

# 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](http://www.shpmurwillumbah.com.au)

[murwillumbah@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto: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@lismore.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mshpmurwillumbah@lismore.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Mr. Gavin Dykes

### Mt. St. Patrick Primary School

Mooball Street, Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1821

[mshpmurwillumbah@lismore.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mshpmurwillumbah@lismore.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Mr. Brendan Ryan

### St. Joseph's Primary School

Greville Street, South Murwillumbah

Ph: 02 6672 1867

[mshpmurwillumbah@lismore.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mshpmurwillumbah@lismore.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Mr. Jason Clarke

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
23 AUGUST 2026 | YEAR A

### *To rule is to serve*

Throughout history the question of who shall rule tribe, people or nation has been highly contested. It remains an issue today even in so-called democratic countries where people vote for their leaders and representatives. Of course, winning elections – whether or not they are judged to be free and fair – is one thing; holding onto power in the face of opposition and possible violence another. So often we see military coups enforcing the abdication of elected leaders; we also hear of unquestionably rigged elections in various countries. Commentators point to a worrying trend in today's global politics that favours authoritarian regimes that deny freedom and human rights. If we are tempted to look back in nostalgia to past regimes, a word of caution is in order. Even the great Davidic kingdom of Israel, which reached its heights under King Solomon, soon fell into a state of constant change of rulers. In this week's first reading, Isaiah speaks on behalf of the Lord to dismiss Shebna from high office to replace him with Eliakim. Isaiah has high hopes for Eliakim's rule – "he will be like a father to his people". Yet, Eliakim soon lost popularity and was replaced in turn by his two brothers, Jehoiakim and Jehoahaz. It is all reminiscent of Australia's time of high turnovers of prime ministers! Then we come to the gospel where Jesus questions the disciples about his identity. The disciples cite rumours that Jesus is a reincarnated prophet, namely John the Baptist, Elijah or Jeremiah. It is Simon Peter who recognises Jesus' true identity: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus responds by appointing Peter 'the rock' on which the church is to be built. As Eliakim was given keys of the house of David, so Peter is given keys to the kingdom of heaven! By the time the gospels are being written – some thirty to seventy years after Jesus' death and resurrection – it is clear to Christians that Jesus had officially commissioned Peter to be the leader of the church, and Peter effectively took on this role for some thirty years, prior to being martyred in Rome in 64 CE under Nero. Some people like playing around with Jesus' use of the word 'rock' to nominate Peter's role in the infant church. Does it mean Jesus thought Peter was a bit thick in line with Marullus in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*: "You blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless things"? Clearly this is not Jesus' reasoning, as he will have been quite aware that the Psalms praise God as my 'rock', 'fortress', 'shield' and 'my place of safety' (Ps. 18:2). Despite Peter's weaknesses – denying Christ three times and running away from Jesus' crucifixion – God gave him the grace to be dependable, committed and a support for others with their different gifts. Peter's rule was not one of craving or hanging onto power, but the rule of one who eventually learnt from his master that to rule is to serve.

Gerard Hall SM @ Majellan Media 2026



## AUGUST

## 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

|              |                                                                                                 |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 23    | 9:00 am - Mass   <b>Sacred Heart</b>                                                            |
| Monday 24    | Parish Office Closed                                                                            |
| Tuesday 25   | 8:00 am - Mass   <b>Sacred Heart</b>                                                            |
| Wednesday 26 | 9:00 am - Mass   <b>OLPS</b>                                                                    |
| Thursday 27  | 8:00 am - Mass   <b>Sacred Heart</b>                                                            |
| Friday 28    | 8:00 am - Mass   <b>Sacred Heart</b><br>9:00 am - Legion of Mary   Meeting Centre               |
| Saturday 29  | 9:00 am - Rosary<br>5:30 pm - Rosary<br>6:00 pm - Vigil Mass   <b>Sacred Heart</b>              |
| Sunday 30    | <b>22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b><br>8:30 am - Rosary<br>9:00 am - Mass   <b>Sacred Heart</b> |

**LATEST CATHOLIC LIFE MAGAZINE AVAILABLE NOW  
ONLINE AND AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH**  
Read great articles in this edition, featuring articles about  
Mt St Patrick College Centenary and faith journey of Grace  
Molloy, as well as reflection from Fr Anthony Lemon.

Scan to read



[lismorediocese.org/catholic-life-magazine](http://lismorediocese.org/catholic-life-magazine)

## 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.  
Also half an hour before each  
weekend Mass

## WEDNESDAY WORD

Copies of Wednesday Word are  
available in the Church.

## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP

Tuesday & Thursday  
6:50 am  
Sacred Heart Church  
( Not held when there is no  
weekday Mass)

## SCRIPTURE GROUP

Tuesday 1pm  
Parish Office

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Terry Bryant, Ethel Guinea nee Donnelly, Ron McCalman, Paul Taffa, Lorraine McDonald.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Bruce Banner.

**THOSE WHO ARE SICK:** Peter van den Broek, Marie Skenner, Darcy Twohill, John Reynolds, Lorraine Grennan, Vera Albertini, Judith Jackson-Hope, Anthony Rodighiero, Kath Dawson-Malone, 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.

