

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR A | 22 FEBRUARY 2026

A nourishing desert

Vast, bare and silent, the desert is a place of spare and rugged beauty. It is also very confronting: an arid, barren environment with extreme temperatures, searing heat by day and freezing cold by night.

The desert may serve as a metaphor for our experiences of desolation, when we are stripped bare of our confidence and must face our most vulnerable selves. Even though Jesus was the Son of God, there were no doubt moments when he was led into the desert when he experienced desolation, when he thought that God was absent or silent.

When faced with grief, loss, or hardship, we may find it difficult to persist in faith. Even waiting for God may seem like an added – even an unbearable – burden. But, as Simone Weil, in *Waiting for God*, reminds us: “we cannot take a step toward the heavens;” instead, we find that, in God’s immense love for our frail humanity, “God crosses the universe and comes to us.” God comes to us!

The three temptations faced by Jesus present examples of situations where we in our own lives may be tempted to rely on ourselves to overcome some very basic human challenges: the need to fill our hunger, the desire to be powerful or influential, and the need to feel safe and secure.

In his responses, Jesus teaches us not to succumb to the temptation to compensate for our human weaknesses by focusing on satisfying our desires. Instead, he invites us to lean ever more closely on God and to let God begin to work within us with great love and tenderness and fashion us every more closely in God’s image.

Jesus shows us that, even at our lowest ebb, God fills every hunger and quenches every thirst. He reminds us that any influence we may wield comes not from being powerful but by walking with others in humility, solidarity and love. He reminds us to remain steadfast; for we can rest secure in the trust that God embraces our every vulnerability.

Through God’s transforming presence, we can begin to experience the desert not as a place of despair or desolation, but as a place of deep encounter with God and transformation. Stripped bare of everything superfluous to our needs, and utterly dependent on God, we become open to a profound conversion of heart and real growth.

When Anthony, one of the early Desert Fathers, emerged twenty years after his time in the desert, his brothers were surprised to see that he was not haggard, but instead looked well and was radiant with inner peace.

Amidst the suffering of any desert into which we are led, let us pray for the grace to respond as Jesus did – to open ourselves utterly to God. Let us awaken to the divine within and around us and respond to him, to the beauty of his creation, and to each other in an entirely new, grace-filled and life-giving way.

Sophie Clements @ Majellan Media 2026

This week in the Parish

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Sunday 22 | FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YR A 8:30 am - Rosary 9:00 am - Mass |
| Monday 23 | PARISH OFFICE CLOSED |
| Tuesday 24 | NO MASS TODAY 1:00 pm - Lenten Group Parish Admin Centre 6:00 pm - First Reconciliation Parent Meeting OLPS Church, South Murwillumbah |
| Wednesday 25 | NO MASS TODAY |
| Thursday 26 | NO MASS TODAY |
| Friday 27 | 9:00 am - Legion of Mary Parish Meeting Centre NO EXPOSITION OR MASS TODAY 1:00 pm - Stations of the Cross |
| Saturday 28 | 9:00 am - Rosary 5:30 pm - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass |
| MARCH | |
| Sunday 1 | FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YR A 7:30 am - HOLY HOUR 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
No Exposition this week

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Warren Kenny, Anne Daley, Maria Gonzalez Calvino

ANNIVERSARIES:

Zenaida Balagot

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)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

OLPS Church
1:00 pm Fridays during Lent
led by Legion of Mary



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:

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YR A

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - YR A

Gen 12:1-4, 2 Tim 1:8-10; Mt 17:1-9

READING ROSTER

28 Feb/1 Mar | Second Sunday of Lent - A

6pm - Mike Brennan

9am - Mary-Ann Thackray

ROSARY STATUE

22/2 Dana Fuller

1/3 Rhoda McPherson



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

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

The 2026 Sacraments of Initiation program run by the Catholic Parish of Sacred Heart Murwillumbah – is for all children who are baptised and will have turned 8 years of age by July 1, 2026, (usually Grade 3 children and above), regardless of which school they attend.

The premise under which this policy is implemented within our Parish, is about inviting children to complete their initiation into the Catholic faith as part of a parish based, school supported, family centred preparation program. We will be working together as a team to continue your child's faith journey.

An information night will be held at **6pm on Tuesday 24th February, at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church**, in River Street South Murwillumbah, for parents who would like to participate in, and find out more about the Sacrament of Reconciliation program.

Important information regarding the program will be provided at this night, (including venue, time and date of lessons, due to ongoing work at Sacred Heart church) so at least one parent or guardian should attend so that you may be in the best possible position to make an informed decision on whether your family wish to commit to the program at this time.

