

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

mspcmbah@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

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A | 18 JANUARY 2026

Storytelling at its best

The best stories often have subtle structural elements hidden from direct view. George Lucas, for example, built the six Star Wars films he produced according to an elaborate ring structure where both scenes and dialogue from the first three films are inverted and mirrored in the second half.

J K Rowling constructed the Harry Potter series according to the spiritual “logic” of alchemy and with overarching mirrored parallels, a bit like Lucas. This deep structuration is an incredibly ancient and widespread way of storytelling. Holy Scripture is brimming full of configurations of similar kinds, both small and large.

John’s Gospel is no exception. I’ll draw attention to one example. The second half of Chapter One is composed of four “scenes”: the Baptist’s testimony about Jesus to the priests, Levites, and Pharisees from Jerusalem; the Baptist’s testimony about Jesus’ baptism (this week’s gospel!); Andrew’s testimony to his brother Peter; and Philip’s testimony to Nathaniel.

The deep structural element I want to point out is the way the gospel relates these scenes to the next one, which is the wine miracle at the Wedding in Cana, the first “sign” that marks the beginning of Jesus’ ministry at the start of Chapter Two. (Six “signs” follow through the middle of the book, for a total of *seven*.)

Now, the second, third, and fourth of these testimonial scenes begin with the same phrase: “The next day...” The Cana story immediately following the fourth scene begins: “On the third day...” Four plus three is...*seven*.

The structural “key” to these “days” of Chapter One is the seven-day creation story. It is also the basis for the seven “signs,” which layer the Exodus onto that Creation theme. (*Moses*’ “signs” are the plagues that undo the creation, culminating in the death of Egypt’s firstborn sons, whereas *Jesus*’ signs—from the wedding wine to the resurrection of Lazarus—are acts of renewing the creation, bringing the world to its glorious purpose, achieved through the sacrifice of God’s own Son.)

This also sheds light on this week’s gospel, the second day of the initial seven, and John the Baptist’s testimony about Jesus’ baptism. Here John mentions a Lamb, a Dove, and a Son. Jesus is both the Lamb—like the Passover lamb during the Exodus that “redeemed” the firstborn sons of Israel—and he is the Son, already sung about in the gospel’s opening as the one who makes us children of God.

In the middle of John’s testimony, between these two images (Lamb and Son), is the Dove, who is the Spirit, descending on Jesus in the waters of baptism. John testifies that Jesus’ baptism is the restart of the creation’s beginning when the Spirit hovered over the waters in Genesis. Our baptism into Jesus immerses us into this entire new creation.

This week in the Parish

Sunday 18 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YR A

8:30 am - Rosary
8:30 am - Reconciliation
9:00 am - Mass

Monday 19 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 am - Widows & Widowers Cuppa & Chat

Tuesday 20 6:00 pm - Parish Dinner (see note below)

Wednesday 21 10:00 am - Parish Men's Group

Saturday 24 9:00 am - Rosary

5:30 pm - Rosary

6:00 pm - Vigil Mass

Sunday 25 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YR 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 weekend Mass

WEDNESDAY WORD

Copies of Wednesday Word, are available in the Church.

SACRED HEART PARISH DINNER

Fr Peter and the Parish Pastoral Council invites all to join together for a Parish Community Dinner to be held this **Tuesday 20 January from 6:00 pm at Murwillumbah Services Memorial Club.**

Phone and book your table for family and friends directly with the Services Club on 6672 1388.

Hope to see you there.

AUSTRALIA DAY MASS

Monday | 26 January | 9:00 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church

Christmas Carnival 'Evaluation' Meeting

Thursday | 29 January | 4:00 pm

Parish Administration Centre

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Kevin Bryant, David Coyte, Margaret Perkins

ANNIVERSARIES:

Dorrie Turner

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

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

PLEASE NOTE:

- All weekend Masses 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.
- There is no Christian Meditation or Scripture Study Group on Tuesday during the school holidays.

READINGS | ROSTERS

READINGS FOR TODAY & NEXT SUNDAY:

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORD TIME - YR A

Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORD TIME - YR A

Is 8:23 - 9:3; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23

READING ROSTER

24/25 Jan | 3rd Sunday in Ord Time - A

6pm - Grace Molloy
9am - Philomena Zambelli

ROSARY STATUE

18/1 Narelle Gear
25/1 Philomena Zambelli



Save the Dates

*Saturday 14th &
Sunday 15th March 2026*

MOUNT ST PATRICK COLLEGE
100 YEARS - ONE LIGHT

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH

10am - 1pm

Centenary Book Launch

College Tours

Dinner - ticketed event

*Details to be advised

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH

9am - 1pm

Thanksgiving Mass

Morning Tea

College Tours



WIDOWS & WIDOWERS

'CUPPA & CHAT'

