



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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD – YEAR C

29 May 2022

First Reading **Acts 1:1-11**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6**

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;

the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

Second Reading **Eph 1:17-23**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation **Mt 28:19. 20**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel **Lk 24:46-53**

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke

While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from



the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this. 'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

On this seventh Sunday of Easter, we celebrate the solemnity of Ascension. It is an important solemnity that marks the return of Jesus to the Father. Together with the Resurrection, it is a manifestation of the victory of Christ. The saying nothing good lasts forever might be a good way to start reflecting on the Feast of the Ascension and the gospel for the solemnity of Ascension. With his Ascension, the earthly mission of Jesus comes to an end; he has through his life, death and resurrection accomplished the plan and will of God. The Kingdom of God has begun. We can imagine the sadness of Jesus' friends as he prepares to leave them. It marks the start of the time when they have to live without him being physically with them. They now have to realise that he will never eat, pray or walk with them as he used to; that time is over. He is gone. However, there is another side to his departure. As this part of Jesus' life ends, he now passes his mission onto his friends and followers. While Jesus' earthly ministry ends, theirs is just beginning. One chapter of Jesus' life is ending and another is just beginning. The gospel makes this very clear. Jesus says to his followers; 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation.' (Mk 16:15) As Jesus leaves them, he also at the same time passes on them huge responsibility of carrying on the work of proclaiming the Kingdom of God. And this is what they did.

This ordinary group of men and women are the ones who were chosen by Jesus to be the witnesses of the resurrection. Through their words and actions, the world and the whole of creation will know that Jesus is alive and more present than ever he was. As Jesus' life and ministry end, theirs begins.

Today the responsibility of carrying on Jesus' ministry of building God's Kingdom is now ours. Today and every day, Jesus says to you and me, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation.' The first followers of Jesus are our ancestors, and we are their descendants. It is now up to each of us as best we can, each in our way to carry on the mission of Jesus. Through us, the quality of our daily lives, our words, and our actions the world will know that Jesus is alive, present and active in our world.

Even though we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus, he has not left, deserted, or abandoned us. He is with us when we pray for each other and when we hear the scriptures proclaimed. He is with us when we share his Body and Blood together. He is with us when we reach out to care for and support each other. He is with us when we do our

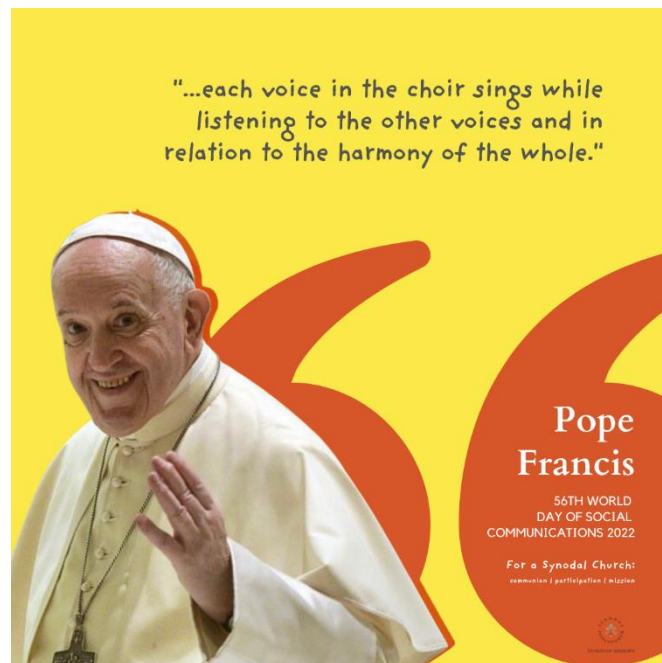
best each day to live our lives as his followers and disciples. Just as Jesus was with and working with his first followers, so too today Jesus is with and working with each of us today.

Alleluia! Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

'LISTEN!': WORLD COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY

Pope Francis chose the single word, "Listen!" as the theme for the 56th World Communications Day. The Holy See says, "Pope Francis is asking the world to listen again." The pandemic has affected and wounded everyone, and everyone needs to be heard and comforted. Listening is also fundamental for good information. The search for truth begins with listening. And so does witnessing through the means of social communication. Every dialogue, every relationship begins with listening. For this reason, in order to grow, even professionally, as communicators, we need to relearn to listen a lot. Jesus himself asks us to pay attention to how we listen (cf. Lk 8:18). To be able to truly listen requires courage, and a free and open heart, without prejudice. At this time when the whole Church is invited to listen in order to learn to be a synodal Church, we are all invited to rediscover listening as essential for good communication. To read Pope Francis' message for the 56th World Day of Communications visit:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications/documents/20220124-messaggio-comunicazioni-sociali.html>



Prayer for the Appointment of our new Bishop

Shepherding God you reveal your way of unfailing love in the image of the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost, shows compassion, knows and is known by the sheep and lays down his life for them. We your people of Maitland-Newcastle are without a bishop to shepherd us. We ask that your Holy Spirit who moves through this great south land, inspire the choice of our new Bishop, empower his 'yes' and open our hearts in hospitality and love. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help pray for us.
Mary MacKillop of the Cross pray for us.

