

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

Erin Cornale

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

SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

YEAR A | 5 APRIL 2026

JESUS INDEED HAS RISEN

The Stawell Gift is Australia's oldest and most prestigious footrace. The event is held at Central Park in Stawell, Victoria, over the Easter weekend and features runners in a 120-metre race with the finals held on Easter Monday.

It is not Stawell, but in the gospel, Simon Peter, and the Beloved Disciple sprint to the tomb. They are in a hurry to verify the news of Mary of Magdala who went to the tomb early in the morning to discover the stone had been removed. The younger disciple arrives first but waits for Peter's arrival before entering the tomb. We are told that Peter saw the burial cloths, and the cloth that covered the head of Jesus rolled up in a separate place. Peter observes the body is gone. The Beloved Disciple then enters the tomb, and we hear that he 'saw and believed'. Peter observed the facts of the empty tomb, but the Beloved Disciple knew that Jesus had risen as he had promised.

The disciples will spread the good news, but it is Mary of Magdala who is the first evangelist of the Resurrection. It is therefore fitting that she is called the Apostle of the Apostles. This is the title accorded her by St Thomas Aquinas that was officially recognised by the Church in 2016. Hers is a unique role in that she was at the crucifixion and the first witness of the resurrection.

Mary lingers at the tomb after the disciples departed. She questions the angels about his disappearance, turns around and encounters Jesus whom she presumes is a gardener. Jesus reveals himself when he calls Mary by name and he commissions her to bring a further message to the disciples to let them know that he is ascending to the Father.

The experience of the empty tomb and the different appearances of Jesus to his disciples help them to accept that he is truly risen. They are frightened, but the gift of the Holy Spirit empowers them, and in our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles we hear Peter is called to the house of the Roman centurion, Cornelius, where he proclaims the story of Jesus to this gentile believer and his companions. The Jews are amazed, and the Holy Spirit descends on Cornelius, and his household are all baptised.

The resurrection experience has immediate effect on an ever-growing circle of people as the apostles led by Peter, Paul, and their companions spread the good news.

In 2016, Pope Francis elevated the liturgical celebration of Mary of Magdala to a feast day formally recognising her as the first witness to the resurrection who announced the good news to the other apostles.

The Stawell Gift offers prize money to the winner, but the Easter sprint brings surprising news. A traditional Easter greeting is "He is Risen" to which the response is "He is Risen indeed!"

Michael A KellyCScR @ Majellan Media 2026

This week in the Parish

APRIL SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

Sunday 5	9:00 am - Mass Sacred Heart
Monday 6	Parish Office Closed
Tuesday 7	No Mass
Wednesday 8	No Mass
Thursday 9	No Mass
Friday 10	No Mass
Saturday 11	9:00am - Rosary 5:30pm - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass Sacred Heart
Sunday 12	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>(Divine Mercy Sunday)</i> 8:30am - Rosary 9:00am - Mass Sacred Heart

Tweed Heads Weekday Mass Times:

Mon - Fri | 9:10am Sat | 9:00am

Kingscliff Weekday Mass Times:

Wed & Fri | 8:00am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday : 5.30 pm - 5.50 pm
Sunday: 8.30 am - 8.50 am

ROSARY

The Rosary is prayed on Saturday morning at 9:00am. As well as half an hour before each weekend Mass

WEDNESDAY WORD

Copies of Wednesday Word, are available in the Church.

NO ACCESS

Please note that there will be no access to the church or prayer chapel during the first week of school holidays (7-10 April) due to public footpath replacement (weather permitting)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Kaylene Binding, Norma McDonald

ANNIVERSARIES:

Frances Hatton, Mary Willis

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Judith Jackson-Hope, Anthony Rodighiero, 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, Corrina Thackray.

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

READINGS FOR TODAY AND NEXT WEEK :

SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

Acts 10:34, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pet 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

READER ROSTER :

11 & 12/4: Mary Ann Thackray | Beth Gorton
18 & 19/4: Lisa Dusi-Fox | Bernard Nolan

ROSARY STATUE

5/4 - Kay Ryder | 12/4 - Paula Thornton



Thank You

A very special thank you to all who participated in any way in the Holy Week Ceremonies & their preparation.