## READINGS FOR TODAY AND NEXT WEEK:

### 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 22:19-23; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

### 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

## READER ROSTER :

29 & 30/8: MSPC | Philly Zambelli  
5 & 6/9: Marg Mumford | Mary-Ann Thackray

## ALTAR SERVING ROSTER

29/8: Ted & Meadow | 30/8: Isaac & Marcus

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY

30/8: Jenny & Benice | 6/9: Philly & Ros

## ROSARY STATUE

23/8: Philly Zambelli | 30/8: Susan Kean

*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.*

## Liturgy & Lector Formation

### SAVE THE DATE | SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

In collaboration with Kingscliff and Tweed Heads Parishes, we are extremely fortunate to have Dr Clare Schwantes, Director of Liturgy Brisbane and Chair of the National Liturgical Council, and Mr Michael Mangan, Chair of the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network, and liturgist, for a morning of Liturgical Formation.

This will include:

**Foundational liturgical principles**, which will greatly benefit all liturgical ministers, no matter their role.

**Formation specific to the role of Lector (Reader)**

**Where:** St Anthony's Church Kingscliff

**When:** Saturday 12 September

**Time:** 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

*Morning tea provided.*



## THE LEGION OF MARY

invites you to

# A Bus Trip to the MARIAN VALLEY

A day of faith, fellowship and devotion.

**SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER**

OUR BLESSED MOTHER'S loving care covers us always.

A beautiful day to grow in faith, spend time in prayer and enjoy fellowship with our Parish community.

**LEAVING MURWILLUMBAH 7:45am**  
from the front of Sacred Heart Church. Park in church car park or Murwillumbah Street.

**PICKING UP PASSENGERS Ampol Chinderah between 8:15am and 8:30am**

**LEAVING MARIAN VALLEY 3:00pm**

**BYO LUNCH, DRINKS AND SNACKS**  
Tea and coffee available at Marian Valley.

**COST: \$15 per person**

**RSVP BY SUNDAY 23 AUGUST**

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST OR RSVP:  
EVELYN COOK 0423 394 622 OR PHILOMENA ZAMBELLI 0414 201 940

All are welcome! We look forward to sharing this special day with you.

## SILVER JUBILEE

OF ORDINATION

14 SEPTEMBER 2001 – 14 SEPTEMBER 2026

*You are invited*

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

**Fr Michael Alcock's**

*Silver Jubilee*

25 YEARS OF PRIESTLY MINISTRY

We warmly invite you to  
9:00am Mass on  
at St Joseph's Catholic Church  
Tweed Heads

**SUNDAY  
13 SEPTEMBER 2026**

followed by  
*Morning Tea*

AS WE CELEBRATE THIS SPECIAL  
MILESTONE IN FR MICHAEL'S MINISTRY.

Let us give thanks to God for  
Fr Michael's faithful service  
and continue to keep him in our prayers.



"Preach the word of God  
wherever you go, even use  
words, if necessary."  
- Francis of Assisi

## WELCOME

### MSPC Ignatius & Lisieux Houses

Next weekend we welcome Mt St Patrick college students and staff from **Ignatius House** and **Lisieux House** who are joining us at the Vigil Mass this Saturday 29 August & they invite you to join them for a bite to eat in the Parish Hall/MSPC Library afterwards.

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

## Diocesan Art Prize



There is still time to submit your entry!

This year's theme is *The Face of Compassion*. Compassion is seen in Christ's encounters with the vulnerable, outcast, and broken, and it continues to be lived out in the Church today.

Categories: 0-7 years, 8-12 years, 13-17 years, 18+ years, and group. People's choice awards will be also be given at each exhibition.



DIOCESE OF  
**LISMORE**



Scan to learn more  
[lismorediocese.org/artprize](http://lismorediocese.org/artprize)



The Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office is contactable if you have any Safeguarding concerns. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss options you have available to you. To contact the Safeguarding Office, please phone (02) 6621944 or email: [safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au)

## 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (137)

**Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.**

**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.

### **Long Term Volunteer Opportunities in the Australia-Pacific Region - The Cagliari Project, Salesians of Don Bosco**

We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for departure in January 2027 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Mongolia.

**Applications close October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Send us an enquiry - [www.cagliero.org.au](http://www.cagliero.org.au) or [lhichaaba@salesians.org.au](mailto:lhichaaba@salesians.org.au).**

## 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.



*First Holy Communion is  
being celebrated in our  
Parish this weekend.*

*Congratulations to the children receiving Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion!*

*We welcome them into full communion with our faith community, as they have now completed the initiation process that commenced with Baptism.*

*We thank parents, teachers and catechists who helped prepare the children for this special occasion, and ask you to continue to keep the children and their families in your prayers.*

**CONGRATULATIONS**



Diocesan  
Investment  
Fund

**Interest Rate - 4.15%**

**For further information and our current interest rate,  
please visit our website [www.dif.org.au](http://www.dif.org.au) or contact us on 1800 802 516**