To express your interest in attending the information night simply email Barbara the Sacramental Program Coordinator at barbara.grant@lism.catholic.edu.au This meeting is a great opportunity to ask questions to help make an informed decision about whether the time is right for you and your family to participate in our program.



THE 54TH INTERNATIONAL
**EUCCHARISTIC
CONGRESS 2028**
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
THIS IS MY BODY GIVEN FOR YOU

Update of Sunday Missals...

We have been advised that the Sunday Missal is available to order. They are hard cover and sell for \$37 each.

We have the earlier list of persons wanting to purchase one, but if you could confirm, or if you would like to buy one, please let the Parish Office know and we will place an order by mid March.

HOLY HOUR | ADORATION FROM 7:30 AM TO 8:30 AM | SUNDAY 1 MARCH

The 54th International Eucharistic Congress will be held in Sydney from 1 January 2028, focusing on the theme “**This is my body, given for you**”. For the official launch of the International Eucharistic Congress, every parish in the country is encouraged to hold an hour of Eucharistic Adoration on the Second Sunday in Lent. In 2026 we are all invited to renew our commitment to personal and communal prayer, preparing our hearts to receive the deeper renewal that Eucharist28 seeks to foster.

Find out more: <https://eucharist28.org/>

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (50)

R: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus;

Praise and honour, Lord Jesus Christ!

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

Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus;

Praise and honour, Lord Jesus Christ!

NAME BADGES

We are placing an order for Sacred Heart Parish name badges.

If you would like a name badge contact the Parish Office to order one.

Phone - 6672 1118 or

Email - murwillumbah@lismore.catholic.org.au

2026 LENTEN PROGRAMME

The Journey Home

You are welcome to come along and join in the Parish Lenten Group.

Tuesday | 1 pm | Parish Administration Centre

Lenten books on sale at the Church or Parish Office | \$8:00

THE SEASON OF LENT

A good Lenten practice is to do something extra in prayer (e.g. taking the opportunity to attend Stations of the Cross), something involving fasting (whether limiting our intake of food or giving up something non-food related), and something involving almsgiving (giving money or goods to the needy or doing extra acts of charity, such as Project Compassion).

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

SUNDAY 1 MARCH 2026

INVITATION TO MASS OF THANKSGIVING | 9:00 AM

FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA | 10:30 AM

FOR RETIRING PARISH SECRETARY

BETH GORTON

You are warmly invited to join us for Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church followed by morning tea at Crystal Creek Estate Café next Sunday 1 March.

This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate as a parish community, to share our faith, and to join together to acknowledge and thank Beth for her 23 ½ years of service to our Parish.

All are welcome.



First Sunday of Lent

21-22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



UNITE 
AGAINST
POVERTY
this Lent

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.*



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



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE
THE PRESIDENT

Tuesday, 6 January 2026

Eucharistic Renewal and the International Eucharistic Congress 2028

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you may be aware, the *International Eucharistic Congress 2028* will be hosted in Sydney.

The International Eucharistic Congress 2028 ("Eucharist28") will be a moment of profound joy for the whole Church of Australia as we welcome pilgrims from across the globe, including the Holy Father, Leo XIV.

To prepare well for this important event, and to ensure that we do not let this opportunity slip by, each of us as members of the Catholic community here in Australia are invited to enter into a time of personal and communal reflection and prayer by focusing our attention on the Congress theme: **"This is My Body, Given for You"**.

We know that by participating in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, "which is the source and summit of the Christian life", we enter into profound communion with Our Lord. While many different activities and programmes will be developed and implemented ahead of the Congress, it is important to recall the prophetic words of Pope St John Paul II, "The program already exists [...] it has its centre in Christ himself, who is to be known, loved and imitated."

As we journey towards the Congress and beyond, we must never lose sight of something which is at the heart of our vocation to be missionary disciples: that through the gift of the Eucharist, Jesus transforms us, both as individuals and as a faith community, so that we can become the Body of Christ, the daily bread of salvation for others. Just as Christ gave himself to the Father and to us, we pray that the Holy Spirit might strengthen us, so that we too may offer our lives to God and to others.

The Bishops of Australia encourage and exhort you all to embrace this unique opportunity for renewal of eucharistic faith, hearts and minds. We hope that these years of prayerful preparation will ensure that 2028 marks a truly transformative moment for our nation and the Church in this land.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ Timothy Costelloe SDB
Archbishop of Perth
President, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
Member, Theological Commission for Eucharist28