



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

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26th Sunday in Ordinary Time— YEAR C

25 September 2022

First Reading Am 6:1. 4-7

A reading from the prophet Amos

You who give yourself to licentiousness and revelry will be exiled.

The almighty Lord says this:

Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion
and to those who feel so safe on the mountain of
Samaria.

Lying on ivory beds
and sprawling on their divans,
they dine on lambs from the flock,
and stall-fattened veal;
they bawl to the sound of the harp,
they invent new instruments of music like David,
they drink wine by the bowlful,
and use the finest oil for anointing themselves,
but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all.
That is why they will be the first to be exiled;
the sprawlers' revelry is over.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:6-10. R. v.2

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. (R.)
3. He upholds the widow and orphan
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Tm 6:11-16

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

Obey the commandments until the coming of the Lord.

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly
and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle.
Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the
eternal life to which you were called when you made your

profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many
witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and
before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the
truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of
doing all that you have been told, with no faults or
failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who at the due time will be revealed
by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all,
the King of kings and the Lord of lords,
who alone is immortal,
whose home is in inaccessible light,
whom no man has seen and no man is able to see:
to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen.

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!

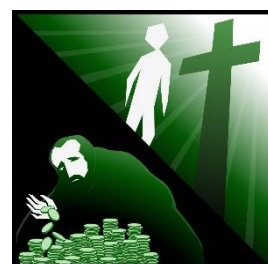
Gospel Lk 16:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*During your life good things came your way just as bad things
came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted while you
are in agony.*

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who
used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast
magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor
man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill
himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table.
Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man
died and was carried away by angels to the bosom of
Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

'In his torment in Hades he
looked up and saw Abraham a
long way off with Lazarus in his
bosom. So he cried out, "Father
Abraham, pity me and send
Lazarus to dip the tip of his
finger in water and cool my
tongue, for I am in agony in



these flames.” “My son,” Abraham replied “remember that during your life good things come your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours.”

‘The rich man replied, “Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father’s house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning, so that they do not come to this place of torment too.” “They have Moses and the prophets,” said Abraham “let them listen to them.” “Ah no, father Abraham,” said the rich man “but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent.” Then Abraham said to him, “If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead.”

REFLECTION for 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2022

Imagine that life’s major goal suddenly reverses. In a card game called Fluxx, the objective might abruptly switch from ‘World Peace’ to ‘Bread and Chocolate’, and players need to adjust accordingly. And in the readings today, we Christians are called to be part of God’s Great Reversal, to realign and to live differently.

The passage from Amos, from around the 8th Century BC, still speaks to us powerfully today. It paints a picture of wealthy and uncaring citizens from the capital cities of the southern and northern kingdoms. They live in luxury while “the ruin of Joseph” occurs all around them. Inevitably, they will be taken away into exile; their prosperity cannot last.

In Australia right now, we see the same attitude in those who want to preserve “our way of life” at the expense of the desperate and the destitute. The wealthy and privileged may appear to have a pristine environment, but it will not last. Eventually, illness, violence, the effects of climate change and death will affect us all. Residents who are migrants and refugees can alert us to the realities of injustices in our world, and the obligations we all have to address them. One day, we will all experience hurt and we will all need to change, so let us learn from the stranger about how to survive and grow. From the affluent to the apprentice: this is a Great Reversal.

Psalms 145 follows the theme of justice, and clearly names God as a champion both of the oppressed and the needy; they are known and loved in God’s sight. In the ancient world, the stranger was one of the three categories that lacked legal protection. But what moves us to challenge the systems that maintain these wrongs today?

The words from the First Letter to Timothy can help us. Christians are called to be “saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle.” Yet that does not mean being subservient or silent. Rather, the next sentences encourage us to fight and witness to the truth: that good must triumph over evil. From the passive to the passionate: this is a Great Reversal. Finally, the Gospel shares this message in the form of a story. Jesus only once names a character in his parables, and this one is Lazarus. He does not say that Lazarus is especially virtuous or

‘deserving’ or that the rich man is mean or greedy. However, the rich man’s fault in the eyes of God is to ignore the suffering that is before him.

So are we also surrounded by Lazaruses at our gates, both in person and in the immediacy of the media. Each one has a name and a story. Perhaps it is the elderly neighbour who came to Australia as a professional but was only able to find menial work. Perhaps it is the stranger praying earnestly at Mass, who gradually reveals their refugee journey. Each person can become for us not just an outsider, but a hero.

Australia’s Plenary Council challenged us all to listen to the experiences and wisdom of those on the margins of our society and our Church. And just like the rich man, these encounters will also bring us life. We will flourish in our cultural diversity, and we will be enriched in our celebrations and liturgies. As Pope Francis says in his Message, “the arrival of Catholic migrants and refugees can energize the ecclesial life of the communities that welcome them.” From the irritation to the inspiration: this is a Great Reversal.

So let us realign our goals today and celebrate those who have come as migrants and refugees. May we help raise up those who are bowed down, so that “the Lord will reign for ever, Zion’s God, from age to age.”

