

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

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A | 25 JANUARY 2026

THE TRUE LIGHT

Galilee was no one's idea of a place that could launch a 'world changing movement'. Galilee's history was not glorious. The readings today refer to it as the "land of Naphtali", which was one of the breakaway tribes of the Jewish people that formed the northern kingdom of Israel.

According to the Old Testament, these tribes did not remain faithful to God, committing idolatry and gross injustices. The northern kingdom was later invaded and its people taken captive by the Assyrian empire. The area around the Sea of Galilee remained largely deserted for centuries.

By the time of Jesus, Galilee had been repopulated by Jewish people who had formed several prosperous towns and villages. Although its population was fervently Jewish, their countrymen in Judea and around Jerusalem regarded Galileans as barely qualifying as Jewish, with their blended ethnic heritage and stereotypes about them being lax in religious practice.

They had identifiable accents and would have been regarded by Judeans as their less-sophisticated country cousins. Throughout the Gospels the Judeans repeatedly dismiss Jesus and his disciples when they learn they are from Galilee.

These are people today's readings describe as "people who walked in darkness", and with history the Scriptures depict as 'degraded by God'. But it is to the people of Galilee, "on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen."

Jesus' ministry in Galilee is a fitting example of how God ministers first to the lowly and humble and chooses them to do wonderful things for him. The people of Galilee are the first to hear the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Their people are chosen to be disciples of Israel's promised Messiah and messengers of God to the ends of the earth. And it is to the Galileans that Jesus first travels "teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people."

Today's gospel brings us hope for our own land, currently assailed by secularism and our own history of injustices. Our country could also be a spark for God's plan of salvation for the entire world. What we learn is that God is looking to bring the kingdom of heaven to people who have the humility and willingness to follow him.

If the kingdom of heaven is to come through us, then it must start with the two messages that Jesus' preaches in the gospel: "Repent" and "Come after me." Jesus calls the people of Galilee, and us today, to leave the darkness of our past sins behind us and follow him, the one true light.

May we all pray that we, a people who walk in darkness, see the true light of Christ and become "fishers of men" for him to the ends of the earth. May every corner of our country know Jesus' teachings, his healing and his love for people.

Joseph Doyle © Magellan Media 2025

This week in the Parish

Sunday 25	3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YR A 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass
Monday 26	AUSTRALIA DAY PARISH OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 am - Mass
Thursday 29	4:00 pm - Christmas Carnival Evaluation Meeting
Saturday 31	9:00 am - Rosary 10:00 am - Baptism 5:30 pm - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
FEBRUARY	
Sunday 1	4TH 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.

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:

Jan Weaver, Mark & Nora Bilstoft, Flora Norris

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)

WELCOME HOME

This weekend we welcome home Fr Peter Wood from his annual holidays.

We hope Fr Peter had a nice rest and is ready for a busy year.

UPDATE ON SACRED HEART CHURCH RECONSTRUCTION WORKS

Site meeting Friday 23 January to review progress means that we will be at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, South Murwillumbah longer than expected.

Please note that all Masses will continue to be held at OLPS until Friday 13 March.

Weekday Masses will recommence Tuesday 3 February at OLPS Church.

READINGS | ROSTERS

READINGS FOR TODAY & NEXT SUNDAY:

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORD TIME - YR A

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME - YR A

Zeph 2:3, 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12

READING ROSTER

31 Jan/1Feb | 4th Sunday in Ord Time - A

6pm - Margaret Mumford

9am - Beth Gorton

ALTAR SERVER ROSTER

Altar server roster will resume when we return to Sacred Heart Church.

ROSARY STATUE

25/1 Philomena Zambelli 1/2 Susan Kean



14 & 15 MARCH 2026

Save the Dates

Join us for the weekend to celebrate 100 years
of Mount St Patrick College

CENTENARY BOOK LAUNCH COLLEGE TOURS SUNDAY MASS

DINNER - TICKETED EVENT

PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING SOME OR ALL EVENTS



PARISH DINNER JANUARY 2026

37 parishioners enjoyed catching up and a shared meal at Murwillumbah Services Club on Tuesday 21 January 2026.

Watch this space for details of the next Parish Dinner.

LEGION OF MARY Eucharistic Adoration – 1st Friday of the month

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church

In honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, there will be a 12-hour Eucharistic Adoration on the 1st Friday of each month.

Print your name, phone number & preferred time on the roster located at the front door of the Church. Starts from 6am. There must be 2 or more people present for each hour of the day. Contact Trish Jandura.

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

We welcome back all teachers, staff and students to our three parish schools for the 2026 year.

We extend a warm welcome to all new staff to our College and two Primary Schools.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to our Special Christmas Day Collection for Wedgetail Retreat, our local Palliative Care Hospice.

A total of \$1,222.00 has been forwarded to Wedgetail from our Parish.

3RD SUNDAY IN ORD TIME - YR A

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (26)

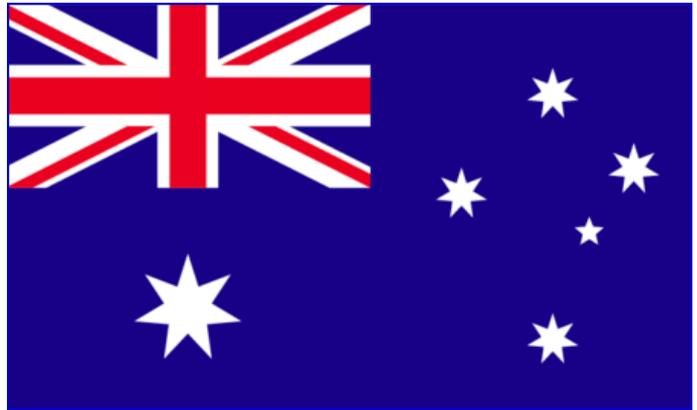
R: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!



PROFESSION OF FAITH (NICENE CREED)

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(All bow during these two lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.



AUSTRALIA DAY

God of Australia ...
We bring you our gratitude
for the diversity and wealth
of this land and its people;
for its weathered old mountains,
fertile valleys, and vast plains;
for its riches of mine and agriculture,
forest, and grazing lands;
for the first Australians, who know
and love this continent
with an intimate, profound sensitivity;
for the courage, vision and sacrifice
of the early settlers;
for the diverse races who now call Australia home:
for these and all your gifts
we offer you, O Lord, our joyful, thankful hearts.

Amen.

- Bruce Prewer, Australian Prayers

**Mary Help of Christians Patroness of Australia
Pray For Us**

**St Mary of the Cross MacKillop,
Pray For Us**

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



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**