



Parish Invocation: Father I love you, Jesus I thank you, Holy Spirit help us

St John's Catholic Parish

Brunswick Valley

"I am here among you as one who serves." Luke 22:27

Vale Pope Francis



His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and of His Church. He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage, and universal love, especially in favour of the poorest and most marginalised.

There were many unusual aspects of Pope Francis's papacy. He was the first Jesuit pope, the first from the Americas (and the southern hemisphere), the first to choose the name "Francis" and the first to give a TED talk. Even in thinking about his burial, he chose the unexpected: to be placed to rest not in the Vatican, but

in the Basilica of St Mary Major in Rome – the first pope to be buried there in hundreds of years.

Straddling a line between "progressive" and "conservative", Francis experienced tension with both sides. In doing so, his papacy shone a spotlight on what it means to be Catholic today. Francis was deemed not progressive enough by some, yet far too progressive by others. His apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, ignited great controversy for seemingly being (more) open to the question of whether people who have divorced and remarried may receive the Eucharist.

He also disappointed progressive Catholics, many of whom hoped he would make stronger changes on issues such as the roles of women, married clergy, and the broader inclusion of LGBTQIA+ Catholics. At the same time, Francis was no stranger to controversy from the conservative side of the Church, receiving "dubia" or "theological doubts" over his teaching from some of his cardinals. In 2023, he took the unusual step of responding to some of these doubts. He is recognised as giving a clear witness to the life, love and joy of Jesus in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council – a point of major reform in modern Church history. This witness has translated into two major developments in Church teachings and life.

The first of these relates to environmental teachings. In 2015, Francis released his ground-breaking encyclical, *Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home. It expanded Catholic social teaching by giving a comprehensive account of how the environment reflects our God-given "common home".

Francis's second major contribution, and one of the most significant aspects of his papacy, was his commitment to "synodality". While there's still confusion over what synodality actually means, and its potential for political distortion, it is above all a way of listening and discerning through openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

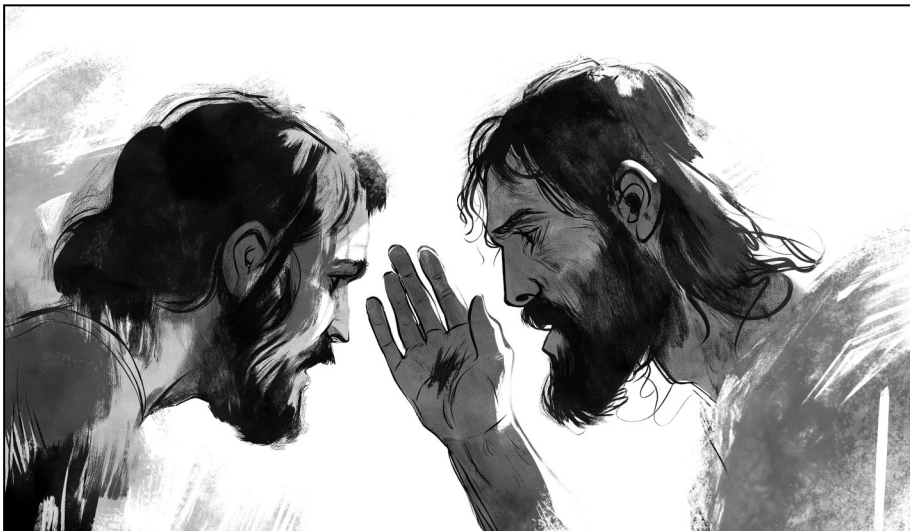
In his final public appearance on Easter Sunday, Pope Francis delivered his Easter blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world). Source: *CNS*.

The Pope wrote in his Easter message that the hope Christians have is not a sign of avoiding reality but of trusting in the power of God to defeat sin and death, as the resurrection of Jesus clearly shows. "All those who put their hope in God place their feeble hands in his strong and mighty hand; they let themselves be raised up and set out on a journey," the message said.

"Together with the risen Jesus," he wrote in his message, those who trust in God "become pilgrims of hope, witnesses of the victory of love and of the disarmed power of life." "God created us for life and wants the human family to rise again," he wrote. "In his eyes, every life is precious! The life of a child in the mother's womb, as well as the lives of the elderly and the sick, who in more and more countries are looked upon as people to be discarded."

Pope Francis condemned the "great thirst for death" seen in violence and wars around the world and in the "contempt" people, including government leaders, direct toward "the vulnerable, the marginalised and migrants!"

As is traditional for the message, the Pope also prayed for peace in war-torn nations, mentioning by name: Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Yemen, Sudan, South Sudan, Congo and Myanmar. Pope Francis condemned "the growing climate of antisemitism throughout the world." But he also called attention to "the people of Gaza, and its Christian community in particular, where the terrible conflict continues to cause death and destruction and to create a dramatic and deplorable humanitarian situation."



John 20:19-31

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Have you thought? – Does he mean us?

