



# ST JAMES' PARISH

St James Muswellbrook  
St Thomas Aberdeen



We acknowledge the traditional owners who cared for this land for thousands of years and their descendants who have maintained these spiritual connections and traditions

## PARISH CONTACTS

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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR C**

**8 May 2022**

### **First Reading** Acts 13:14, 43-52

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*We are now turning to the gentiles.*

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations,  
so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside. But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

### **Responsorial Psalm** Ps 99:1-3. 5. R. v.3

**(R.)** We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.  
Come before him, singing for joy. **(R.)**
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.  
He made us, we belong to him,  
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **(R.)**

3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,  
eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading** Rv 7:9, 14-17

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

*The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.*

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

### **Gospel Acclamation** Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

### **Gospel** Jn 10:27-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;  
I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than  
anyone,

and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.'

## REFLECTION by Fr Victor

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. For many of us today who live in cities and housing estates, we don't often see many shepherds herding their sheep to market! The language and images in the gospel can seem a bit strange to us today and may even be outside our experience altogether.

In the gospel this Sunday, Jesus uses the image of the shepherd to describe himself and his relationship with us. At the time of Jesus shepherds were a part of daily life for many people. When Jesus uses the image and symbol of the shepherd, the people to whom he was speaking would have understood what he was talking about immediately. But what does the image of Jesus the shepherd mean for us today? While sheep all look the same to us, a shepherd knows each of them individually. When a shepherd calls a sheep, the sheep recognises the voice and responds. Just as the shepherd knows the sheep, the sheep knows and trusts the shepherd. The shepherd guides and protects the sheep. The sheep go where the shepherd leads them.

We are not sheep! But the Lord knows and loves each of us as individuals. We are not all the same to Jesus. He loves each of us personally and intimately. The Prophet Isaiah has a beautiful image of this when he writes in 43:1, 'I have called you by your name, you are mine, do not be afraid. You are precious to me and I love you.' If a shepherd cares for his sheep with great love and devotion, how much more does Jesus love and care for each of us?

Jesus does not force us to listen to his voice when he calls us. He invites us to follow him freely. The choice whether or not to respond is ours. We may take our time in responding, but Jesus will never stop calling us by our name; he will wait until we do respond.

Jesus does not call and ask us to follow him just for the sake of it. He offers us not only the fullness of life; he offers us the fullness of his life. Jesus came so that each of us may have life and have it to the full. This fullness of life is offered to us here and now, not some time in the future.

As we continue our journey through Easter in preparation for the celebration of Pentecost, may each of us realise how deeply and personally Jesus loves us. When Jesus calls us by our name, may we answer in faith, gratitude, and gratefulness. May we follow where he leads us.

**Alleluia! Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!**

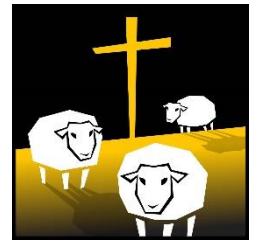


Image: "The Madonna of the Lilies" (1899)  
by William Adolphe Bouguereau  
(1825–1905).

**Mother's Day** has been celebrated in Australia on the second Sunday of May since 1924. But, Catholics have been celebrating a sort of mother's day since the first few centuries of the Church. The fourth Sunday of Lent, or Laetare Sunday, traditionally was a time to return to your mother church (home parish) and leave an offering. Those who practised this custom were said to have gone "a-mothering", and soon it became known as "Mothering Sunday." As the popularity of "Mothering Sunday" grew, it became a day when domestic servants were given leave to be with their families. The day became one of the few times a year where a grown family could gather, as working families often had conflicting schedules. Once the tradition became a day for family reunion, with a reference to mothers in the name, it naturally evolved to include all mothers within the celebration. For children, the long walk back home became a time for picking flowers for mum, and this would grow to the tradition of giving gifts of all sorts to mothers.

In Catholic tradition, the month of May is dedicated to Mary. Chosen by God above all other women, Mary's faith and obedience paved the way for the Incarnation. Her example teaches us faith, obedience, humility and most of all, how to love. As St Thomas of Villanova said, "If in this world any creature ever loved God with whole heart, with whole soul, and with whole mind, she was the creature."

"From Mary we learn to surrender to God's will in all things.

From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone.

From Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and the Son of God."

ST POPE JOHN PAUL II

At the foot of the cross, her heart broke for Jesus, yet she accepted God's will not only for her Son, but for herself in her new role as mother to us all (cf. John 19:25–27). As we honour today our earthly mothers and mother figures—including stepmothers, relatives, guardians, close family friends and those who would be mothers—let us honour our heavenly mother as well. Those devoted to her are always led to her Son. For her wise counsel tells us, "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). And so, we invite you to pray:

*Lord Jesus Christ, You chose to put yourself—tiny, needy and helpless—into the nurturing and watchful hands of a human mother. Since then, every act of mothering, both physical and spiritual, in every time and every corner of the world recollects Mary's. Inspired by this example, we, too, honour our mothers and mother figures today. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers and nurturers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, honour them always with a spirit of profound respect.*

*We ask this in your holy name. Amen. ~Diocese of Wollongong~*

## **MOTHER'S DAY ROSARY AND PICNIC**

At St James Catholic Church Muswellbrook  
**8th May at 11am.** Please come and help us celebrate Our Blessed Mother in this, the month of Our Lady.

To be Covid safe we ask you bring your own chairs/picnic blanket, food, and drinks.

Perhaps we could have a few games afterwards... anyone up for some cricket, soccer, or badminton??



