



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

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time— YEAR C

31 July 2022

First Reading

Ecc1 1:2; 2:21-23

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

What do people gain by all their work?

Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity!

For so it is that a man who has laboured wisely, skilfully and successfully must leave what is his own to someone who has not toiled for it at all. This, too, is vanity and great injustice; for what does he gain for all the toil and strain that he has undergone under the sun? What of all his laborious days, his cares of office, his restless nights? This, too, is vanity.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 89:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. v.1

(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

1. You turn men back into dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. **(R.)**
2. You sweep men away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades. **(R.)**
3. Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants. **(R.)**
4. In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Col 3:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Seek the things that are above where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is

hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

That is why you must kill everything in you that belongs only to earthly life: fornication, impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as worshipping a false god; and never tell each other lies. You have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self, and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its creator; and in that image there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised or the uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free man. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 12:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

To whom will all this wealth of yours go?

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied, 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do; I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my



grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time.” But God said to him, “Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?” So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.’

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

On this eighteenth Sunday of ordinary time, the church invites us to remain focused on our quest for heaven. It is a call to live a God centred life. We are urged to focus our attention on the heavenly realities more than on the earthly possessions.

We all know that as soon as we turn on our televisions and open our newspapers, there are plenty of advertisements trying to sell us things. How many ads for new phones, new cars and more food do we see each day? At times it can feel as if we are living in a very material society. The newspapers and the shops are continually trying to attract our attention so that we will buy more and more things that we don't actually need, but that they say we really want. But do we? Do we really need another of the latest and most up to date phones? Do we need to buy more food than our family can eat this week just because it is on 'special offer'?

The rich man in this Sunday's gospel thinks that having more possessions and building bigger barns will make him happy and give him enough security so that he can 'eat, drink and be merry'. However, when his life is 'demanded' of him, his store of grain and other possessions prove not to be as important and valuable he thought. He has put his trust and faith in the wrong place and in the wrong things. His reality is everyone's concern; to have enough so that we won't have to worry about tomorrow. There is no harm in providing for ourselves and our families, but this gospel asks us to reflect on what we value most in life. Where do we put our energies and what are our priorities? If we were honest with ourselves, we would admit that the pressures of everyday life tend to take up most of our time. We are all concerned about work, paying bills, our family, deadlines, and calendars. Our lives tend to be so busy that our immediate goal is to get through one day at a time.

Perhaps this gospel is asking us to think about what we possess and what possesses us. Are we busy trying to maintain a lifestyle rather than create a quality of life for ourselves? This may mean that we buy and accumulate less and settle for fewer possessions. Rather than just ask what we own and what belong to us, we could ask to whom we belong. We come from God and belong to God. Our true happiness, sense of meaning and true worth comes from our relationship with God. If we could really appreciate this fundamental truth and make more room in our lives for God then we would gain everything – the fullness of life.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!



Congratulations

To the children who received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion on the weekend:

Logan McFawn

Daniel Mulholland

Amelia Paynter

Ryder Peel

Callie Roberts

Payton Roberts

Kai Thompson

Jahli Thompson

Many thanks to the parents who prepared their children to worthily receive Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

A very special thanks to our Parish Sacramental Program

Co-ordinator Jane Jacobs and Shannon Hall for their assistance in helping the families to prepare their children to receive their Sacraments. It takes a great deal of preparation, and we are grateful for your dedication and faithfulness in passing on the faith to the families of our young parishioners.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen all families in our parish to live out their Catholic Faith.

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.

PLANNED GIVING TAX RECEIPTS

Those parishioners who requested a tax receipt for the last FY will have received these by email this week. Some will be available at the Churches this weekend and others mailed out in the post.

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.

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.

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/>

AUGUST RETREATS AT ST MARY'S TOWERS

There are a number of retreats being hosted at St Mary's Towers in Douglas Park during July and August. They are as follows:

- 3-11 Aug \$1240 or Weekend 5-7 Aug \$310: In the Heart of Creation with Jesus: Retreat Team
- 13-22 Aug \$1395 Life's Healing Journey or Private Weekend 19-21 Aug \$310: Retreat Team
- 24 Aug – 1 Sep \$1240 or Private Weekend 26-28 Aug \$310: Retreat Team

For more information or a flyer contact

contact@towersretreat.org.au or 02 4630 0233. An application form can be found here:

www.towersretreat.org.au/1-retreat-application-form/file

CLAIMING HOPE: CREATIVE HEALING RETREAT

Join the MGL Sisters at Carmel House from 12 to 14 August for a healing retreat experience. Come to God in your woundedness, journey with Him through creativity, and allow Him to transform you into a living sign of hope.

Enquiries: mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/BWMJN

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Online unit via Zoom

Ageing Persons and Pastoral Care

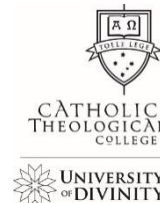
6 Saturdays: 30 July; 31, 27 August;

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: <https://palms.org.au/current-opportunities/assignments-abroad/> 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.

ANNUAL HIROSHIMA DAY COMMEMORATION

Join Christians for Peace and the Hunter Peace Group on Saturday 6 August for their annual Hiroshima Day Commemoration. From 11am at Peace Park (Maitland Road, Tighes Hill) there will be a service and BBQ picnic. Former Greens Senator Lee Rhiannon and Father Rod Bower from the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle will be the guest speakers. For more information contact the Hunter Peace Group at hunterpeacegroup.2016@gmail.com or phone 0476 884 200 or reach out to Christians for Peace at doug.isabel35@gmail.com or phone 0431 935 097.

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:

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rediscovering-joy-tickets-339651395467

PRAYING THE GOSPELS

Connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home.

Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

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

Password: pray

Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 1 August	Tuesday 2 August	Wednesday 3 August	Thursday 4 August	Friday 5 August	Saturday 6 August	Sunday 7 August
<i>St Alphonsus Liguori, bishop, doctor</i>		<i>St Dominic, priest</i>	<i>St John Vianney, priest</i>		<i>The Transfiguration of the Lord</i>	19th 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 10.30am Mass Calvary	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 7th August 2022							
1st Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	Can you fill this position? Can you fill this position?	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	T. Hobbs	J. Lonergan	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	M. Kempis N. Fernandes	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			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, 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:

Recently Deceased: Chris Peadon

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."