When Thomas made his declaration of faith, Jesus said, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy (or Blessed) are those who have not seen and yet believe.' (v29) Because this gospel was written 60 years or so after the time of Jesus, there were indeed many who believed but had not ever seen him. The blessing is on all those who believe without the benefit of a physical encounter of Jesus. Whilst the gospel was written as an acknowledgement of those at the end of the 1st Century, it is also a blessing and encouragement for believers of today!

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St John's Sacramental Program Compulsory Parent Information Meeting

Thursday 15th May 4.00pm - Our Lady of Lourdes Church Brunswick Heads

Sacrament of Confirmation
Thursday 5th of June 5.00pm St John's Church Mullumbimby

Project Compassion boxes/envelopes contributions can be placed on the collection plates anytime from now. Thank you

Parish Advisory Committee will meet at St John's Church on Wednesday 30th April at 11am. The main item on the agenda will be the preparation of a Parish Pastoral Plan.

Second Sunday of Easter

Diving Mercy Sunday

27 April 2025

1st Reading:

Acts 5:12-16

Ps 117:2-4,22-27

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting

2nd Reading:

Rev 1:9-13, 17-19

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel: Jn 20:19-31

Next weeks readings:

1st Reading: Acts 5:27-32, 40-41

Ps 29:2, 4-6,11-13

2nd Reading: Rev 5:11-14

Gospel: Jn 21:1-19

Weekday Masses

O.L.O.L. Brunswick Heads

Thursday 5.30pm

St John's Mullumbimby

Sunday 8am

Weekday Liturgy

O.L.O.L. Brunswick Heads

Christian Meditation

Tuesday 9.30am

Wednesday Adoration

6pm-7.00pm

St John's Mullumbimby

Friday Adoration

8.30-10am

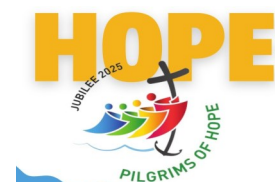
Reconciliation

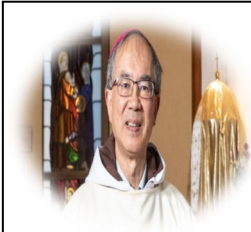
O.L.O.L. Brunswick Heads

Thursdays 5pm—5.20pm

No Mass Thursday 8 May

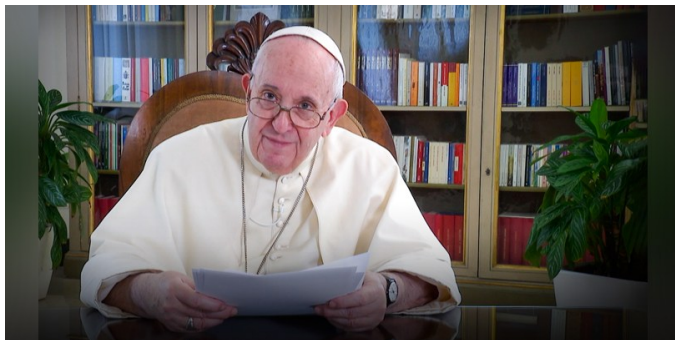
There will be Liturgy of the Word with Communion at O.L.O.L. on Thursday 8May at 5.30pm. No Mass





At the news of Pope Francis' death, we are left with an inner emptiness. The death is not unexpected. In fact, there is a sadness and a joy. After much suffering he has gone to God. What remains for us is a memory of a great man, a wonderful shepherd. Emptiness invites us to ponder Francis the man and what he has done. Pope Francis impressed us with his simple humility, openness to God and the people of our world.

Listening deeply, he was able to hear with his heart and see Jesus in others. He did not judge, rather he loved by touching hearts. He did much for world peace and the care of the abandoned and suffering. He reached out to people regardless of their religious belief. In particular, he worked for Christian unity. He also led the way in dialogue with Jews and Muslims. Finally, he was a man of prayer. It is our turn to pray for him. Eternal rest grant unto him and let perpetual light shine upon him.



In April 2024, Francis approved an updated edition of the liturgical book for papal funeral rites, which guided the funeral Mass. "The renewed rite," said Archbishop Ravelli, "seeks to emphasise even more that the funeral of the Roman Pontiff is that of a pastor and disciple of Christ and not of a powerful person of this world."

Jubilee of Teenagers

The Jubilee of teenagers celebrates those aged 13-19, recognising those years as vital in the formation of the person, and highlighting the joy and enthusiasm of teenagers.

'Remain steadfast in the journey of faith, with firm hope in the Lord. This is the secret of our journey! He gives us the courage to swim against the tide. Pay attention, my young friends; to go against the current; this is good for the heart, but we need courage to swim against the tide. Jesus gives us this courage! With him we can do great things; he will give us the joy of being his disciples, his witnesses. Commit yourselves to great ideals, to the most important things. We Christians are not chosen by the Lord for little things; push onwards toward the highest principles. Stake your lives on noble ideas' Pope Francis



Position Vacant

The position of Parish Secretary /Office Administrator at St John's Parish is vacant.

