

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

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A | 15 FEBRUARY 2026

THE TRUTH OF DIVINE WISDOM

Australians have long grumbled about the “nanny state.” We roll our eyes at tobacco excises, plain packaging laws, bicycle helmet requirements, and bans on advertising to kids. Yet, if we’re honest, no one lying in a hospital bed with lung cancer, managing type 2 diabetes, or recovering from a head fracture, ever mutters, “This wouldn’t have happened if the government had just stayed out of my business.”

Deep down, we know that some laws exist not to stifle us but to save us. They’re less about control and more about keeping us alive and well. This weekend’s readings invite us to see God’s law in that same light; not as divine overreach but as wisdom designed for *human flourishing*.

Sirach reminds us just how much God respects human freedom: “If you choose, you can keep the commandments” (Sir 15:15). God does not impose the divine will upon us. Like public health policies, the commandments are set before us as a path of life, not as a compliance regime. Sirach’s image of choosing between “life and death” (Sir 15:17) is less about punishment and more about recognising that our decisions shape who we become.

The psalmist sees the “wonders” of God’s law (Ps 119:18). This isn’t the awe of a bureaucrat admiring a perfectly filled-out form; it is the delight of someone who recognises that God’s ways lead to peace, integrity, and deep contentment. The psalmist isn’t one who revels in rules; but one who wonders at the simple and self-evident wisdom inherent in God’s law.

Paul speaks of a hidden wisdom that the world doesn’t easily recognise—wisdom rooted in love rather than self-interest, in the Cross rather than cleverness. God’s wisdom does not operate like the shifting advice of “this age,” which prioritises individual success over communal wellbeing. Divine wisdom seeks communion, justice, and healing: all the things that help humanity to flourish. It is revealed, Paul says, by the Spirit who searches “the depths of God” (1 Cor 2:10) and leads us into those depths ourselves.

Matthew’s Jesus insists he has not come to abolish the law but to fulfil it (Matt 5:17). But fulfilment doesn’t mean tightening the rules; it means *deepening* them. Jesus directs our attention away from external actions to the dispositions of the heart. He’s not adding more red tape. He’s revealing that true obedience is not about external regulation but internal transformation – a radical change of heart and mind. The law’s purpose is to form a people capable of love.

Which brings us back to our Australian examples. Just as no one on a hospital ward complains about the nanny state, so no one who has contemplated the “depths of God” complains that divine law is restrictive. God’s law, like the best human laws, is given so we might flourish; not in fear, but in freedom shaped by sure wisdom and self-sacrificing love.

And that, ultimately, is the kind of “plain-packaged” law worth a moment or two of wonder.

Ian J Elmer © Magellan Media 2026

This week in the Parish

Sunday 15	6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YR A PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass
Monday 16	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday 17	9:00 am - Mass 10:00 am - Widows & Widowers Cuppa & Chat 1:00 pm - Lenten Group Parish Admin Centre
Wednesday 18	ASH WEDNESDAY 7:30 am - Mass 10:00 am - Men's Group Morning Tea 5:30 pm - Mass
Thursday 19	9:00 am - Mass today
Friday 20	9:00 am - Legion of Mary Parish Meeting Centre 11:30 am - Eucharistic Adoration 12:30 pm - Mass
Saturday 21	9:00 am - Rosary 5:30 pm - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass
Sunday 22	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - 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.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
this Friday 20 February
11:30 am - 12:15 pm

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Anne Daley, Maria Gonzalez Calvino, Fr Paul Glynn

ANNIVERSARIES:

Margaret Chiesa, Mary Lazenby, Roberto Dusi, Ted Leape, Pat Grant

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Kath Dawson-Malone, Leo Kelly, Alex Lever, Rita Loughman, Isobel Grant, Fr Joseph Guinea, 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)

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

18 FEBRUARY

Murwillumbah - OLPS | 7:30 am & 5:30 pm
Kingscliff - St Anthony's | 7:30 am & 9 am
Pottsville - Sts Mary & Ambrose | 9:30 am
Tweed Heads - St Joseph's | 7 am & 9:10 am

UPDATE ON MASSES

Please note: all Masses will continue to be held at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, South Murwillumbah until mid March.

