



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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22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time– YEAR C

28 August 2022

First Reading Sir 3:17-20, 28-29

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Humble yourself and you will find favour with the Lord.

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business, and you will be better loved than a lavish giver. The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly, and then you will find favour with the Lord; for great though the power of the Lord is, he accepts the homage of the humble. There is no cure for the proud man's malady, since an evil growth has taken root in him. The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables, an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 67:4-7. 10-11. R. v.11

(R.) God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

1. The just shall rejoice at the presence of God, they shall exult and dance for joy.
O sing to the Lord, make music to his name; rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence. **(R.)**
2. Father of the orphan, defender of the widow, such is God in his holy place.
God gives the lonely a home to live in; he leads the prisoners forth into freedom. **(R.)**
3. You poured down, O God, a generous rain: when your people were starved you gave them new life.
It was there that your people found a home, prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading Heb 12:18-19, 22-24

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

You have to come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God.

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them. But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly

Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 11:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

Take my yoke upon you;
learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 14:1. 7-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All who exalt themselves shall be humbled and all who humble themselves shall be exalted.

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Heaven Embossed Invitations

Hearing Our Lord's command: 'Invite the poor, the crippled, to the feast,' how do we respond as citizens of a nation which, in comparative global terms, is having a great feast? Jesus demands that we go well beyond an immigration policy which favours skilled and entrepreneurial people. They more than 'repay our courtesy' in terms of economic activity and social stability. The majority of the poor and the crippled live in the subsistence villages, the refugee camps, and the squalor of the megacities of the Third World.

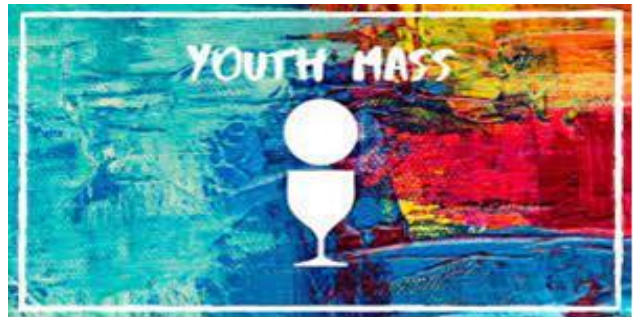
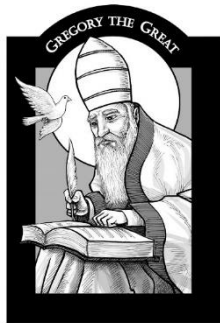
Heaven embossed invitations must be extended to such as those so that they may join in our national feast. Only then can we become the sort of people who, in the great Feast of Heaven, can join with those poor who are certain to be there. We could pause for a moment to pray to put today's Gospel into effect so that we might hear Our Lord: 'Friend, join in the Feast. Be close to me.'

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SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT,

Pope and Doctor of the Church

Gregory the Great was born in Rome in 540 AD. He used his own money to establish monasteries in Rome and Sicily, and became a monk at the age of 35. In 590 he became the first monk to be elected pope and the first pope to take the name Gregory. He was known as a great statesman and is accounted the fourth of the great Latin doctors of the church. His influence on church music gave rise to plainsong becoming known as Gregorian chant. Gregory was the father of the medieval papacy and was instrumental in helping Western Europe rise from the ashes of the fallen Roman Empire. He referred to himself as 'the servant of the servants of God', a term which popes have used ever since.



**WHEN: Next Saturday, 27th August
5.30pm Vigil Mass**

WHERE: St James Church

**WHO: St Joseph's High School
Students and Staff**

We are very excited to welcome Students and Teachers from St. Joseph's High School to our Vigil Mass.

The Students will be taking active roles within the Mass

A Pizza Supper in the Convent after the Mass for all HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS & Teachers from 6.30 to 8.30pm

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.

Eucharistic Adoration

"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Mt 11:28

Please come and join us to spend time with the Lord and find peace and joy in Him

To be held on the 1st Saturday of the month, commencing Saturday 3rd September

St James' Catholic Church, 65 Brook Street, Muswellbrook

After 5.30pm Vigil Mass until 9pm



UHCM LUNCHTIME CONCERT

A lunchtime concert will be held next Friday 2 September at 12pm in the Atherstone Room upstairs at the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music.

The first musician will be a pianist, and your mind will be dazzled with the remaining music that will be played. Feel free to pass this message along and maybe even bring your lunch, and a friend or 2.

