

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

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www.shpmurwillumbah.com.au

murwillumbah@lismore.catholic.org.au

PO Box 45 Murwillumbah 2484

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PARISH SCHOOLS

Mt. St. Patrick College

mshpmurwillumbah@lismore.catholic.edu.au

Mt. St. Patrick Primary School

mshpmurwillumbah@lismore.catholic.edu.au

St. Joseph's Primary School

mshpmurwillumbah@lismore.catholic.edu.au

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. Mass is celebrated at Tweed Heads at 9:10 am each week day.
- ♦ The Parish Office is CLOSED until 9 am Tuesday 6 January 2026. Phones and emails will be monitored. If urgent call 0413 277 700.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - YEAR A 28 DECEMBER 2025

WELCOME ...

This weekend we welcome Fr Michael Alcock and Fr Nicolas Maurice. Fr Michael & Fr Nicolas will be celebrating weekend Masses for the next two weekends while Fr Peter is on annual leave. We thank them both and please make them welcome!

Fleeing from their home

The story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt following the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem is only told in the Gospel of Matthew which also tells us of the visit of the Magi or wise men from the East.

In fact, it is the visit of the Magi following a star that alerts the paranoid King Herod to suspect a future rebellion against his authority. He therefore orders the death of all male children under two in his jurisdiction of Judea, which included Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Joseph learns about this confronting situation from an angel in a dream telling him to escape into Egypt with Mary and the child Jesus. Egypt was a logical place of refuge. Although part of the Roman empire, it was of outside Herod's control. More than likely, the family would have travelled through current-day Gaza and the northern Sinai coast to relative safety – noting that some cities and towns along the way and in Egypt had had significant Jewish communities.

Joseph had the distinct advantage of being a tradesman which meant he could pick up work in many places. Although we are not given a timeframe of the Holy Family's stay in Egypt, some early Coptic Christian writers suggest they may have been there for several years. Then, as told by Matthew, Joseph receives another dream message telling him to return to Israel in view of Herod's death.

In Matthew's account, there is no evidence of Joseph and Mary living in Nazareth prior to the birth of Jesus. However, on finding that Herod's son Archelaus had replaced his father Herod as ruler of Judea, Joseph decided they should settle elsewhere, namely a town called Nazareth in Galilee. As Nazareth was also within walking distance to nearby Sepphoris – a town being rebuilt at the time – this provided Joseph, and most likely Jesus later on, with carpentry work.

The significance of Egypt in the Jesus' story is stark. After all, it was in Egypt where Jews were made slaves prior to the time of Moses who led them out of slavery to the Promised Land of Israel. Then we note in Matthew's story the prophecy of Hosea 11:1 which states: "Out of Egypt I have called my Son". We also note the significant role Matthew attributes to Joseph as a descendant of King David. As the legal father of Jesus, Joseph provided the Davidic royal line, fulfilling Old Testament prophecies that the promised Messiah would be from the House of David.

In celebrating the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, we are reminded of the many refugee families throughout history and in our world today who seek safety in foreign lands. We also live in a time when there appears to be a growing negativity to immigrants, whatever their reasons for migrating. No doubt Joseph, Mary and Jesus also suffered negativity in view of their Jewish faith and culture.

So, let us pray today for all families and peoples forced from their homelands.

Gerard Hall SM © Magellan Media 2025

This week in the Parish

Saturday 27	5:30 pm - Rosary
	6:00 pm - Vigil Mass Fr Michael Alcock
Sunday 28	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH - A
	8:30 am - Rosary
	9:00 am - Mass Fr Nicolas Maurice
JANUARY	HAPPY NEW YEAR
Thursday 1	MARY, the HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
Friday 2	6:00 am - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 3	5:30 pm - Rosary
	6:00 pm - Vigil Mass Fr Nicolas Maurice
Sunday 4	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR A
	8:30 am - Rosary
	9:00 am - Mass Fr Michael Alcock

RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 5.30 pm - 5.50 pm
Sunday: 8.30 am - 8.50 am

ROSARY
 The Rosary is prayed 30 mins before each weekend Mass. You are welcome to join us.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
 First Friday | 6 am - 6 pm | OLPS

ROSARY STATUE
 To resume 11 January

THE HOLY FAMILY - YEAR A
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (127)
R: Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
Alleluia, Alleluia!
May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you.
Alleluia!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Margaret Perkins, Myles Porter, Tom van den Broek, Neil de Closey

ANNIVERSARIES:

Pope Benedict XVI, William Wood

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

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

ROSTERS | READINGS

READING ROSTER

3/4 January | The Epiphany | Yr A

6pm - Christine Wightley

9am - Jan Bruce

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK & NEXT SUNDAY:

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Yr A

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

The Epiphany of the Lord - Yr A

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

LEGION OF MARY

12 hour Eucharistic Adoration - 1st Friday of each month, in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Friday 2 January | OLPS, South Murwillumbah

At the back of the Church is a roster to print your name and phone number and the time you prefer. Starts from 6am to 6pm. Chose the time slot that suits you. There must be 2 or more people present for each hour of the day. Contact Trish Jandura for more information.

St Anthony's Parish, Kingscliff

St Joseph's Parish, Tweed Heads

Sacred Heart Parish, Murwillumbah



We Are HIRING

Parish Secretary

- Located in Murwillumbah, supporting the Sacred Heart Parish
- Permanent, part-time role
- Work hours negotiable with family-friendly options

Parish Administration Assistant (Casual)

- Work between three locations: Kingscliff, Tweed Heads and Murwillumbah
- Supporting role at St Anthony's, St Joseph's and Sacred Heart Parishes
- Work hours negotiable with family-friendly options

For more information about these opportunities, please contact
 Mary-Ann Thackray at mthackray@lismore.catholic.org.au

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.