1st & 3rd Monday of month

Mon 19 Jan | 10 am | M'bah Services Club

Enquiries: Christine O'Brien 0418 787 881

ALL WIDOWS & WIDOWERS

CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP

January morning tea

Wed 21 Jan | 10:00 am | Mbah Services Club

Enquiries: Stewart Marshall 0435 036 038

ALL MEN ARE WELCOME



SAFEGUARDING IN OUR PARISH



Safeguarding in our parish is a community responsibility. If you believe someone is being harmed please speak to your priest or the Safeguarding Office (02) **6621 9444**. There are procedures in place to guide how best to help victims - whether children or adults at risk.

BACK TO SCHOOL DATES

Mt ST PATRICK COLLEGE

Monday 2 February: Yrs 7, 11 & 12

Tuesday 3 February: Yrs 8, 9 & 10

Mt ST PATRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL

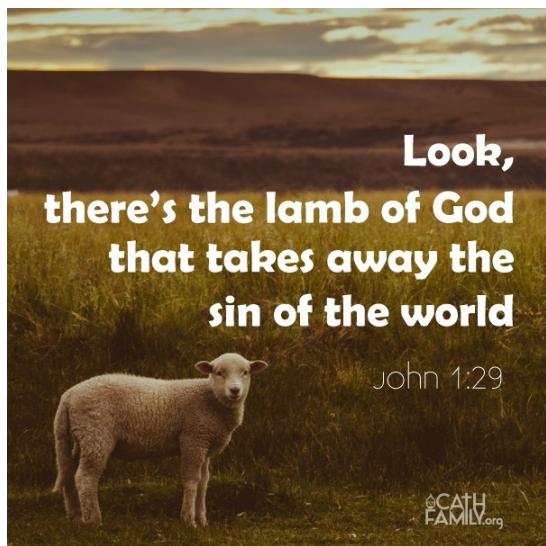
Wednesday 28 January: Yrs 1 - 6

Tuesday 3 February: Kinder commences

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Monday 2 February: Yrs 1 - 6

Tuesday 3 February: Kinder commences



2ND SUNDAY IN ORD TIME - YR A

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (39)

R: Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

St Anthony's Parish, Kingscliff



St Joseph's Parish, Tweed Heads

Sacred Heart Parish, Murwillumbah

We Are HIRING

Parish Secretary | Closing Friday 23 January

- 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

Pope's Intentions for 2026

“Pray with the Pope” aims to allow anyone, wherever they are in the world, to join in the Holy Father’s prayer intention, which this year 2026 begins with the invitation to “learn to pray with the most definitive Word, which is not our own, so full of empty promises, but Jesus Christ”.

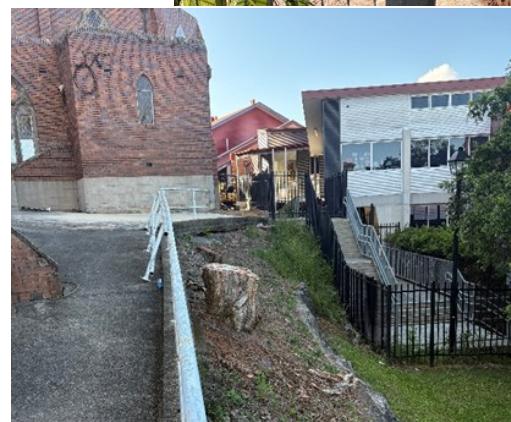
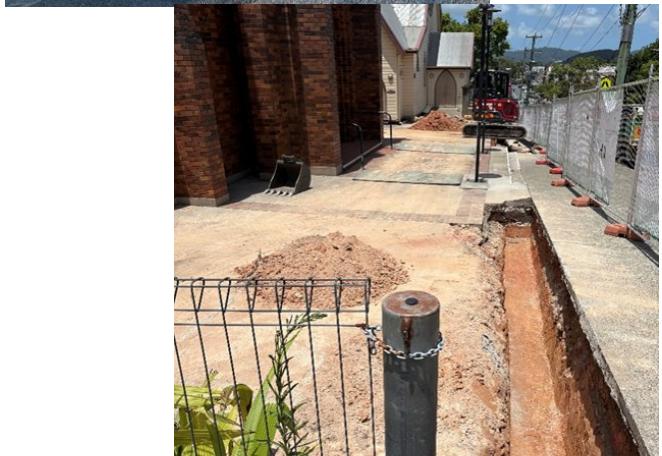
January

For prayer with the Word of God

Let us pray that praying with the word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

‘Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well.’ | Matthew 6:33

Re-construction work at Sacred Heart Church



Diocesan
Investment
Fund

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