Your efforts are greatly appreciated.



Happy Easter from all of us here at Caritas Australia!

Thank you for your continued support through Project Compassion. Your generosity is helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities, enabling them to overcome challenges and lift themselves out of poverty. There is still time to donate!



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.*

**BISHOP GREG'S
EASTER MESSAGE 2026**



Dear Brothers and Sisters

Growing up I always preferred Christmas to Easter. Both were holiday times; Christmas was Mass followed by gifts and a lunch with family and friends. Easter seemed to be overwhelmingly religious with long Church services which were tedious and tiresome for a boy. It was only in the last years of high school that I began to understand and appreciate Easter.

Every Church feast is about Jesus and me. In the feast we are joined. Heaven and earth come together, and I am led into a deeper self-knowledge through Jesus.

Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ who suffered a most violent and seemingly meaningless death. From Palm Sunday we walk with Him and as we look into His eyes we recognise the plight of many people in our world today.

The last twelve months have been marked by gratuitous violence, decisions and actions which do not seem to focus on the wellbeing of others, and a mindset which is frankly selfish. As individuals we are lost in this, what is happening? Jesus died understanding this experience, He carried it to the Cross.

There is nothing in the present struggles of the world that are not in some way part of Jesus' experience, and as such everything in us today connects us with Him. He questioned the Israel of his times, and he walked with all those on the periphery. He carried our hopelessness.

On Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead and in this we all rise with Him. We and the world are transformed. Yet, you will say nothing has changed. Everything changes if we have the eyes of faith filled hope. If my eyes change, I change and I see a world filled with love and hope. Our new vision can change the world.

I wish you a happy and blessed Easter

Bishop Greg

**Easter issue
out now**



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SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (117)

R: This is the day the Lord had made; Let us rejoice and be glad.

SEQUENCE: (ALL READ)

Christians,
to the Paschal victim offer sacrifice and praise.
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.
Death with life contended:
combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary:
say what thou didst see upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!
The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen:
he goes before you into Galilee.
That Christ is truly risen from the dead we
know. Victorious king, thy mercy show!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!
Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.
Alleluia!

PROFESSION OF FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.



He Has Risen

*Easter Blessings from
Fr Peter, Fr Anthony,
Fr Joseph and the Parish
staff. May it be a special
time for you and your
families.*



Interest Rate - 3.65%
For further information and our current interest rate,
please visit our website www.dif.org.au or contact us on 1800 802 516



HOLY LAND COMMISSARIAT

Franciscan Provincial Office

47 Victoria Street, Waverley NSW 2024, Australia

Tel: (02) 9369 9300 • Email: holyland@franciscans.org.au

To the people of the Church in Australia, for the Holy Land Collection 2026

As many of you are aware, for 800 years the Franciscan Friars have shared the difficult lives of Christians in the countries that make up the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land: Israel and Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Rhodes and Cyprus. The people of these countries face their own difficulties, but particularly Christians due to their minority status. Among them, the friars have never ceased offering their pastoral care and practical support.

Over recent years, with the Covid Pandemic, wars in Syria and Gaza, and now the war with Iran, the people of the Holy Land have endured great turmoil. Until now, the hope for a lasting peace in Gaza remains uncertain and the task of rebuilding lives and infrastructure seems overwhelming.

Just recently last November, I had the privilege of attending the international meeting of Holy Land Commissaries in Jerusalem. There our group heard from the local people and of what the Franciscan Friars are doing (and have never stopped doing) in support of them. We heard stories of courage and resilience and encountered Christians yearning for a future for their children. From them and Church leaders came the plea for peace and hope. They also pleaded for pilgrims to return, but now the hope for this has been set back by the fear created by the war with Iran. Pilgrims are vital as they generate income that allows the Friars and local Church to fulfil their mission of caring for the Holy Places, running parishes and schools, and caring for orphans, refugees, the homeless, and other social projects. Pilgrims also give much needed employment to local people, allowing Christian families to remain in the land where Christianity was born.

