

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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24th Sunday in Ordinary Time– YEAR C

11 September 2022

First Reading Ez 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord was laid on me, and he carried me away by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley, a valley full of bones. He made me walk up and down among them. There were vast quantities of these bones on the ground the whole length of the valley; and they were quite dried up. He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'You know, Lord.'" He said, 'Prophesy over these bones. Say, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. The Lord says this to these bones: I am now going to make the breath enter you, and you will live. I shall put sinews on you, I shall make flesh grow on you, I shall cover you with skin and give you breath, and you will live; and you will learn that I am the Lord."'

I prophesied as I had been ordered. While I was prophesying, there was a noise, a sound of clattering; and the bones joined together. I looked, and saw that they were covered with sinews; flesh was growing on them and skin was covering them, but there was no breath in them. He said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man. Say to the breath, "The Lord says this: Come from the four winds, breath; breathe on these dead; let them live!"' I prophesied as he had ordered me, and the breath entered them; they came to life again and stood up on their feet, a great, an immense army.

Then he said, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole House of Israel. They keep saying, "Our bones are dried up, our hope has gone; we are as good as dead." So prophesy. Say to them, "The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this it is the Lord who speaks."'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 41:2-3; 42:3-4. R. see Ps 41:3

(R.) My soul is thirsting for the living God.

1. Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God. (R.)
2. My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life; when can I enter and see the face of God? (R.)
3. O send forth your light and your truth; let these be my guide. Let them bring me to your holy mountain to the place where you dwell. (R.)
4. And I will come to the altar of God, the God of my joy. My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp, O God, my God. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine in the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:46-56

Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.

'He has shown the power of his arm,
he has routed the proud of heart.
He has pulled down princes from their thrones and
exalted the lowly.
The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent
empty away.
He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of
his mercy
– according to the promise he made to our ancestors –
of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'
Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then
went back home.

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

The Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday has been inscribed in the liturgical calendar of the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese, as a way for us to 'live in remembrance' of the pain and suffering caused by the abuse within our community. On this Perpetual Day of Remembrance, we, as Church in the diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, are called to remember those of our brothers and sisters who have been harmed – abused – by some members of our Church, and who were further harmed by having an insensitive disregard for others who placed the reputation of the Church above the lives and safety of innocents.

The readings for this Sunday, seek to help us to recall our experience of death, of loss, of dryness, of hopelessness amid impossible challenges – like a valley of lifeless, dry bones that we hear about in the first reading. In the face of such dryness and loss, God calls the prophet Ezekiel to speak a word that raises up new life. Our response to hearing this call is to proclaim in faith, 'My soul is thirsting for the living God'. In the Gospel we hear the faith and promise of a young Mary, who though she felt 'lowly', dared to say 'yes' to God who had 'done great things' for her, and who promised to do so into the future, routing from the human heart all that diminishes the life of others. And so, as the second reading proclaims, the dying-rising pattern of our lives has its influence on others.

The stories of those who have been abused and harmed, the stories of those who walk that journey with survivors, the stories of those who have had their innocence stolen, had a direct influence on us. Their pain, their anger, their loss should and must encourage us on to change to a conversion of heart and mind.

The conversion we are called to is to ensure that those who have been harmed are supported and assisted, that we face the truth of our past with honesty, that we commit ourselves to ensure that we do all that we can to make our Church, our communities, places where children and the vulnerable are safe.

We cannot change the past, nor can we ignore it. We cannot pretend that some members of our Church did not abuse children, nor can we nullify our responsibility to provide remedy in ways that are meaningful. So, our task of conversion is not just momentary. It is not only putting safeguarding measures in place and complying with externally set standards but also to commit perpetually for the cause of victims and survivors and never repeat the past again. **Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!**

Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday

✠ *Shine the Light of Christ* ✠

The community of faith prays with its eyes and hearts wide open. The community of faith prays that it will be changed – 'it' being the church. The community of faith prays: for those who cannot pray, for those who have lost all hope and faith, for those who see no possibility of healing, no hope for a new day. The community of faith prays for the survivors of sexual abuse perpetuated by members of the Catholic Church.

The community of faith prays for those in our society who are standing up and speaking out and demanding change: those who speak up for the environment; those who speak up for women: people like Rosie Batty, Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins who name our unpalatable truths; family members who speak out about elder abuse and abuse of those living with a mental illness; people who are part of unjust systems and who name a truth and demand change.