DIVINE MERCY GATHERING

Will be held on Sunday 12th June 2pm at the home of Kay and Brian Mason.
114 Graeme St, Aberdeen.
Please bring a plate.
All welcome.



CHANGE OF MASS TIME WEDNESDAY

Mass will be celebrated at 5.30pm this Wednesday 1 June instead of the usual time of 9am.

BULLETIN MAIL OUT

Some parishioners have reported an error when opening the bulletin attachment in their emails. Because of this, I have been emailing it twice in the hope that everybody receives it with no problems. I appreciate your patience while I continue to work on getting this fixed. Please remember that the bulletin can be viewed on our Parish Facebook page: **Catholic Parish of St James Muswellbrook** and now on our flash new website:

<https://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au/>

2022 TWEC DINNER

This year's dinner will be held Friday 24 June from 6.30pm at the Therry Centre, East Maitland. We invite you to enjoy a meal, share stories of the Josephite spirit within the diocesan community and imagine the next chapter of the Tenison Woods Education Community story together. Seats at the dinner are \$60 per person which includes drinks, canapés, main course and dessert. Tables of 10, small group and individual bookings are welcome. For details and bookings go to <https://2022twec.eventbrite.com.au>. Attendee names and dietary needs can be entered at checkout. For queries, please contact Sharon Murphy on 4979 1134 or sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. The dates for NRW are the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey— the successful **1967 referendum**, and the **High Court Mabo decision** respectively. Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds, and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

PLANNED GIVING RECEIPTS

The end of the financial year is creeping up on us! Parishioners who require a tax receipt **MUST** contact the Parish Office **prior to the 30th June**. Tax receipts **will not** be issued after this date. Please note: if you request a receipt after this time, I can only print a summary of your contributions which **cannot** be used for tax purposes.



PRAYING THE GOSPELS

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message. Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

Zoom link: <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/61036103033>

Password: pray

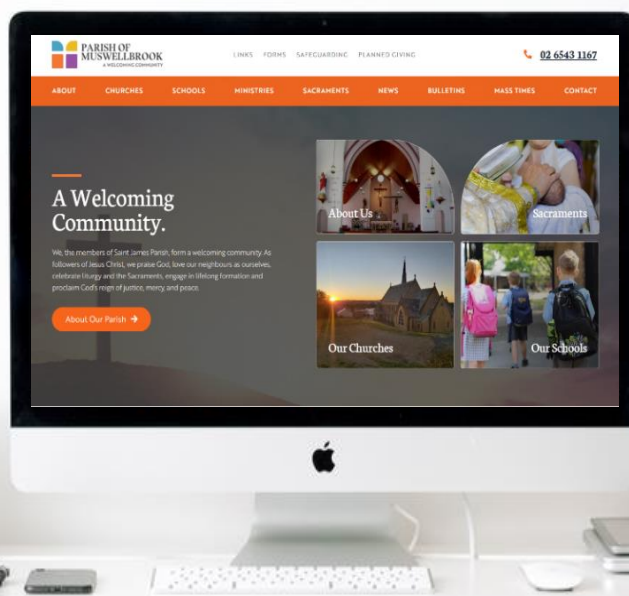
For more information contact:

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

OUR NEW PARISH WEBSITE HAS GONE LIVE!!!

HEAD TO: <https://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au/>

WE HOPE YOU LOVE IT!



Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 30 May	Tuesday 31 May	Wednesday 1 June	Thursday 2 June	Friday 3 June	Saturday 4 June	Sunday 5 June
	<i>The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>					PENTECOST SUNDAY
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer and Adoration St James Muswellbrook		5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	11.30am Adoration and Benediction 12.05pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook 5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	5.00pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Ministers Roster Sunday 5th June 2022

1st Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	Can you fill this position?	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?			C. Hayes
	Can you fill this position?						
8am Sunday Aberdeen	T. Hobbs	J. Lonergan	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	M. Kempis N. Fernandes	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	A. Sharp			K. Goodwin
Counters	Mary-Ellen and David Leedham						

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: Pam Keegan, Mary Paul, Francis Dolahenty, and Irene Cooper

Recently Deceased: Shirley Nebauer and Andrew Johnston

Baptisms: Jimmy Chapman, Kiara-Jade and Isabella Holland

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

The Parish bulletin can be accessed online: www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/parishes/muswellbrook

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

Please email 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.

"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."