

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

mshpmurwillumbah@lism.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Gavin Dykes

Mt. St. Patrick Primary School

Mooball Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1821

mshpmurwillumbah@lism.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Brendan Ryan

St. Joseph's Primary School

Greville Street, South Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1867

mshpmurwillumbah@lism.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Jason Clarke

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
YEAR A | 26 APRIL 2026

Gently guiding the flock

One of the most memorable moments in the Australian film *Babe* comes when the sheep explain that all border collies and kelpies are wolves. The dogs chase, nip, and intimidate. They move sheep by pressure and fear. Babe, however, learns another way. He listens. He speaks gently. And, astonishingly, the sheep follow him because they recognise that he means them no harm.

In this week's gospel, Jesus insists that "the sheep hear his voice" and follow him because they know it (John 10:3-4). This image does not sit comfortably with Australian experience. On a real property, sheep do not respond to the grazier's voice at all. The spoken commands are for the dog. "Come by!" "Away!" "Lie down!" The sheep move as the dogs circle them, cutting off any avenues of escape, applying constant force, until the mob are moved through the gate. It works; but it is leadership by proxy. In John 10 there is no border collie, no intermediary barking commands or nipping heels on the shepherd's behalf. The relationship is direct. The sheep follow not because they are herded, but because they recognise who is calling them; and just as importantly, who is not. Strangers, thieves, and brigands do not get a hearing. The sheep run from those voices.

This distinction helps make sense of the other readings. In Acts, Peter's Pentecost sermon does not press its audience. Those listening are "cut to the heart" and ask, freely, "What must we do?" (Acts 2:37). Their response – repentance, baptism, and entry into the community – flows from recognition rather than force. Likewise, the letter of 1 Peter describes people who had "gone astray like sheep" but have now returned to "the shepherd and guardian" of their souls (1 Pet 2:25). They are not driven back into line. They come back because they have learned where safety and life are found.

There is something quietly confronting here for contemporary Australians. We are rightly suspicious of authority exercised through fear, pressure, or manipulation. The gospel affirms that instinct. Jesus does not ask for blind obedience. Jesus calls for discernment and reason. Not every voice deserves our trust. Some voices do steal, kill, and destroy. Others promise freedom but operate like wolves in disguise.

Jesus, the good shepherd, does not "dog" our heels. He goes ahead of the flock rather than pushing from behind. He opens the gate rather than cornering the sheep. He leads the flock toward open pastures, not enclosed pens. And he promises not just survival, but life "to the full."

Perhaps the humour lies in recognising ourselves in Babe's sheep. We are not stupid, but we are vulnerable. We know pressure when we feel it, and we know when fear is being used to move us along. Easter's good news is that the risen Christ does not manage us like livestock. He calls us by name, invites trust, and teaches us to recognise His voice among all the others clamouring for attention.

Ian J Elmer @ Majellen Media 2026

This week in the Parish

APRIL	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Sunday 26	9:00 am - Mass Sacred Heart
Monday 27	Parish Office Closed
Tuesday 28	8:00am - Mass Sacred Heart
Wednesday 29	NO MASS TODAY
Thursday 30	8:00am - Mass Sacred Heart
Friday 1	6:00am - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament All day Adoration 12:30pm - Mass Sacred Heart
Saturday 2	9:00am - Rosary 5:30pm - Rosary 6:00 pm - Vigil Mass Sacred Heart
Sunday 3	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:30am - Rosary 9:00am - Mass Sacred Heart

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.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
All day Adoration
6:00am- 6:00pm

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Andrew Holstein, David Walsh, Anita Conaghan, Louise Bradford Smith, Vincent McDonnal, Keenan McDonnal

ANNIVERSARIES:

Bishop John Steven Satterthwaite, Joy Armour, Jenny Gilbert.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Terry Bryant, 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

READINGS FOR TODAY AND NEXT WEEK:

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 2:14, 36-41; 1 Pet 2:20-25; Jn 10:1-10

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pet 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

READER ROSTER :

2 & 3/5: Mike Brennan | Jan Bruce
9 & 10/5: Barbara Grant | Christine O'Brien

ROSARY STATUE

26/4 - Lisa Dusi-Fox | 3/5 - Narelle Gear

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

3/5 - Philly & Jenny | 10/5 - Donna & Jenny

ALTER SERVING ROSTER

2/5: Yasmin Van Rosi & Amelia Bennett
3/5: Nadia McGarry & Zander Gale

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)



**YOU ARE INVITED TO
ROSARY IN THE
PARK**

16 MAY | BUDD PARK | 10AM
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
PROVIDED
PHILOMENA ZAMBELLI 0414201940
IF YOU NEED TRANSPORT

AED INSTALLATION

This week we have installed a new AED in the church

It has been installed on the back wall of the church next to the door to the choir gallery. We are seeking volunteers to undergo training on how to access and use the AED/Defibrillator. If you would like to learn how to use the AED, please put your name and a contact number on the list at the Welcome Table. We'll let you know when training day/s are finalised.