The community of faith holds hope for those who are no longer able to hope. As the People of God whose life is grounded in Christ's Paschal Mystery we know and seek to proclaim a truth far deeper than human wisdom and logic. It is the truth that in the very worst, the very darkest, the most devastating and hope-less moments of life, God is there with us, suffering with us, waiting with us, and acting to bring new and unimagined life out of death.

In 2022 our context has sharpened the imperative to remember and reflect on the story of historic child sexual abuse in the church of Maitland-Newcastle. The need for prayer is even more urgent. As always, the point of our remembering and praying is that we will be changed so we will help to shine the light of Christ in all the dark places of our Church and our world. We pray as Jesus taught the disciples

that God's Kingdom will come, and God's will be done.



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.

COLUMBAN CALENDAR, INCARNATE ADVENT DAILY REFLECTIONS, AND DAILY MASS BOOK

If you would like to purchase any of these resources, please place your name and order on the forms that will be available in the Church foyers from this weekend.

Prices are approximate.

Columban Calendar 2023 **\$6.70 - \$8.18**

Incarnate Advent Reflections **\$5.00**

Daily Mass Book 2023 **\$24.00**

KEEGAN/WOOD FAMILY GROUP

Will be getting together **19 Sept 2022** for lunch at **12 noon** at the **Royal Hotel, 10 Ogilvie St, Denman** ('Top Pub'). **Ph: 6547 2226**. (Perhaps some 'window shopping'!) Make arrangements with members for transport if required. Names to Robyn, Shirley, Margaret by **Thursday 15 Sept.**



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.

13-DAY ENCOUNTER CHALLENGE TOUR

- PALMS AUSTRALIA

In October, join a small, guided group to experience Timor-Leste including its bustling capital of Dili, the beautiful Atauro Island and regional communities such as Maliana, Atabae and Balibo. Palms Australia recruits, prepares, sends and supports qualified and experienced Australians sought by grassroots communities overseas as mentors to assist sustainable solutions to poverty.

Meet Palms personnel who are working with our overseas partners and engage directly with local Timorese people through project site visits. Stay overnight with a local Timorese family for an authentic, personal experience of cultural exchange. The trip will go from Sunday 16 to Friday 28 October. Register here:

<https://palms.org.au/encounters/trek-for-timor-leste-encounter/>



CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE - GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN TEACHING MEDITATION ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION

The Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation is for those seeking to learn the methods and skills of teaching meditation and prayer in a variety of parish situations. The course focuses on the personal practice and benefits of meditative prayer, and facilitation and discernment approaches allowing students to apply their learning in their own context. An online information session will be hosted on Monday 12 September at 7pm. For more information contact jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au Register via the college's website: ctc.edu.au/open-days

MARY MACKILLOP TODAY

Celebrate Mary MacKillop's life and legacy with a commemorative prayer book that inspires us all to

"Flourish with Mary's Heart"

Order your FREE copy of "Flourish with Mary's Heart" today!

Call 02 8912 2763 or scan the QR code.



ART AND SPIRITUALITY WORKSHOP

An art and spirituality workshop will be held on 15 September at St Joseph's Community Centre, Kilaben Bay from 9am to 3pm. This workshop will provide an opportunity to awaken the Spirit through the beauty of God's creation, prayer, and reflection.

Creation of art provides an opportunity for a deepening awareness of oneself and the world and can act as a catalyst for evoking the Spirit. Art is a means to see-to-research and find the living meaning of what it means to open the heart. Everyone has the ability to create art, but in order for it to be theological, the artist needs to explore ways that it makes sense of faith. Opening the heart through art involves making meaning through the creation, then reflecting on the art itself and the unfolding the moment-to-moment direct experience of the process. Participants will engage in art making experiences which will nourish their faith. Cost: \$25

To register: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/art-and-spirituality-workshop-tickets-359269162737

For further information contact Rose McAllister on rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

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.

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 drcretreatreg@gmail.com

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 12 September	Tuesday 13 September	Wednesday 14 September	Thursday 15 September	Friday 16 September	Saturday 17 September	Sunday 18 September
	<i>St John Chrysostom</i>	<i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	<i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	<i>Sts Cornelius and Cyprian</i>		25th 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 18th September 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?	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	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, David Dallah, and Carlo Cerneaz.

Anniversary:

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."