## **FEDERAL ELECTION**

Read the Australian Catholic Bishops' 2022 election statement - Towards a Better Kind of Politics - to help you reflect on the good you can do for the community by using your vote for the common good of all. The statement includes a Prayer for the Election and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Download a copy from

[www.catholic.org.au](http://www.catholic.org.au)

## **AUTUMN RETREAT MURRURUNDAI**

An ecumenical day of quiet contemplation, reflection on the season, imagining and nature.

**St Paul's Anglican Church Hall, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
10am-2.30pm**

Morning Tea will be provided. Please bring your own lunch or purchase from nearby Cafes. All welcome!

Contacts: Amanda 0401 373 481

[mandywharton@yahoo.com](mailto:mandywharton@yahoo.com) Lindy 0417 013 055

## **MARY MACKILLOP AUSTRALIAN PILGRIMAGE 2022**

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" commencing in Melbourne on 18 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 29 October 2022. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry. For further information or to make a booking contact the Australian Pilgrimage Co-ordinator:

[national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au) or phone 02 8912 4818.

Brochures are also available in the Church foyers.

## **VINNIES WINTER APPEAL**

Vinnies has launched its Winter Appeal and is asking for donations to support people experiencing disadvantage as well as women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

Tragically, the number of women experiencing domestic and family violence has increased significantly in the past two years, leaving many emergency refuge and support services unable to cope.

Your gift this winter will:

- help cover essentials like food and toiletries, bills, or larger expenses, such as whitegoods and furniture, so mothers like Leah can provide a safe home for their children
- help with rental bonds or payments so that women and children like Leah and Charlotte can have a place of their own to start again

Help more families sleep safe tonight! Follow the link to our Winter Appeal page:

<https://donate.vinnies.org.au/winter-warmth>



**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**  
16-22 MAY 2022  
Better Together

Fight across our Maitland-Newcastle Diocese volunteering brings people together; it builds communities and creates a better society for everyone.

To say thanks to our incredible people, we are hosting two free events:

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY  
6PM VOLUNTEER DINNER  
AT CLUB TAREE

THURSDAY 19 MAY  
6PM AT EVENT CINEMAS KOTARA

RSVP to [volunteers@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:volunteers@mn.catholic.org.au) by 9 May 2022

Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle  
[mn.catholic.org.au](http://mn.catholic.org.au)

## **CHRISTIAN FORMATION COURSE**

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church? The Christian Formation Course is a learning experience that allows participants to explore the foundational elements of the Catholic Faith Tradition in community. This course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy. The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units

All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation

By engaging in the course, it is hoped participants will:

- become more confident in understanding the Catholic faith, grow in their capacity to reflect on their life's journey
- realise that Christian faith is nurtured in community
- be affirmed in their gifts for participating in the life of the faith community
- grow in awareness of what it means to be a responsive member of the faith community.

The course will commence in July 2022. For more information go to: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course)

## **CARITAS AUTUMN NEWSLETTER**

The Caritas Autumn newsletter is now available online at [www.caritas.org.au/news/our-magazine](http://www.caritas.org.au/news/our-magazine). Check out their latest news and stories from overseas and in Australia.

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 9 May	Tuesday 10 May	Wednesday 11 May	Thursday 12 May	Friday 13 May	Saturday 14 May	Sunday 15 May
					<i>Feast of St Matthias, apostle</i>	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
9.00am <b>Private, Personal Prayer and Worship</b> St James Muswellbrook		9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	11.30am <b>Adoration and Benediction</b>  12.05pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  5.30pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	10.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

## Ministers Roster Sunday 15th May 2022

3rd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	S. Bernard	C. Hayes	Sr Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
	Can you fill this position?						
8am Sunday Aberdeen	K. Mason	M. Edwards	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	St James Primary School	St James Primary School	St James Primary School	St James Primary School			K. Goodwin
Counters	Therese Bristow and Esther Molloy						

### MASS AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

**We remember and pray for those who are ill at home and in hospital at this time, may they know the healing presence of Christ:** Iris Spittles, Joan Flanagan, Marie Clifford, Pauline Coleman, David Curran, Pat Hogan, Abbie Sweeper, Norma Rowan, Carolyn Whittle, Kym Mason, Mollie Hofman, Melanie Hoch, Kim Goodwin, Michael Dolahenty, Paul Dolahenty, Paula Casey, Anne Hugo, John Presland, and Kay Goodwin.

**Anniversary:** Pat Shanahan and Del Smith

**Recently Deceased:**

**Baptisms:** Oliver Palmer

**Privacy Laws.** All parishioners are encouraged to pray for the sick. Masses will be offered on request. Due to privacy laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the immediate family.

*St James and St Thomas - Pray for Us*

### BULLETIN

Please contact the Parish Office on 6543 1167 if you have any notices for the bulletin, or alternatively email:

[muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

The Parish bulletin can be accessed online: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/parishes/muswellbrook](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/parishes/muswellbrook)

or on Facebook: **Catholic Parish of St James Muswellbrook**

Please email [muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au) if you would like the bulletin emailed to you each week.

### SAFEGUARDING THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY

For access to a range of information and Safeguarding material visit: <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/>

Have a complaint or wish to provide feedback? Please visit: <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/feedback/>

If you require information or simply need direction on how to go about any of the above, please speak to Adele or Fr Victor.

### Convention on the Rights of the Child

<https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention>

"Our mission is to spread the Kingdom by being an alive and informed Community, united as one family in care and consideration for each other in the love of God."