The Parish Secretary will be responsible for the administrative and associated support for the parish, including the efficient management of the parish office.

This is a permanent, part time role with paid leave entitlements. Working hours can be negotiated in the range of 10-20 hours per week (school hours option available)

The position description and selection criteria are available by request by contacting Ruby at hr@lismore.catholic.org.au

Applications close 4pm, Wednesday 30 April 2025.

SICK OR HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS

If anyone is aware of parishioners who are no longer able to attend Mass but may like to receive Communion or would just like a visit, would you please contact Carol Fitzhenry (for Ocean Shores or Brunswick) or Pam Lang (Mullum area). We will organise someone to visit them. .

My Lord and My God.

St Thomas was a great apostle who is believed to have preached the Good News as far afield as India. Later, he was martyred for his faith. May the risen Christ come to us, as he came to Thomas, and strengthen our faith. May we in turn express our faith by being ambassadors of mercy and reconciliation.

ONLINE MASSES

Join Bishop Greg for Mass on the Diocese of Lismore YouTube Channel



www.lismorediocese.org

SAFEGUARDING YOUR CHILDREN

Would parents please keep their children supervised at all times in the church and surrounding grounds - including taking them to the bathroom. For their safety, please ensure you can always see them while on Parish grounds.



DIOCESAN INVESTMENT FUND PAYS 4.15% I

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Head office: 10 Orion St, Lismore, 1800 802 516. www.dif.org.au

St John's Catholic Parish

Brunswick Valley

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Parish Pastor

Fr David Gilbey: (02) 66856260

Emergencies: 0419 401 447

Parish Office

Address: PO Box 27

Mullumbimby 2482

15 Murwillumbah Road

Phone: 6684 2106

mullumbimby@lismore.catholic.org.au

Parish School

St John's Primary School

Principal

Dave Birmingham

Phone: (02) 6684 2386

Our Churches

St John's Church Mullumbimby

Our Lady of Lourdes Brunswick Heads

Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands
and can put my finger into the holes they made and
unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.



John 20:25

Easter Time: The fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday are celebrated in joy and exaltation as one feast day. The Sundays of this time of year are considered to be Sundays of Easter.

Diocesan Retreat

Bishop Greg will be facilitating a Diocesan Retreat from 3-5 July in Lismore at Invercauld House. This retreat is available for anyone working or volunteering in Diocesan Ministries such as members of PPC, PFC, parish staff. Further information is available on the flyer at each church.

ROSTERS 8 & 11 May 2025

O.L.O.L 8th May

Reader: Frances G

Minister of

Communion: Carolyn S

St John's 11th May

Reader: Paul B

Pam L

Minister of

Communion: Olga F

ST JOHN'S PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT:

Thursday May 15th at 4pm Our Lady of Lourdes Brunswick Heads

CONFIRMATION: Thursday 5th June at 5pm St John's Mullumbimby

RECONCILIATION: Thursday 11th September 4.30pm Our Lady of Lourdes Brunswick Heads

HOLY COMMUNION: Sunday 16th November at 8am St John's Mullumbimby

If you are aware of families unable to attend Mass and have children who may qualify for their Sacraments please pass this information on.

Recently Deceased

His Holiness Pope Francis, Madeleine Merlot, Narelle McLaughlin, Deb Wilmington, Billy Brown, Leo Alidenes, Peter Lemon (Fr Anthony's father), Juan Carlos Leal Pena, Jeanne Sjoberg, Harry Wedd, Mary McCarten, Sr Michelle (Ann) Condon RSJ

Anniversaries

Mary Nicholson, Victor Nicholson, Garry Sawtell, WDCMR Sean Patrick Bellenger, James, Mavis, Colin, & Beth Wiley, Pam Fraser, Terry Godbee, Pat Boyle, Frank, Vince and Betty Walker, Harold Patrick Walker, Vi Walker, Margaret Walker, Lenard and Claudine McNaught, Mary Walker, Robert (Mick) Bellenger, May Walker, Antonio Pinna, Searl Browning, Athol Sawtell, Cora & Ned Cook, Shiela & Bruce Pentland

Time of Need Paul Murphy, Martin Taylor, Jan Mangleson, Anne Carolan

Deceased priests of the Diocese May

Frs: Edward Crowley, Thomas O'Reagan Snr, +John Joseph Carroll (*Second Bishop of Lismore*), Denis Mullins, William John Power, Charles John Smith, Thomas O'Byrne, Richard Henry Williams, Robert Allen Kennedy, John Walsh, Charles O'Gallagher, +Patrick Joseph Farrelly (*Third Bishop of Lismore*), Arthur Andrew Daley

Recently Deceased, Anniversaries and Time of Need

Parishioners are asked to please review the list opposite and advise Fr David if anyone can be removed from the list. Thank you

Please pray for the children preparing to receive their Sacraments; that Jesus may continue to be a loving presence in their lives.

St John's Primary School, Mullumbimby



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