



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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20th Sunday in Ordinary Time– YEAR C

14 August 2022

First Reading

Jer 38:4-6. 8-10

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You bore me to be a man of strife for the whole world.

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14

(R.) Lord, come to my aid!

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. **(R.)**
2. He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm. **(R.)**
3. He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord. **(R.)**
4. As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay! **(R.)**

Second Reading

Heb 12:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Let us bear patiently the struggle placed upon us.

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 12:49-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

I have come not to give peace, but discord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'



REFLECTION by Fr Victor

At first, reading of this Sunday's Gospel, we might be seriously wondering what Jesus is talking about. We all thought that Jesus came to this world as a "Prince of Peace". We thought that Jesus came to this world "to gather the lost sheep of the house of Israel". So, now what is this talk of division and setting the fire on earth? Why did Jesus talk about "a household of five would be divided, three against two and two against three, father against son, son against father and so on...?"

This Sunday's gospel has a definite shock value to it. It names things we tend to avoid: fire, division and anguish. The message that Jesus speaks is not mild, gentle, or timid. The message that Jesus offers us is life-changing, radical and has the power to transform our very lives. Jesus calls us to follow him; we must respond in some way. The call of Jesus requires that we make some response, we can't ignore the call.

We must make a decision whether to follow Jesus or not. If we decide to follow Jesus, then our lives will be changed. He clearly spells out the cost of his good news and the cost of being his disciple. His coming brings 'fire.' His preaching and radical message causes division even within the same family because some will accept his message, others will not. When Jesus speaks, he doesn't soften his message. Instead, he clearly spells out the cost of living his good news

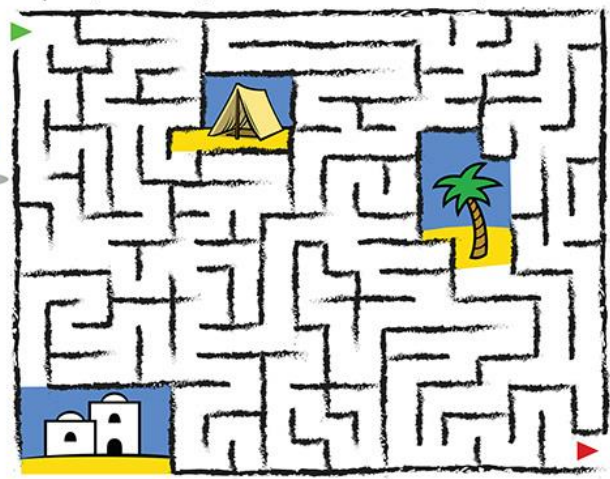
We don't expect to hear such difficult words from Jesus in the Gospel. But it is good to be reminded occasionally that the decision to do the right thing, the good thing, is not always easy and without conflict. Jesus himself did not make easy decisions and avoid conflict. This Sunday's gospel reading reminds the followers of Jesus, to be prepared for difficult decisions and conflict as well.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

The Feast of the Assumption celebrates the belief that the body and soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary were taken into heaven after the end of her earthly life. Mary's assumption into heaven is seen by many as a fulfilment of Jesus' promise to all faithful servants; that they too will be received into the kingdom of God. Belief in the Assumption of Mary had become widespread by the end of the seventh century and was eventually defined in an infallible statement by Pope Pius XII in 1950.



Help Mary find her way as she travels to see her cousin, Elizabeth.



ST JAMES' CONFIRMATION AND FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATION PHOTOS



KEEGAN/WOOD FAMILY GROUP – NEXT OUTING



Monday 22 August 2022 – Hunter Belle
Cheese Restaurant

75 Aberdeen Street, Muswellbrook

Ph: 6541 5066

Please RSVP to: Robyn – 6542 5426, Shirley –
6543 1485, Margaret – 6543 1238 by **Thursday 18 August**

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 help with maintaining the grounds, especially as we come up to the Spring and Summer months. Many thanks to those who have already offered to help.