READINGS | ROSTERS

READINGS FOR TODAY & NEXT SUNDAY:

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME - YR A

Sir 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YR A

Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

READING ROSTER

21/22 Feb | First Sunday of Lent - A

6pm - Christine Wightley

9am - Jan Bruce

ROSARY STATUE

15/2 Igor Iaszec & Gosia Lachtera

22/2 Dana Fuller



JOIN US FOR THE WEEKEND TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF MOUNT ST PATRICK COLLEGE

100 Years - One Light

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH 2026

Mount St Patrick College

10am - Centenary Book Launch

10am - 1pm College Tours &
Morning Tea

RSVP to mursc@lism.catholic.edu.au

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2026

Sacred Heart Church & Mount St
Patrick College

9am - Thanksgiving Mass

10am - 1pm College Tours &
Morning Tea

RSVP to mursc@lism.catholic.edu.au

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH 2026

CENTENARY DINNER

6.00PM

Murwillumbah Golf Course

Tickets ON SALE NOW

Via the College Office
02 6672 2340

\$100 PP
2 Course Meal & Centenary Book

RSVP by 27th February

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

During Term One a number of children from our parish will be preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

There will be a Parent Information Meeting on Tuesday 24 February at 6 pm in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, South Murwillumbah.

Parents of children who were Confirmed in 2025 and would like their children to continue with their Sacraments, are asked to attend.

WIDOWS & WIDOWERS

'CUPPA & CHAT'

1st & 3rd Monday of month

Mon 16 Feb | 10 am

M'bah Services Club

Enquiries: Christine O'Brien

0418 787 881

CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP

February morning tea

Wed 18 Feb | 10 am

Mbah Services Club

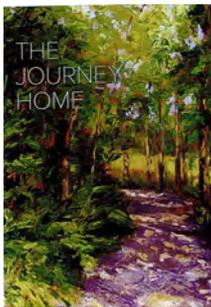
Enquiries: **Stewart Marshall -**

0435 036 038

2026 LENTEN PROGRAMME

The Journey Home

The Journey Home is a 6-week reflection resource that can be used during Lent by individuals and groups. Each day's reflection is inspired by a text of Scripture from the day's Gospel reading, followed by a Reflection, Discussion Questions and concludes with a Prayer.



You are invited to join us for prayer and reflection during the weeks of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday 18 February.

If you would like to be a leader, please nominate preferred day and time, with name and phone number on the sheet provided. Please note Parish Administration Centre is available to hold Lenten Group meetings.

Available at the Church | Parish Office. \$8 each.

CHANGES TO THE LITURGY DURING LENT:

- ◆ The Gloria is not said
- ◆ The Alleluia is replaced
- ◆ The Apostles Creed replaces the Nicene Creed.

HOPE BASKET NEWS

Thank you to all for continuing to support our Hope Basket. Your generosity truly helps us care for others in very real ways.

We know many of us arrive at Mass thinking, "I meant to bring something today," only to realise life has been busy - and that's completely understandable. We're all juggling a lot, and there are many calls on our generosity. Even so, we believe this is a genuine and meaningful outreach to our local community.

So if you forget to bring a food item, that's okay. A coin donation is also great. These donations are used by our parish team to purchase fresh produce, which is then taken to the Community Centre.

Nothing given is too big or too small. Every contribution helps, and all are received with gratitude.

We're reminded in the Gospel that Jesus took what little was offered - just loaves and fish - blessed it, and fed thousands. In the same way, every gift shared with love can become something much greater.

Together, we are sharing hope and love.





6TH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME - YR A

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (118)

R: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

SEASON OF LENT

Lent begins next Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence (not eating meat). All who have completed their 18th year & have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to fast. All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain.

All Fridays in Lent are recommended as days of fast (perhaps not eating meat and forgoing luxuries, and food over and above what is necessary), prayer and deeds of charity.

All Catholics are obliged to receive holy communion at least once a year between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday.

Bishop Greg's Lenten Talk Series

The Spiritual Life continues...

Held on Mondays at 6pm at St Mary's Chapel, Lismore.

Monday 23 February | Prayer

Monday 2 March | Detachment

Monday 9 March | Union with God

Watch on YouTube from 6pm 25/2, 4/3, 11/3
[youtube.com/LismoreDioceseAU](https://www.youtube.com/LismoreDioceseAU)

POPE LEO XIV TO PRESIDE

In 2028, Australia will host the 54th International Eucharistic Congress, an extraordinary global encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Pope Leo will preside over the Congress. Pilgrims from around the world will come together in worship, reflection, and celebration, united by a shared faith and a mission to carry Christ into the world.



'Celebrating our Catechists'



Project Compassion Sunday 14-15 of February 2026

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

God so love the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life | John 3:16



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