



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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25th Sunday in Ordinary Time– YEAR C

18 September 2022

First Reading Am 8:4-7

A reading from the prophet Amos

The Lord God spoke against those who buy the poor for money.

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy
and try to suppress the poor people of the country,
you who say, 'When will New Moon be over
so that we can sell our corn,
and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat?
Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel,
by swindling and tampering with the scales,
we can buy up the poor for money,
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.'
The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob,
'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 112:1-2. 4-8. R. see vv.1. 7

(R.) Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.

1. Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore! *(R.)*
2. High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth? *(R.)*
3. From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the dungheap he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people. *(R.)*

Second Reading 1 Tm 2:1-8

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

Let prayers be offered to God for everyone; he wants all people to be saved.

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers
offered for everyone – petitions, intercessions and
thanksgiving – and especially for kings and others in
authority, so that we may be able to live religious and

reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and
will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be
saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is
only one God, and there is only one mediator between
God and mankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who
sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the
evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have
been named a herald and apostle of it and – I am telling
the truth and no lie – a teacher of the faith and the truth
to the pagans.

In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up
reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Cor 8:9

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor,
to make you rich out of his poverty.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 16:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

You cannot be slaves both of God and of money.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There was a rich man and he
had a steward who was denounced to him for being
wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said,
"What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of
your stewardship because you are not to be my steward
any longer." Then the steward said to himself, "Now that
my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I
to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should
be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure
that when I am dismissed from office there will be some
to welcome me into their homes."

'Then he called his master's
debtors one by one. To the first
he said, "How much do you owe
my master?" "One hundred
measures of oil," was the reply.
The steward said, "Here, take
your bond; sit down straight
away and write fifty." To another



he said, "And you, sir, how much do you owe?" "One hundred measures of wheat," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond and write eighty."

'The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.

'And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?

'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

We are all familiar with the phrase that money is the root of all evil. However, this is not correct. In his first letter to Timothy 6.10, St. Paul says, "the love of money is the root of all evil." There is nothing wrong with money itself. It is how we use, misuse, or abuse the money that causes problems for ourselves and others. How we use and spend our money says a lot about who we are and how we treat others.

Through the words of the prophet of Amos in the first reading this Sunday, we are reminded and challenged not to abuse or cheat in any way those who are poor. Jesus continues this message in the gospel. He tells the parable which sounds like he is encouraging dishonesty. A servant who looks after his master's property is accused of misusing it. He is sacked, but before he leaves, he has to hand in his final account. He takes this time to rearrange his master's account with those owe him money. He reduces their debts and loans and by the time he is finished, the merchants end up owing him for his cleverness. When it mattered most, this clever steward wastes no time in taking immediate and practical action to safeguard his own future.

Jesus is not praising this man for his dishonesty and shrewdness, but for his skill in coping with a crisis quickly. Again, this in no way is encouraging and promoting the misuse of money. If this dishonest man can use his master's money to ensure his own job, how much more will those who are honest use their money to promote and build the Kingdom. This is not saying that you can buy your way into the Kingdom. It is to recognise that if our money and wealth are used inappropriately or are not connected to the values of Jesus, the gospel, and the Kingdom, then people suffer, usually the poor. Both Amos and Jesus speak about social justice and taking responsibility for our own actions. Our prayer life has to influence how we speak and behave. How we use money and treat each other says a lot about the quality of relationship with Jesus.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!



World Youth Day 2023 Come with us on pilgrimage.

Journey with us on pilgrimage to the Holy Land and onto World Youth Day Lisbon 2023 in Portugal, where we will gather with young people, celebrating our diversity and faith.



To find out more
and to register your
interest scan the QR
code or visit
mn.shor.tn/WYD



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.

FR VICTOR ON LEAVE

Fr Victor will be leaving for India on Monday 16 September due to his mother's decline in health.

There will be no Masses celebrated Monday – Friday.