VOLUNTEERING IN OUR PARISH

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an absolute and abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. As a volunteer working in a Diocesan Parish, you should be aware of your obligations and responsibilities. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Becoming a volunteer

To be able to volunteer within a Diocesan Parish you are required to read the Volunteer Induction Handbook and complete all necessary checks, inductions, and safeguarding training relevant to your role. This may mean you will be required to obtain a Working with Children Check and give the Diocese permission to conduct a National Police Check on your behalf. All paperwork and checks are to be completed and verified before you can commence in your volunteer role. Safeguarding training must occur within 6 months of your commencement as a volunteer. **All existing Volunteers are also required to meet these requirements.**

Please contact the Parish Office to obtain a Volunteer Induction Handbook and make arrangements for an ID check.

The Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012

Under this legislation people who undertake a role in child-related work in a paid or volunteer capacity in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are required by law to have a Working with Children Check Clearance. This 'Clearance' can be obtained from applying online at check@kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au. Volunteers receive a Clearance for free, and it lasts up to 5 years.



KNOWING JESUS DAILY DEVOTIONAL VIDEOS

You cannot become what you do not know. Join Bruce Downes as he dives deep into the life of Jesus to expand our understanding of who He is and help us live and become more like Him. This FREE Daily Devotional series is presented by Downes, who is also known as The Catholic Guy, and starts on Monday 15 August. You can receive these short, practical, and inspiring Daily Devotional videos into your inbox to help you explore. Sign up today at <https://brucedownes.org/>

MASS CELEBRATING DIVERSE LEARNING

Fr Greg Barker, the community of Catherine McAuley Catholic College, together with The Federation of P & F Associations and The Special Needs Working Party warmly welcome all to join with clergy, students, principals, teachers, school staff, families, and parishioners for this special celebration. It's on Sunday 18 September from 2.30pm at Catherine McAuley Catholic College, 507 Medowie Road Medowie. An afternoon tea will be hosted after Mass, no RSVP is required.

For more information please contact Catherine McAuley Catholic College on 4068 1000.

YOUNG CHRISTIAN STUDENTS

The Young Christian Students is an international Movement, present in over 80 countries, that empowers secondary school students to take action based on what they believe, in their student reality. YCS gives students the chance to be agents of change themselves. When students take ownership and responsibility it allows them to develop the skills needed to lead.

The Diocese is holding a training day for anyone who would like to get involved in the YCS movement on Friday 26 August. To register your interest please email formed@mn.catholic.org.au

CAN YOU HELP CATHOLICCARE MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS AUGUST?

CatholicCare's Community Kitchens provide thousands of meals across the Hunter-Manning region each month and help people who have nowhere else to turn. However, these important services receive no government funding, so we rely on the generosity of the community. Please give a gift today to help us provide more meals to people in need. Your tax-deductible donation will go directly to our local food programs, ensuring no one is turned away and that everyone is welcomed with a hot meal and a smile. Go to

<https://www.mycause.com.au/page/288431/make-a-difference> for more information or to donate.



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

DOES THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE HAVE A FUTURE?

The ACU Centre for Liturgy is hosting an online public lecture on 10 October with Prof Julie Hanson Rubio (from the Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara University, USA) on the topic "Does the Sacrament of Marriage have a future".

To register: <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/institutes-academies-and-centres/acu-centre-for-liturgy/news-events-and-resources>

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 15 August	Tuesday 16 August	Wednesday 17 August	Thursday 18 August	Friday 19 August	Saturday 20 August	Sunday 21 August
<i>The ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>					<i>St Bernard</i>	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
5.30pm Mass 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 21st August 2022

3rd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	K. Mason	M. Edwards	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	C. O'Brien Can you fill this position?	P. Griffin	Can you fill this position?	Can you fill this position?			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, 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: William Robert Dent

Baptisms: Ella Collison

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."