



# 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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**27th Sunday in Ordinary Time– YEAR C**

**2 October 2022**

### **First Reading**      **Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4**

A reading from the prophet Habakkuk

*The just will live by faithfulness.*

How long, Lord, am I to cry for help

while you will not listen;

to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear

and you will not save?

Why do you set injustice before me,

why do you look on where there is tyranny?

Outrage and violence, this is all I see,

all is contention, and discord flourishes.

Then the Lord answered and said,

‘Write the vision down,

inscribe it on tablets

to be easily read,

since this vision is for its own time only:

eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive;

if it comes slowly, wait,

for come it will, without fail.

See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights,

but the upright man will live by his faithfulness.’

### **Responsorial Psalm**      **Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8**

**(R.)** If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!  
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.’ **(R.)**

### **Second Reading**      **2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14**

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

*Never be ashamed of witnessing the Lord.*

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God’s gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

### **Gospel Acclamation**      **1 Pt 1:25**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of the Lord stands for ever;

it is the word given to you, the Good News.

Alleluia!

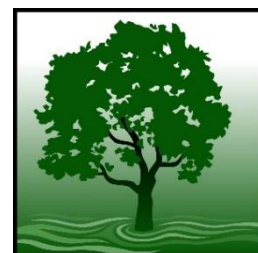
### **Gospel**      **Lk 17:5-10**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*If you had faith!*

The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith.’ The Lord replied, ‘Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, “Be uprooted and planted in the sea”, and it would obey you.

‘Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, “Come and have your meal immediately”? Would he not be more likely to say, “Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards”? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, “We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty.”’



## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

### Breast Feeding into Heaven

The loving gaze of a mother towards her newborn simply gives rise to the obligation to feed the baby. There is no special reward for doing her motherly duty. This is how Jesus sees 'good works'. If we perceive our relationships with people correctly, then so-called 'good works' are no more than our duty and don't deserve special congratulatory access to Heaven.

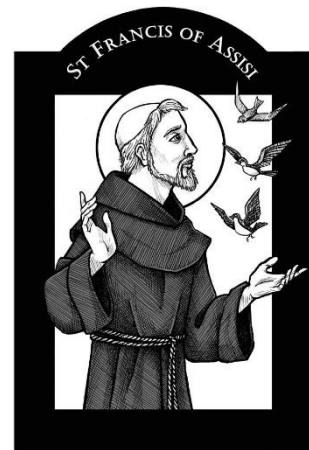
If we saw human beings as 'formed from the dust of the earth, . . . a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory' (St John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae* 34.2), then that perception leads to certain ways of relating which are obliging. Like the servant in the story, we will have done no more than our duty.

Nevertheless, doing that sort of duty you and I are becoming the sort of creature who can love unreservedly. We are being readied to receive the free gift of heavenly life.

We might take a moment to pause to get our perception of human beings correct so that our response may prepare us for the free gift of heavenly life.

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**S**t Francis of Assisi was born the son of a wealthy merchant of Assisi in 1181. After a conversion experience as a young man, Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes, instead wearing the simple garments given to him by the Bishop of Assisi. Living a life of extreme poverty, Francis preached in the streets, begged for his sustenance, served the sick and lived in harmony with nature. After attracting followers, he founded the Franciscan order in 1209. He continued living in poverty, preaching and working with lepers. In 1221 he resigned as the head of the order. After living in meditation on Mount Alvernia he received the stigmata, which bled periodically for the remaining two years of his life. His prayer, 'Canticle of the Sun', epitomises St Francis' communion with God and the universe and makes him an obvious patron of environmental causes.