A cup of tea or coffee will be available - as well as water. Entry will be via a donation - (it is yet to be decided where we gift your donations for this session). So far this year, donations have been given to the Cancer Council and the Upper Hunter Homeless.



Upper Hunter
Conservatorium
of Music



This year's Social Justice Statement, **Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse**, invites us to engage with a complex and confronting social reality. It explores the roots of violence and abuse, honours the voices of victims, offers a social and theological exploration of the reality of violence, especially against women and children, and invites us to develop relationships in all parts of our lives 'marked by equality and reciprocity rather than domination and violence, respect and freedom rather than coercion and control.' We welcome this urgent call from our Church to deepen our faith through full and frank discussion and dialogue, advocacy and action.

If the content of the Statement raises issues or concerns for you, please refer to the Getting Help page in the Statement for a list of support channels, or speak to a trusted friend, your GP, your parish priest, or parish pastoral worker. Access the Statement <https://bit.ly/SJS22-23>.

More information: ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or Tel (02) 62019845.

Facebook | www.facebook.com/socialjusticeACBC

Twitter | @JusticeCatholic

Instagram | @JusticeCatholic

SETTLEMENT SERVICES INTERNATIONAL SEARCHES FOR RENTAL PROPERTIES

Over the coming month, more than 60 people from refugee backgrounds are arriving in Newcastle, and Settlement Services International (SSI) are struggling to secure enough on-arrival accommodation to house them. The regional housing crisis that is affecting our whole community is having a significant impact on their ability to welcome people into our community. At this stage it looks like they may need to redirect families to Sydney. Can you help?

SSI is looking for houses or units that can fit families of two to seven people, or some single bedroom units. Some of these rental properties will be "head leased" by SSI Group and used as on-arrival accommodation. Others may be rented directly to families from refugee backgrounds already here, and free up some of our existing on-arrival accommodation. Unfortunately, generous offers of a room in someone's home can't be used for on-arrival accommodation for these families. Email Helen Larkin hlarkin@ssi.org.au if you can help.

CAN YOU HELP CATHOLIC CARE MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS AUGUST?

Catholic Care Social Services Hunter-Manning is the official charitable agency of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Our Community Kitchens and Food Programs serve thousands of meals across the region each month and help people who have nowhere else to turn. However, these important services receive no government funding, so we're calling on the Catholic and broader community to help. As the pandemic continues and the cost-of-living rises, Catholic Care expect to be welcoming even more people through our doors.

Can you help us make a difference?

Help us feed more people in our Community Kitchens. Help us build more kitchens and infrastructure to support more people in the future. Please give a gift this August. Every dollar counts. Your generosity 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.

Donate today: Send your cheque to PO Box 775 Newcastle 2300 or give a gift online,

www.catholiccare.org.au/makeadifference

EMBRACE THE CALL TO GLOBAL MISSION

American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Zambia are requesting Australian Catholics to live in and share their skills with parish communities. Embrace one of these **Mission opportunities abroad** and mentor those with little other opportunity. You will be well prepared and supported by Palms Australia who have engaged Australian Catholics in this mission since 1961.

Enquire online or **Ph: 0422 742 567** and **Register** for a Webinar on **Saturday September 24th at 11:30am** where you can talk directly with Veronica Lawson who is mentoring teachers in Pago Pago, American Samoa now. Or visit others already engaged in Mission with Palms on our **13-day Encounter Tour to Timor-Leste from October 16th to 28th**.

For more information visit: <https://palms.org.au/>

SEASON OF CREATION: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

This annual Christian celebration calls us to listen and respond together to the cry of Creation. This year we will unite around the theme, "Listen to the Voice of Creation." Join us on 1 September 7.00pm for an evening of prayer and reflection as we commence the Season of Creation 2023. To register go to:

<https://seasonofcreation.eventbrite.com.au>



Palms Australia

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 29 August	Tuesday 30 August	Wednesday 31 August	Thursday 1 September	Friday 2 September	Saturday 3 September	Sunday 4 September
<i>The Passion of St John the Baptist</i>					<i>St Gregory the Great</i>	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Father's Day</i>
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 4th September 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	Can you fill this position?	K. Mason	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, David Dallah, and Carlo Cerneaz.

Anniversary:

Recently Deceased:

Baptisms: Riley, Roy, and Evie Mitchell

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."