



# 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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Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR C**

**15 May 2022**

### **First Reading**      *Acts 14:21-27*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*They assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them.*

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

### **Responsorial Psalm**      *Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1*

*(R.)* I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. *(R.)*
2. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign  
and declare your might, O God,  
to make known to men your mighty deeds  
and the glorious splendour of your reign. *(R.)*
3. Yours is an everlasting kingdom;  
your rule lasts from age to age. *(R.)*

### **Second Reading**      *Rv 21:1-5*

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

*He will wipe away all the tears from their eyes.*

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and

there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.' Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

### **Gospel Acclamation**      *Jn 13:34*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:

love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

### **Gospel**      *Jn 13:31-35*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*I give you a new commandment: love one another.*

When Judas had gone Jesus said:

'Now has the Son of Man been glorified,  
and in him God has been glorified.

If God has been glorified in him,  
God will in turn glorify him in himself,  
and will glorify him very soon.

My little children,  
I shall not be with you much  
longer.

I give you a new  
commandment:

love one another;  
just as I have loved you,  
you also must love one  
another.

By this love you have for one  
another,  
everyone will know that you  
are my disciples.'



## REFLECTION by Fr Victor

On the fifth Sunday of Easter we continue glorifying the risen Christ. Gradually Christ approaches his Ascension into heaven. Hence, He promised us a place with him in his kingdom if we persevere in our faith and in love with one another.

In the gospel, Christ gives us a new commandment that will help us to overcome this world and march into the New Jerusalem. He says: "I give you a new commandment, love one another; you must love one another..." Through this, Christ reminds us that the only way we can overcome the tribulations and persecutions of this world is by remaining united in love. In times of trials and persecutions, love is the greatest virtue that sustains every Christian community. The early Christian community understood this very well. They obeyed Christ's command and were successful in their missions. So their admirers commented thus: "See how they love one another" (Tertullian, *Apology*: 39.7, 3 AD).

Any Christian community or family that is united in love will never lose its focus or faith in God. This is the love that Paul described in chapter thirteen of his first letter to the Corinthian Christian community. This love cares, it does not exploit the other, it endures and forgives, and it empathizes and sympathizes with the other. This love may be blind, but it still remains very prudent, sensible, reasonable and godly.

Finally, the love that Christ talks about here is an identification mark. Hence He says: "...By this love everyone will know that you are my disciples." In other words, it is what defines us as true disciples of Christ. Only those who love sincerely can enter the New Jerusalem that the risen Christ promised his people. This love is a mark of the newness of life that Christ brings to all his people this Easter season.

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

Use the words below to  
**COMPLETE**  
these Scripture passages



"Love your \_\_\_\_\_, do good to those who \_\_\_\_\_ you."

*Luke 6:27*

"You shall love the \_\_\_\_\_ your God with all your \_\_\_\_\_, and with all your soul."

*Matthew 22:37*

"You shall love your \_\_\_\_\_ as yourself."

*Matthew 22:39*

"Just as I have \_\_\_\_\_ you, you also should love one \_\_\_\_\_."

*John 13:34*

**Lord enemies**  
**hate loved heart**  
**neighbour another**



## 🌸 MOTHER'S DAY PICNIC 🌸

On Mother's Day an intimate group gathered after the 10am Mass for a Rosary Picnic to Celebrate Mary Our Heavenly Mother. The weather was perfect and our thanks to Monica Brown for loaning us her beautiful statue of Mary – Queen of May.

We shared a cuppa and plenty of chat, the children played around us on the lawn and admired the statue of Mary. We then settled to a prayerful Meditation before each of the Glorious Mysteries and the Rosary was followed by much joy-filled fellowship.

We didn't stay for lunch as most of us had commitments with family for Mother's Day.

Hopefully we can gather again in October, the other month that the Catholic Church recognises as a month dedicated to Mary.

## **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

## **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)

## **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)

## **CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE**

### **Engaging Your Faith**

*Series of short sessions: online via Zoom*

Choose one, choose all, choose what interests you and all for just \$25 per session, running 3 to 28 May 2022

Booking, payment, and further information:

[ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/](http://ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/)

## **FAREWELL AND THANK YOU!**

We extend our gratitude to Phil and Sue Rawson for regularly volunteering their time to maintain the Church grounds. We wish you both the very best for the future.



## **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>

## **CATHOLIC EARTHCARE - LAUDATO SI' WEEK - 16 - 24**

### **May**

As part of Catholic Earthcare's celebration of Laudato Si' Week, they are hosting an online screening of the newly released 'Regenerating Australia' short film - a fictitious news segment set on New Year's Eve 2029, examining the decade that 'could be'. The film challenges us to consider how we respond to the Cry of the Earth. The event will be joined by Bishop Ken Howell and a range of guest speakers to share in this celebration. After the film, there will be a panel discussion and question time regarding how we can take the teachings of the film and respond as Catholics here in Australia.

The online event will be held on Tuesday 17th May from 6pm - 8pm AEST, 4pm - 6pm AWST. Bookings at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BZADT>

## **MYSTAGOGY MONDAY**

Mystagogical reflection invites us into a personal encounter with Christ in the gospel we have heard, the liturgy we have celebrated, or an experience of life or ministry. It invites us to pay attention to what Christ reveals to us, both in that encounter and the living tradition of our faith and to connect it to life now. It invites us to dialogue and transformation.

Join us each Monday morning as we reveal the mystery of God found in the Sunday Gospel.

Commencing 9 May at 10am

Register: [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mystagogy-mondays-tickets-304319105637](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mystagogy-mondays-tickets-304319105637)

## **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.

Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 16 May	Tuesday 17 May	Wednesday 18 May	Thursday 19 May	Friday 20 May	Saturday 21 May	Sunday 22 May
						<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
9.00am <b>Private, Personal Prayer and Adoration</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 22nd May 2022							
4th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	M. Flanagan T. Furlong	C. Hayes	Sr Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	S. Milton	C. Wykes	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	A. Jacob A. Sharp	Can you fill this position?	Can you fill this position?	A. Sharp			K. Goodwin
Counters	Jane Thatcher		Can you fill this position?				

### **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:** Millie Hobbs, Jamie, Tess, and Jim Irving

**Recently Deceased:** Steven Jones and Toni Noy

**Baptisms:** Aubrey Webb and Jacob Holloway

**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."**