## Scriptural Context

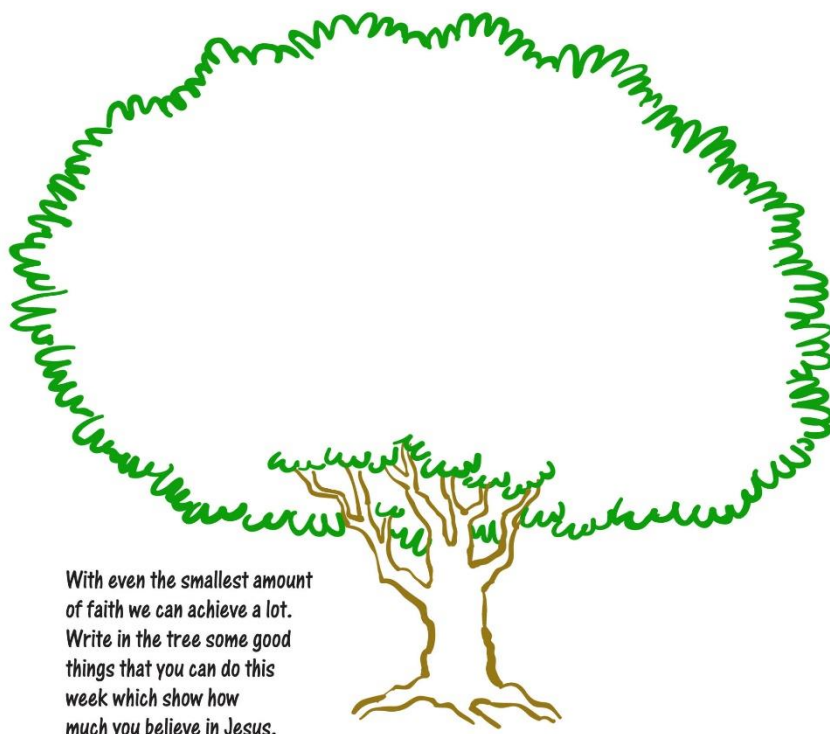
### A lesson for the disciples

For the last few months, in the Sunday gospel readings, we have been working our way through the second half of the gospel of Luke. From the end of chapter 9 onwards, the gospel charts the journey of Jesus towards Jerusalem. Throughout this journey, Jesus teaches his disciples and attempts to prepare them for his departure and their need to step up and take on his ministry. Today's passage is an example of this instruction to the disciples. Jesus makes clear that they are being called to give their lives to faith in service of others without expecting any return – just as Jesus does!

## Gospel Focus

### Faith

The disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith, but their question – and the reply given by Jesus – does not make clear the faith that they want increased. Is it their faith in God; their faith in themselves; or their faith in the people they are called to serve? The response by Jesus suggests that, in fact, it is faith in all these things. Faith in God and faith in self are intrinsically linked and Jesus makes plain to the disciples that this faith must find its expression in selfless service to others.



With even the smallest amount of faith we can achieve a lot. Write in the tree some good things that you can do this week which show how much you believe in Jesus.

### 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**

Please continue to pray for Antoni's 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 these past couple of weeks.

### **FR VICTOR ON LEAVE**

While Fr Victor is away ***there will be no Masses celebrated Monday – Friday.***

Mass times over the weekend 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.

### **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**

### **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](http://www.arrcc.org.au/f4cj2022) for more info.

### **BISHOP'S STAFF WEEK**

Diocesan Administrator Father Greg Barker is excited to invite you to Bishop's Staff Week! From 10 to 15 October several different experiences will be hosted across 13 locations within the Diocese under the banner Church without Walls. Each year, the Diocese hosts a Bishop's Staff Day for everyone working in the Curia but in 2022 the event will be hosted across one week and will be open for the greater community to enjoy. For more information or to book your spot, visit

<https://bsw22.eventbrite.com.au>

### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS**

Don't forget to turn your clocks forward 1 hour on Saturday night the **1st of October!**



### **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pakistan-floods)



Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 3 October	Tuesday 4 October	Wednesday 5 October	Thursday 6 October	Friday 7 October	Saturday 8 October	Sunday 9 October
	<i>St Francis of Assisi</i>			<i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>		<b>28th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer and Adoration St James Muswellbrook	<b>NO MASS</b>				6.00pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.30am Mass St James Muswellbrook
						7.30am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Ministers Roster Sunday 9th October 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, and Carlo Cerneaz.

### Anniversary:

**Recently Deceased:** Antoni Amma 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](mailto:muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

The Parish bulletin can be accessed on our website: [muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au](http://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au)

or on our Facebook page: **Catholic Parish of St James Muswellbrook**

Please email [muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto: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](http://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au)

Have a complaint or wish to provide feedback? Visit: [officeofsafeguarding.org.au/feedback/](http://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."**