Fr Velerian will be celebrating Masses over the weekend but please note that the Mass times have been changed slightly. ***Please refer to the Mass Diary overleaf.***

For matters of urgency please call the Parish Office or Fr Velerian on 0408 451 244.

Please keep Fr Victor and his mother in your prayers.

OFFICE CLOSURE PUBLIC HOLIDAY

The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday 22 September for the National Day of Mourning to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The office will reopen on Friday 23 September.

ADELE ANNUAL LEAVE

The Parish office will be closed from Monday 26 September to Friday 30 September. It will reopen on Tuesday 4 October. In Fr Victor's and my absence please direct matters of urgency to Fr Velerian on 0408 451 244. ***Please send any bulletin items for the weekends of the 24/25 September and 1/2 October to me by 10AM FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER.*** Thank you.

ST JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL CARPARK CLOSURE

On Monday 19th September there will be maintenance work to replace the entry to the main carpark between 9am and 1pm. You will be able to park in the carpark, however you may not be able to leave between 9am – 1pm.

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.**



CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE – ENGAGING YOUR FAITH

Engaging Your Faith is a series of short online presentations that invite participants to reflect on what it means to be people of faith in the contemporary world. Experienced lecturers from the Catholic Theological College will present on a variety of topics including: Theology, Spirituality, Biblical Studies, Pastoral Studies, Laudato Si', Christian Meditation, Lectio Divina, Future Technology, and Science and Religion.

The 12 sessions will be hosted via Zoom, in October 2022.

Choose what interests you for just \$25 per session.

Booking, payment and further information:

ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/

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

DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF MINISTRY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE: BR. DAMIAN PRICE RETREAT

The Diocesan Council for Ministry with Young People is hosting a retreat on Saturday 29 October 2022 with Br Damian Price. Attending guests will have the option to attend a second Strategic Vision Planning Day on Sunday 30 October from 10am-3pm at the Newcastle Diocese Meeting Rooms. Br Damian Price is a Christian Brother of the Oceania Province; he has worked in youth ministry for years. The retreat will be based on the following words from Pope Francis: *"An evangelising community gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others. Evangelisers thus take on the "smell of the sheep" and the sheep are willing to hear their voice. An evangelising community is also supportive, standing by people at every step of the way, no matter how difficult or lengthy this may prove to be."* For more info or to register, visit: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/diocesan-council-for-ministry-with-young-people-br-damian-price-retreat-tickets-418380706957

aMeN caMiNo INFORMATION SESSION

The aMeN caMiNo takes place over five consecutive days. The pilgrimage starts at St John's Chapel, Maitland and concludes at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton. Pilgrims will walk an average of 20km per day through the beautiful landscape of bush, beach and beyond which we are blessed to have in our backyard.

Dates for 2023: June 17-21, July 8-12 & August 5-9

An online Information Session for people interested in attending the aMeN caMiNo in 2023 will be hosted on 9 November from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm To register go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/amen-camino-information-session-2022-tickets-412683817407>

Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 19 September	Tuesday 20 September	Wednesday 21 September	Thursday 22 September	Friday 23 September	Saturday 24 September	Sunday 25 September
	<i>Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang & companions</i>	<i>St Matthew, apostle</i>		<i>St Pius of Pietrelcina</i>		26th Sunday in Ordinary Time World Refugees and Migrants Day
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer and Adoration St James Muswellbrook	NO MASS				6.00pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.30am Mass St James Muswellbrook
						7.30am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Ministers Roster Sunday 25th September 2022							
4th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	M. Flanagan T. Furlong	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	S. Milton	C. Wykes	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	A. Jacob Can you fill this position?	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			K. Goodwin
Counters	Jane Thatcher	Can you fill this position?					

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, Carlo Cerneaz, and Antoni Amma.

Anniversary: John Driscoll and William Cooper

Recently Deceased: David Dallah and Bryan Hornery

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."