

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

Monday to Friday 9.00am - 3.00pm

02 6672 1118

www.shpmurwillumbah.com.au

murwillumbah@lismore.catholic.org.au

PO Box 45 Murwillumbah 2484

Queensland Road Murwillumbah 2484

PARISH SCHOOLS

Mt. St. Patrick College

mspcmbah@lism.catholic.edu.au

Mt. St. Patrick Primary School

murp@lism.catholic.edu.au

St. Joseph's Primary School

smurp@lism.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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD | YEAR A

4 January 2026

Wise counsel for these times

When we read the Scriptures, as with all great literature, it is often helpful to learn to read between the lines. As we celebrate the great Feast of the Epiphany, we have a perfect illustration of why this is important.



In providing us with the readings for this week, the Church is concerned that we see the connections and recognise that the significance of the visit of the 'wise men' is more important than the event itself. The way is prepared by the Prophet Isaiah, who foresees 'the glory of the Lord' breaking through the darkness that covers the earth. Moreover, Isaiah also sees that this will attract the nations of the world, and gifts of gold and frankincense will be among those loaded onto their camels.

At the same time our attention is drawn by Paul to the fact he has been specially chosen to assure the world that God's promise, revealed in the gospel of Christ Jesus, is not just for his own Jewish people but for everyone. Matthew too was at pains to remind his readers that Christ's salvation was not just for his own countrymen and women, but for all men and women of all time.

So, while Luke's infancy narrative concentrates on the actual birth of Christ in Bethlehem and the visit of the local shepherds, Matthew moves the story forward and links it with that prophetic vision of Isaiah, noted above. Bethlehem is still centre stage, but there is no mention of a stable: now, we are told, Jesus and Mary are in a house.

The wise men were able to read the signs and trusted in God's guidance. Their gifts are truly symbolic. The gold speaks to us of the new Kingdom of reconciliation, peace and love that is to be established in our hearts. The myrrh reminds us that Christ's body will be anointed after his death. He will literally love us to death and, as a result, break the bonds of sin and death once and for all. The frankincense points us to the wonder of this child, who is truly the Son of God.

As we ponder the meaning of this feast, we will do well to remember the call of the Second Vatican Council 'to read the signs of the times.' Our world needs wise men and women who can discern the will of God and know how and when to respond to the challenges of our troubled times. The more conscious we become of our dignity as adopted brothers and sisters of the Lord and therefore, with him, sons and daughters of the Father, the more likely we are to reach out in compassion to our neighbour and help build the Kingdom of God here on earth.

The wise men in the story epitomise the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They had wisdom, knowledge and understanding. They made wise judgments and had the courage to make their pilgrimage. Filled with awe in the presence of God, they worshipped him. We are called to do the same.

Sunday 4	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR A		
	8:30 am	-	Rosary
	8:30 am	-	Reconciliation
	9:00 am	-	Mass
Monday 5	9:30 am	-	Rosary & Prayers (see note)
Tuesday 6	9:00 am	-	Parish Office reopens
Saturday 10	5:30 pm	-	Rosary
	5:30 pm	-	Reconciliation
	6:00 pm	-	Vigil Mass
Sunday 11	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR A		
	8:30 am	-	Rosary
	8:30 am	-	Reconciliation
	9:00 am	-	Mass
	10:00 am	-	Baptisms



ROSARY & PRAYERS

for God's Precious Infants and the
Unborn Child -

Monday 5 January - 9:30 am -
OLPS Church.

Pregnancy Help Line: 1300 139 313

THE EPIPHANY

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (71)

R: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

IF SUNG:

R: Lord, every nation will adore you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.**

Alleluia!

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

READINGS FOR TODAY & NEXT SUNDAY

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR A

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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR A

Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17

ROSTER | READERS FOR 11 JANUARY 2026

6 pm Mike Brennan | 9 am Mary-Ann Thackray

Jubilee 2025 | Pilgrims of Hope

The Holy Doors of the various churches around the world are closing with Pope Leo XIV set to close the main Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica on the Feast of the Epiphany (6 January 2026), concluding the historic Holy Year that began in late 2024.

We are reminded that what closes is not the grace of God but a special time in the life of the church. Cardinal Archpriest Rolandas Makrickas emphasized during the closure of the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of Santa Maria Greater last week in Rome that "the true door is the one of the human heart; it opens when listening to the word of God, widens when welcoming our brothers and sisters and strengthens itself in the forgiveness received and granted. So, going through a Holy Door was a gift, but becoming from now on, an open door for others is the mission entrusted to us all."

Gracious God, As this Jubilee Year of Hope draws to a close, we thank you for your abundant grace. Strengthen our hope, deepen our faith, and send your Holy Spirit to keep the fire of charity burning in our hearts. May we, your children, always journey as Pilgrims of Hope, bringing your light and peace to the world, until your kingdom comes in its fullness.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

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

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Kevin Bryant, 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.

ROSTER | ROSARY STATUE

11/1 Lisa Dusi-Fox