CONGRATULATIONS

Cody and Samantha who completed their RCIA

Program and were Baptised and Confirmed into the Church at the Easter Vigil. May God's joy, love and peace fill you through all your tomorrows!



LOST SAPPHIRE PENDANT NECKLACE

Lost outside Church before Easter Vigil
Very special to it's owner.
Please contact Parish Office if you or someone you know might have found this necklace.

HELP US RESTORE OUR PARISH GARDENS Join our gardening working bee SATURDAY 9 MAY FROM 8 AM

As we finalise the construction works around the parish, we need some help to tidy up the gardens around the church, the presbytery and the parish office. There's weeding, pruning, hedging to do to restore our gardens.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE

Please gather in the Church Carpark at 8 am on Saturday 9 May for general instructions and allocation of areas

WHAT TO BRING?
gardening, pruning and hedging tools, garden gloves, sun hats & sun screen



MORNING TEA WILL BE PROVIDED

VOLUNTEER COUNTERS NEEDED:

[Mass count to reveal long-term trends within Church](#) | Gearing up for

nationwide measure of Mass attendance!

During May we will be joining with parishes across Australia to record the numbers attending weekend Masses – we need some volunteers each weekend to help with this count please.

Week 1 and 2 in May are simple head counts; week 3 we'll be counting males and females; and week 4 we will be counting by age groups.

If you can help with counting at either the Vigil Mass or the 9 am Sunday Mass on any or all of these weekends, please contact Mary-Ann.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (23)

The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

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.

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.

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.


UPDATE ON REMEDIATION WORKS

The church car park is now open for church parking on weekends. For week day Masses, only the spaces on the church side of the carpark may be used.

The carpark toilet is also now back in action - key hanging in its usual spot - noting that this toilet should not be used during school hours 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

The gardens at the front of the church will be planted out in the coming weeks.

Works continue around the back of the hall and down to the parish office so this area remains out of action.



TOP END Youth

01 MAY | **5pm-7pm** | @ St Anthony's Parish, Kingcliff- St Anthony's Catholic Primary School Hall



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



DIOCESE OF
LISMORE

Renewal Journey

Newsletter 4 - April 2026

Blessings to you and welcome to the April newsletter. In this edition we reflect on the beautiful Commissioning Mass for our new Pastoral and Youth Councils, progress with the Youth Ministry, how the Eucharistic Congress invites us to welcome people into the Church, our Tweed Valley parishes journeying together, and the Diocesan Art Prize's theme - *The Face of Compassion*.



“The living God has provided”

On Sunday 15 March at St Carthage's Cathedral, Lismore, the Diocese celebrated a major milestone for the Renewal Journey as the Youth and Pastoral Councils were commissioned.

In his homily, Bishop Greg reflected on the nine-year journey to this moment: “The living God has provided. He has provided two wonderful councils commissioned today. I know with the help of God they will provide what I need.”

More information about the Councils can be found on the Diocese of Lismore website:

<https://www.lismorediocese.org/diocesan-pastoral-council/>

Youth Ministry

The Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) was recently commissioned at St Carthage's Cathedral alongside the Pastoral Council. The DYC met the day before the Mass to discuss formation, progress towards a pastoral plan, World Youth Day, and the development of a unified brand for the DYC.

Zac, our Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator has been visiting parishes around the diocese, and further afield learning about the local communities, building relationships, and offering support. Zac shared a number of updates in the latest Youth Ministry newsletter, [The Light](#).





International Eucharistic Congress

The International Eucharistic Congress launched on 1 March with a national Holy Hour of Adoration. We are invited to consider what renewal means to us personally – how can we, as individuals be drawn into a new encounter with Christ? Additionally, we are asked to think about how we can bring those who have moved away from the Church. Visit the link for official prayers and resources. You can also sign up online to receive updates. <https://eucharist28.org/>

Regional Parish Collaboration

Since 2024, the Kingscliff, Tweed Heads, and Murwillumbah parishes have been journeying together as part of the Regional Parish Collaboration Project. Supported by a dedicated project team (pictured), these communities are working to strengthen parish vitality and wellbeing through intentional cooperation.

More information: <https://www.lismore-diocese.org/2026/02/09/parish-collab-thriving-tweed/>



Diocesan Art Prize

The Diocesan Art Prize will be held again this year.

The theme is *The Face of Compassion*. Pope Leo XIV proclaimed that this year is also a Jubilee Year for St Francis of Assisi, who is a wonderful inspiration to look to for a *Face of Compassion*. Saint Francis' life teaches us that following Christ is not about fine words or good intentions, but about the way we actually live.

The Diocesan Art Prize is open to all artists of all backgrounds and experience levels. More information will be communicated over the coming weeks.



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