



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

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time— YEAR C

24 July 2022

First Reading

Gen 18:20-32

A reading from the book of Genesis

Lord, do not be angry if I speak.

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.'

The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' The Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.'

Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No', he replied 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will only be forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.'

Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 137:1-3. 6-8. R. v.3

(R.) Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.

Before the angels I will bless you.

I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.

On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)

3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of affliction
you give me life and frustrate my foes. (R.)

4. You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.

Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

Second Reading

Col 2:12-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

He has made you alive with Christ for he has forgiven all our sins.

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins.

He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

Gospel Acclamation Rom 8:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have received the Spirit which makes us God's children, and in that Spirit we call God our Father.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 11:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Ask, and it will be given to you.

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

“Father, may your name be held holy,
your kingdom come;
give us each day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us.
And do not put us to the test.”

He also said to them, ‘Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, “My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him”; and the man answers from inside the house, “Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you.” I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship’s sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

‘So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

In the Gospel this Sunday, the disciples notice Jesus, praying “in a certain place.” They ask him to teach them to pray just as John the Baptist had taught his disciples. Jesus teaches them a simple version of the most famous Christian prayer, the Our Father, or the Lord's Prayer. This prayer is very simple and direct. We pray that God's name will be recognized as holy and that his rule over all will be established. This is followed by petitions for our needs for bread, for forgiveness, and for deliverance.

Having taught his disciples a simple, daily prayer, Jesus goes on to reassure them that God answers prayers. First, he tells a parable about a persistent neighbour who asks a friend for bread at midnight. The friend is already in bed and has no desire to disturb his family by opening the door. But because the neighbour is persistent, the sleeping man gets up and gives him all that he needs. If a neighbour is willing to help us if we are persistent enough, how could God not respond to our requests?

This teaching concludes with the reminder that if we seek, we will get a response. If a human father, with all his faults, knows how to give good gifts to his children, how much more will our heavenly Father give us? Instead of good gifts, however, the gospel substitutes the word *Holy Spirit*. This foreshadows the gift of the Holy Spirit, who will play an important role in the growth of the early Church after Pentecost.

The parable and the concluding teaching in this section should not lead us to think of prayer as a series of requests presented to God. Rather, as Jesus teaches in his model prayer, prayer consists in recognizing God's holiness and his rule over all things.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!



Feast of Saint James, Apostle 25 July

St James was the son of Zebedee and the brother of John the apostle. He was a fisherman from Galilee who became known as James ‘the Greater’ to distinguish him from the other apostle James ‘the Less’, son of Alpheus. Jesus called

James and John the ‘sons of thunder’, most likely in reference to their quick tempers. Along with Peter, James and John were among Jesus’ closest friends and they were

chosen to be witnesses to the Transfiguration and his agony in the garden. After Christ’s death, James became the first apostle to be martyred when he was put to the sword by King Herod Agrippa I.

*O glorious Apostle, Saint James,
who by reason of thy fervent and generous heart
was chosen by Jesus to be witness of His glory on
Mount Tabor, and of His agony in Gethsemane;
thou, whose very name is a symbol of warfare and victory;
obtain for us strength and consolation in the unending
warfare of this life, that, having constantly and
generously followed Jesus, we may be victors in the
strife and deserve to receive the victor’s crown in heaven.*

Amen.

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.

CURSILLO WEEKEND

Come journey with us as we share our faith stories – a weekend of meditations, prayers, songs and talks by laypeople, religious and priests – at the Catalina Conference Centre, 171 Dorrington Road, Rathmines, from Thursday 25th August to Sunday 28th August inclusive. For details, please ring Greg Byrne (0427918568) or Meryl McCosker (0498250000)
See Stephen Thatcher for enquires and invitation forms.

ST JAMES FEAST DAY CELEBRATION 24TH JULY

We will be celebrating the Feast of St James with a morning tea after Mass on Sunday and ask that you **please bring along a plate to share.**

MANY THANKS!!

We would like to offer a big Thank You to John O'Brien who has prepared the Convent lawns beautifully in preparation for our St James Feast Day Celebration Cuppa after the 10am Mass this weekend. The construction fence has been opened up allowing easy access to the Convent and the lawns are looking great! The Cuppa will hopefully be on the Verandah but being served in the Lounge of the Convent to take outside. Thank you, John the Convent looks, a little more loved this weekend!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHURCH GROUNDS

Can you assist with the upkeep of the Church grounds?? The Parish has a new ride-on lawnmower and we'd be grateful to anyone who could go on the roster to help with maintaining the grounds, especially as we come up to the Spring and Summer months.

