming, for he will come and is already present among us, not attempting to force God's hand.

In Advent, we're preparing a way for the Lord, realising, once again, that God so loves the world.

Damian Coleridge © Magellan Media 2025

This week in the Parish

Sunday 14	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year A 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass
Monday 15	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 am - Widows & Widowers Cuppa & Chat
Tuesday 16	11:00 am - Christian Meditation Group 1:00 pm - Advent Study Group 5:30 pm - Mass OLPS Sth Murwillumbah
Wednesday 17	9:30 am - Mass OLPS Sth Murwillumbah 10:00 am - Men's Group Morning Tea
Thursday 18	9:30 am - Mass OLPS Sth Murwillumbah
Friday 19	9:30 am - Legion of Mary Parish Meeting Centre 11:00 am - Eucharistic Adoration OLPS 12:00 pm - Mass OLPS Sth Murwillumbah
Saturday 20	9:00 am - Rosary OLPS 5:30 pm - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 21	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year A 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - 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 weekday & weekend Mass

WEDNESDAY WORD

Copies of Wednesday Word, are available in the Church.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

this Friday 19 December
11 am - 11:50 am
OLPS Church

Thank you! 

PRAYER CHAPEL

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Peter Ainscough

ANNIVERSARIES:

Allan Sharp, Bill Hyde

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

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

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 on the [Diocesan YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/LismoreDioceseAU) channel - 9:00 am - [youtube.com/LismoreDioceseAU](https://www.youtube.com/LismoreDioceseAU)

Thank you to parishioners for your help and contributions at each of the monthly Parish Morning Teas. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Jan Bruce

WELCOME!

Welcome to students and teachers from The Bishop Epalle School, Solomon Islands, who are visiting Mt St Patrick College, and celebrating Mass with us this weekend.

READINGS | ROSTERS

READINGS FOR TODAY & NEXT SUNDAY:

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR A

Is 35:1-6, 10; James 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR A

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

READING ROSTER

20/21 Dec | Fourth Sunday of Advent - A

6pm - Mike Brennan

9am - Christine O'Brien

ALTAR SERVER ROSTER

Altar server roster will resume Term 1 2026.

ROSARY STATUE

14/12 Kay Ryder

21/12 Debbie Kaehler

December issue out now



Scan to read



lismoreocese.org/catholic-life-magazine

Copies available in the church today!

SAVE THE DATE:

Sacred Heart Parish Dinner -

Tuesday 20 January 2026

Hope to see you there.

Fr Peter & Parish Pastoral Council

CHRISTMAS /NEW YEAR CLOSURE:

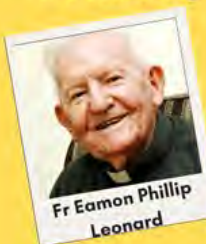
The Parish Office will be closed for the
Christmas /New Year period from

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

Phones and emails will be monitored
throughout the holiday period.

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY

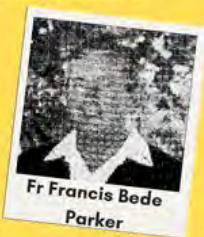
are searching for memories and photos of



Fr Eamon Phillip
Leonard



These are the
only images
we have.



Fr Francis Bede
Parker



email memories and scanned photos
directly to 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

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

CHRISTMAS MASS ROSTER

Volunteers are needed for the Christmas Mass liturgy
roster for **6pm Vigil, Midnight and 9am Christmas
Day** - please add your name & your ministry to the
sheet on the Mass that you are available - located on
table near the Church entrance or contact the Parish
Office.

WIDOWS & WIDOWERS

'CUPPA & CHAT'

1st & 3rd Monday of month

Mon 15 Dec | 10 am | M'bah Services Club

Enquiries: Christine O'Brien 0418 787 881

ALL WIDOWS & WIDOWERS

WELCOME

CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP

December morning tea

Wed 17 Dec | 10:00 am | Mbah Services Club

Enquiries: Stewart Marshall - 0435 036 038

ALL MEN ARE WELCOME

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Isaiah 35:4

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR A

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (145)

R: Lord, come and save us.

IF SUNG:

R. Come O Lord, come and save us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
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 WEEKEND MASSES we will move (*after Christmas*) from Saturday 27 December until late January/early February.

The WEEKDAY Mass time whilst at South Murwillumbah will generally be 9:30 am.

Please check the Mass times in weekend Bulletins for any possible changes to Mass times as from time to time over the coming weeks we may need to make a change.

For the coming week Tuesday 16 December to Friday 19 December week day Masses at South Murwillumbah will be as follows:

Tuesday 16 December – 5:30 pm

Wednesday 17 December – 9:30 am

Thursday 18 December – 9:30 am

Friday 19 December – Adoration 11:00 am and Mass at 12:00 pm.

For those unable to handle the stairs at South Murwillumbah, there is ramp access at the back of the church in Wardrop Lane.

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.

ADVENT WREATH

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a



Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

(Luke 2:10-12)

The third candle of Advent symbolizes **Joy**. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. The third candle takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men.

On this third Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls "Gaudete Sunday," meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, the third candle of Advent is called the "**Shepherd's Candle**," and its colour is **pink**, the liturgical colour for joy.

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

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2026 JOSEPHITE CALENDARS

on sale at the Church & Parish Office. \$10.00 each.
Only a few left of this final edition of the Josephite Calendar.

In Holy Stillness | 2025 Advent Resource

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



Interest Rate - 3.40%

For further information and our current interest rate, please visit our website www.dif.org.au or contact us on 1800 802 516