St Thérèse of the Child Jesus

was born at Alençon, France in 1873. She entered the Carmelite convent of Lisieux at a young age and was recognised for her humility, simplicity and confidence in God. She died of tuberculosis in 1897, at the age only 24. Her autobiography, ‘The Story of a Soul’, was published after her death—she also left many letters, poems, religious plays and prayers. Thérèse was canonised in 1925 and in 1997, Pope John Paul II declared her the thirty-third Doctor of the Church; the youngest person and only third woman to receive this title.



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.

REST IN PEACE ANTONI AMMA

Fr Victor's mother passed away on Monday morning. Please continue to pray for her soul and for all her family members, especially Fr Victor, during this very difficult time. *May she rest in eternal peace.*

Fr Victor extends his gratitude to you all for your prayers and condolences over this past week.

THANK YOU, FR Velerian

Fr Velerian will be celebrating weekend Masses in our Parish in Fr Victor's absence. Thank you, Fr Velerian, for offering to attend to the spiritual needs of our Parish while Fr Victor is away.

FR VICTOR ON LEAVE

While Fr Victor is away ***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.***

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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please come and join us to spend time with the Lord on Saturday evening 1 October after Vigil Mass until 9pm in St James Church. All are most welcome!

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**

108TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2022

Pope Francis has chosen "Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees," as the theme for the 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2022.

To read the Pope's message visit:

<https://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au/news/>

NEWCASTLE FAITHS4CLIMATEJUSTICE MULTI-FAITH SERVICE

The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) invites you to attend a Multi-faith Service on 13 October at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Tighes Hill from 10am to 11am. It will be one of many services being hosted across Australia, in solidarity with Pacific and First Nations peoples. The service will involve readings, prayers, meditation, music and chanting from a range of religious traditions, aligned with the above themes. Go to www.arrcc.org.au/f4cj2022 for more info.

WORLD YOUTH DAY LAUNCH EVENT

Are you a young person interested in travelling across the globe?

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is inviting any young person who is over 18 years old to join us on a 3-week pilgrimage to the Holy Land and then Lisbon for World Youth Day.

World Youth Day (WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with the Pope. It is also a pilgrimage, a celebration of youth, an expression of the universal Church and an intense moment of evangelisation for the youth world. This pilgrimage will take place in July/August 2023. For now, we are taking expressions of interest until we have specific information on dates, times, and prices. We have limited space so signing up is essential. Please express your interest on the diocesan website at www.mn.catholic.org.au

The official WYD launch will be hosted on Sunday 9 October at 4pm at the Murray Room (841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West). To register your attendance, please visit the [WYD page on the Diocesan website](#). If you have any questions regarding this pilgrimage, please email Ryan Gato, Diocesan World Youth Day Coordinator at: ryan.gato@mn.catholic.edu.au

A DAY ON THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

As the liturgical calendar leads to Year A and the Gospel of Matthew, we are excited to have

Dr Michele Connolly rsj Associate Professor of Biblical Studies Catholic Institute of Sydney, visit the Diocese.

The day will include both presentation and discussion around the literary structure, organisation, history and intended audience of the Gospel of Matthew.

Issues for Interpretation, comparison with other Synoptic Gospels; the ancient historical, cultural, and religious backgrounds and Matthew's prominent themes will be explored.

Several pieces of scripture will be unpacked and interpreted on the day.

Date: Thursday 10 November

Time: 9:00AM – 3:30PM

Where: Victor Peters Suit, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West

Cost: \$25 (includes Morning tea and Lunch)

Registration: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/a-day-on-the-gospel-of-matthew-tickets-413966584197

PAKISTAN FLOOD CRISIS APPEAL

The devastating floods in Pakistan have left a trail of destruction across the country, claiming the lives of more than 1,100 people. The United Nations estimates that around 33 million Pakistanis have been affected by the flooding. More than one third of the country has been completely submerged by the heaviest recorded monsoon rains in a decade. There are fears that the death toll will continue to rise. Caritas Australia's partners are responding to support flood-affected communities who need immediate assistance. Your generous support can help provide emergency support to help families recover and rebuild from disaster. Donate now by visiting www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pakistan-floods

Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 26 September	Tuesday 27 September	Wednesday 28 September	Thursday 29 September	Friday 30 September	Saturday 1 October	Sunday 2 October
	<i>St Vincent de Paul</i>		<i>Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels</i>	<i>St Jerome</i>	<i>St Therese of the Child Jesus</i>	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer and Adoration St James Muswellbrook	NO MASS				6.00pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.30am Mass St James Muswellbrook
					7.00pm Eucharistic Adoration St James Muswellbrook	
						7.30am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Ministers Roster Sunday 2nd October 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 Can you fill this position?	Can you fill this position?	K. Mason	Can you fill this position?			K. Goodwin
Counters	Mary-Ellen and David Leedham						

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 Carlo Cerneaz.

Anniversary: Anne Lonergan

Recently Deceased: Antoni Amma, David Dallah, Bryan Hornery and Robert McDonald

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."