This year, Fr. Francesco Ielpo OFM, the Franciscan leader of the Holy Land Custody reminds us of the urgent need to continue supporting the Holy Land, especially in the light of recent happenings:

The last few years have been particularly difficult for the Christian communities of the Middle East. The war has brought death, destruction, and fear, not only to Gaza, but also to the West Bank, Israel, Lebanon, and Syria. The suffering caused by the conflict has been compounded by the prolonged absence of pilgrims, which has exacerbated an already profound economic and employment crisis. Many Christian families, who once relied on the Holy Places and pilgrimage-related activities, are now experiencing great difficulty.

We have just concluded the Jubilee Year of Hope and hope itself appears to be damaged: in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Northern Israel, as well as in the Christian communities of Lebanon and Syria. The lack of security and employment makes it increasingly difficult to support families and, even more so, to imagine a future for young people and the new generations.

Brothers and sisters, the Good Friday Holy Land Collection remains extremely important and a mission in which we can all participate. The hope is that our Australian parishioners, Parish Priests and Bishops will again be as generous as they have always been. Our donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus in the face of great difficulty. On their behalf, I humbly and wholeheartedly thank you all.

Mario Debattista ofm

Friar Mario Debattista OFM
Commissary of the Holy Land (Australia)



Good Friday Holy Land Collection – April 3, 2026

Good Friday is a unique day when we recall the love of Jesus unto death for us, when he shows us the extent to which God is in solidarity with our suffering humanity. Can we use this occasion to recall our need to be in solidarity with those suffering around us, and in a particular way, with the suffering Church of the Holy Land?

Supporting the church in the Holy Land is an historic mission. Since the time of St. Paul, who urged his missionary Churches not to forget the needs of the Church in Jerusalem, Christians worldwide have understood the responsibility of supporting the land where Jesus walked.

It has never been easy to be a Christian in the Holy Land. In these challenging times in the Middle East, Christians are experiencing unique hardships, made all the worse due to the past pandemic, the war in Gaza and now the war with Iran. We have an opportunity to help them through the Good Friday Holy Land Collection.

Christians in the Holy Land face special challenges, many of which we hear about in the daily news. The political, religious, and military challenges in the Holy Land are more complex than ever. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. Supporting the Holy Land Collection offers hope to Holy Land Christians. Over recent years, their difficulties have been greatly magnified by the Covid-19 Pandemic and now two wars which are preventing pilgrims visiting the Holy Land. This has had severe economic consequences that have disproportionately affected the Christian people and the most vulnerable in Palestinian society.

The Holy Land Collection offers all Catholics an opportunity to express their solidarity with Holy Land Christians. A donation to the Pope's annual appeal directly makes a difference for those caught up in war, violence and instability. Normally, each year's Collection:

- Supports 29 parishes, 4 homes for orphans, 3 academic institutions
- Helps keep schools open for over 10,000 pre-K to Yr 12 students
- Supports 120 men preparing to be priests or brothers
- Helps rehabilitate 80+ homes for Christian families who cannot afford housing
- Provides senior care facilities in Bethlehem and Nazareth
- Creates over 1,500 jobs in the Holy Land for Christians who would otherwise be unemployed.
- Preserves 54 shrines connected with the life of Jesus and the prophets



Thank you for supporting the Holy Land (Good Friday) Collection as encouraged by Pope Leo XIV and every Pope before him. Through this Collection, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. When you contribute, you become an instrument of peace in the land where Jesus walked.

Donate by Bank Transfer:

Name of account: Holy Land Commissariat

BSB: 062 267

A/C number: 1001 4847

Please put the name of your parish as a reference.

You can also donate by card on the secure **Commonwealth Bank Bpoint Payment** on the Franciscan Friars website: www.franciscans.org.au/holy-land-commissariat/

Or scan this QR code



*For more information, please contact
the Franciscan Provincial Office on:
Tel: (02) 9369 9300 or
email: admin@franciscans.org.au*