



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

Parish Priest: Fr Victor Babu Doss
Email: frvickybabu@gmail.com
Phone: 0484 903 427 or 6543 1167
St James Primary School
Principal: Mr Aaron Moon
Office: 6543 3094
Email: admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au

Parish Administration: Mrs Adele Skardon
Email: muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au
PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333
Phone: 6543 1167
Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm
Website:
www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time– YEAR C

4 September 2022

First Reading

Wis 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Who can comprehend the will of God?

What man can know the intentions of God?

Who can divine the will of the Lord?

The reasonings of mortals are unsure

and our intentions unstable;

for a perishable body presses down the soul,

and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.

It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth,

laborious to know what lies within our reach;

who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?

As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you
not granted Wisdom

and sent your holy spirit from above?

Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened

and men been taught what pleases you,

and saved, by Wisdom.

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

Phlm 9-10, 12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon

Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

Gospel Acclamation Ps 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 14:25-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was

unable to finish.” Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.’

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

In the gospel on 23rd Sunday in ordinary time, year C, Jesus invites us to imbibe his spirit of commitment and sacrifice to be His true disciples. He says: “If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife...and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple.” What does Christ mean by “hating”? He simply teaches and calls us to learn to make sacrifice, and to be committed to our missions and calls.

Christ is not literarily calling us to hate the members of our family, to be his disciples. He loved and obeyed his own parents. Also, His mother Mary was one of His first and best disciples. So, we too must love members of our family. He is not in any way preaching the gospel of hatred. Rather, he wants us to be more committed to his ministry. He wants us to be willing to sacrifice our own comfort whenever duty calls. St. Maximilian Kolbe did this in the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1941 by offering his life for a fellow prisoner, so that he might live to take care of his family.

To be Christ’s disciple means being ready to make sacrifices. Carrying our cross. Following Christ also means subduing our own will, to do His Will. That is, being ready to give up anything. Without commitment and sacrifice, we remain attached to our will, and so, cannot be true disciples of Christ. Without it, we cannot see the needs of others.

Finally, commitment and sacrifice help us to give up anything to gain all. It disposes us to be better disciples of Christ. It helps us to be better husbands, wives, parents,

and children. It helps us to be better leaders and even servants. In the spirit of commitment and sacrifice, the wisdom of God becomes fully alive and active in us. It also helps us deepen our trust in God’s divine providence and protection. Hence, we can confidently proclaim: “O Lord you have been my refuge from one generation to the next”.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

HISTORY OF FATHER’S DAY

A day to honour fathers has traditionally been celebrated on March 19 in Catholic countries of Europe since the Middle Ages. The Feast Day of Saint Joseph is a solemnity to honour Joseph as the father of baby Jesus and his example of ideal fatherhood. The Catholic Church supported celebrations of fatherhood during a customary day as early as the 14th century. These traditions were brought to America by Spanish and Portuguese immigrants.

The idea of celebrating Father’s Day Festival was given by Ms Sonora Dodd, a loving daughter from Spokane. Her father Henry Jackson Smart single-handedly raised Sonora and five of her siblings after the death of her mother during childbirth. When Sonora attended a Mother’s Day Sermon in 1909, she thought that if there is the day to honour mother then there should also be a corresponding day to honour fathers. Sonora worked relentlessly for years to ensure that the idea of Father’s Day becomes a reality. In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge first recognized Father’s Day. In view of the massive popularity of the festival, in 1972, President Richard Nixon established a permanent national observance of Father’s Day in the USA. Over the years, the concept of celebrating Father’s Day spread beyond geographical boundaries. Today, millions of children across the world express gratitude for their dads as they celebrate Father’s Day.

☺Happy Father’s Day!☺



St Joseph’s High School Mass

Saturday night saw in excess of 20 St Joseph’s High School Students and approximately 10 Teachers proudly proclaiming the Readings, bringing forth the Gifts, Cantoring, providing beautiful music and Serving on the Altar to enrich our Celebration of the Vigil Mass.

Singers, Guitarists, a Violinist, and a Cellist shared their talents and voices in praise to the Lord.

It was indeed a beautiful Mass enjoyed by all.

A Pizza Supper for all Students and Teachers followed the Mass at the Convent and continued with table tennis, games & great fellowship.

Many Thanks to all who gave generously of their time, and we look forward to enjoying a Youth Mass again next Term.



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY PAGES

Families are invited to take an activity sheet or two along with some coloured pencils available at the back of the Church for use during Mass.

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/>

FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR RCIA AND SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION MINISTERS

- Saturday 10 September, Morpeth, 10am to 3.30pm – Reflection Day 'Come rest a while' in appreciation of current and interested Christian Initiation ministers. Opportunity to listen, reflect and get to know other ministers. Morning tea and lunch provided. Details and registration at come-rest-a-while.eventbrite.com.au.
- Sundays September 18, 25; Oct 9, 16, 30; Nov 6, Newcastle West, 1pm to 4.30pm – Formation process 'Go make disciples' for new and experienced Christian Initiation ministers. Explore the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) over six Sunday afternoons. Details and registration at go-make-disciples.eventbrite.com.au

Read more at tinyurl.com/4tyh82bd Enquiries to sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au or P 4979 1134.

RETREAT WITH FR HUGH THOMAS AND FR TONY

ALEX

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you" will be presented by Fr Hugh Thomas CSsR and Fr Tony Alex MGL from Friday 21 October to Sunday 23 October at the St Clement's Retreat Centre.

Fr Hugh has been active in Charismatic Renewal since 1973 and has led many retreats and Life in the Spirit Seminars in several countries, including the USA. Fr Tony is a member of the Missionaries of God's Love (MLG). He is currently at the MGL Sydney Mission.

A powerful experience for people new to Charismatic Renewal, which Pope Francis calls "a current of grace" for the Church of today. A time for fresh anointing and renewal for old timers as well as younger people. The retreat will include prayer ministry to receive healing and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The retreat formally begins with the first session at 7.30 pm on Friday night (21 October). However, there will be a Mass at 5pm and a meal at 6pm for those who can make it earlier (all included in the price). The retreat finishes after lunch on Sunday 23 October (about 1.30 pm).

If you need any more information, email Fr Hugh on: frhughthomas40@gmail.com

Cost: Ensuite Room \$350, or Shared facilities \$300

For bookings phone: 026805222

DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE

Join the Divine Retreat Centre, Somersby, for their September retreats.

Inner Healing Growth Retreat (Live In)

Fri 9 September 5.30pm to Sun 11 September 4.00pm.

Spiritual Retreat at St Patrick's, Wallsend

Mon 19 September 7pm - 9pm

11 Macquarie Street, Wallsend

Feast of St Vincent De Paul

One day pilgrimage – Praise and Worship, Preaching the Word, Eucharistic Adoration, and Holy Mass

Sun 25 September 9am – 4pm *Lunch will be provided*

For more information or bookings, please contact 0468 486 782 or email drcretreatrego@gmail.com

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

Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 5 September	Tuesday 6 September	Wednesday 7 September	Thursday 8 September	Friday 9 September	Saturday 10 September	Sunday 11 September
			<i>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>			24th 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 11th September 2022							
2nd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	J. O'Brien J. Paul	F. O'Brien	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	G. Griffin Can you fill this position?	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	S. Hoole R. New			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: Molly, Claire, and Gavin Casey

Recently Deceased: Sr Marie Craddock RSJ

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."