OFFICE CLOSURE THIS WEEK

The Parish office will be closed on Wednesday 27th July and will reopen on Thursday 28th July.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

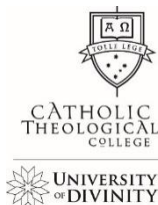
Online unit via Zoom

Ageing Persons and Pastoral Care

6 Saturdays: 30 July; 31, 27 August;
17 September; 8, 22 October:
10am – 12pm plus 2pm – 4pm

To enrol or for further information:

Email: registrar@ctc.edu.au Phone: 03 9412 3309



PALMS AUSTRALIA: CELEBRATING A RETURN TO GLOBAL MISSION

Once again Australian Catholics are being offered deep re-engagement with our sisters and brothers globally. COVID challenged our ability to travel and reach beyond, but now is a time we can consider [Mission opportunities](#) abroad again. If you decide to respond to the call and share your skills; to mentor those with little other opportunities, you will be prepared and supported by Palms Australia who have engaged Australian Catholics in this mission since 1961.

[Enquire online](#) or Ph: 0422 742 567 about a placement to engage your skills and [Register](#) for a Webinar on Monday 1 August at 7:00 pm for the chance to talk directly with Palms' partner communities abroad and two Australian program participants recently posted to work with them. Invite your friends. The stories will inspire.



Pope Francis last year established the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which is being celebrated on 24 July this year. The day is marked near the feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. The theme for this year's celebration is "In old age they will still bear fruit", taken from Psalm 92. Find Pope Francis' message at www.catholic.org.au/grandparents

PRAYER FOR THE SECOND WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

*I give thanks to you, Lord, for the blessing of a long life
For, to those who take refuge in You, Grant always to bear
fruit. Forgive, O Lord, Resignation and disillusionment,
But forsake me not when my strength declines.
Teach me to look with hope to the future you give me,
To the mission you entrust to me and to sing your praises
without end. Make me a tender craftsman Of Your
revolution, To guard with love my grandchildren
And all the little ones who seek shelter in You.
Protect, O Lord, Pope Francis And grant Thy Church
To deliver the world from loneliness. Direct our steps in
the way of peace. Amen.*

REDISCOVERING JOY- FINDING WONDER AND JOY IN THE WORD OF GOD.

Join us for a Day with Sr Mary Coloe, current Associate Professor of New Testament studies within the University of Divinity Melbourne.

In a retreat style and setting, Sr Mary will help us examine how rich and life-giving Scripture can be, revealing a God whose story intends to renew our lives and calls us to actively engage with the world.

Date: 15 August 2022

Time: 9.00am - 3.00pm (arrive from 8.30am)

Venue: Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley

Cost: \$30

To register go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rediscovering-joy-tickets-339651395467>

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2023 PASTORAL PLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Pastoral Placement Program offers participants an experience of ministry in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The purpose of this program is to give participants the opportunity to experience different workplaces and ministries across the diocese. These 'on the ground' ministry work placements help people explore the opportunities that are available to them to serve God and the local community of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The Pastoral Placement Program provides participants a year-long discernment journey, involving the see, judge, act philosophy, to make an informed choice about the possibility of their future ministry or career choices.

For more information and to learn to how to apply go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/pastoral-placement-program/>

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 25 July	Tuesday 26 July	Wednesday 27 July	Thursday 28 July	Friday 29 July	Saturday 30 July	Sunday 31 July
<i>Feast of St James, apostle</i>	<i>Sts Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>			<i>Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus</i>		18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer and Adoration St James Muswellbrook		9.00am 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 31st July 2022

5th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	C. Panis Can you fill this position?	C. Hayes	Sr Dorothy	Mary-Ellen and David Leedham		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	M. Brown	M. Harris	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	B. Powell K. Holland	P. Griffin	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			K. Goodwin
Counters	Jane and Stephen Thatcher						

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, Marie Clifford, Pauline Coleman, David Curran, Pat Hogan, Abbie Sweeper, Norma Rowan, Kym Mason, Mollie Hofman, Melanie Hoch, Kim Goodwin, Anne Hugo, John Presland, Kay Goodwin, Margaret Blake, Rodrigo Canete, Fay Biddle, and David Dallah.

Anniversary: Kevin Johns, Barbara McTaggart, Bill Anderson, Margaretha and Adrian Klasen

Recently Deceased: Chris Peadon and Margaret Smith

Baptisms:

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 on our website: muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au

or on our Facebook page: **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

Please visit our 'Safeguarding' page to access a range of safeguarding resources: muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au

Have a complaint or wish to provide feedback? Visit: officeofsafeguarding.org.au/feedback/

"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."