



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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29th Sunday in Ordinary Time— YEAR C

16 October 2022

First Reading Ex 17:8-13

A reading from the book of Exodus

As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage.

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile, will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm till sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 120. R. v.2

(R.) Our help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

1. I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth. (R.)
2. May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard. (R.)
3. The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night. (R.)
4. The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever. (R.)

Second Reading 2 Tm 3:14 – 4:2

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

This is how the people of God become equipped and ready for every good work.

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures – from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

Gospel Acclamation Heb 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of God is living and active;
it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart.
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 18:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

God will see those who cry to him vindicated.

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."'



And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

The Urgent Widow

The judge in this story only gives in to the distraught widow when she threatens 'to give him a black eye' (in the Greek)! Jesus is *not* saying God is like the judge who needs to be battered into submission. Jesus *is* saying we need to pray like that widow.

Think of what widows in Syria or Iraq are praying for tonight. Then think of one's own prayer. God is not the slightest bit interested in my usual trivial, self-promoting prayers. But He is interested in my being such a woeful pray-er and wants to change me.

Recall an incident of really urgent, intense prayer. Most likely, it was to do with a traumatic accident or fatal disease of a baby, of a spouse, of a parent too young. Apply that intense urgency to those in the world crying out: 'give us this day our daily bread'. In short, pray The Lord's Prayer with meaning.

We could pause for a moment to pray to live out the consequences of the 'Our Father' lest we are threatened with a black eye!

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Different View

Convincing God

Does this teaching about the need for continual prayer mean that God needs to be convinced of our cause? Does a one-off prayer not get heard? Is God swayed by the force of numbers? Can the prayers of ten people carry more weight than the prayers of one? All these questions miss the point of the parable. It is not God who needs our prayers, but we who have to recognise, through prayer, our need for God's mercy and gracious love. The constancy of prayer is not to convince God but to remind ourselves of our dependence upon God.

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.

Rosary and Picnic



At The Old Convent,
St James Catholic Church, Muswellbrook
11am October 23, 2022

Please come and help us celebrate
the month of the Holy Rosary
Bring a picnic lunch. Cuppa will be provided.



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023



PILGRIM INFORMATION SESSION

We will be holding two online information sessions for all those who are interested in either attending our Diocesan pilgrimage or would simply like to learn more.

Please note, both of these sessions will be the same. You only need to attend one.

WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2022
6.00PM - 7.00PM

THURSDAY 03 NOVEMBER 2022
4.00PM - 5.00PM

To register for one of these sessions, please go to www.mn.catholic.org.au or scan the QR code.



SPIRITUAL RETREAT CANCELLED

Unfortunately, the Parish Spiritual retreat has been cancelled due to the Diocesan Reflection Day being held in Aberdeen on the same day. We sincerely apologise and do hope to organise another retreat in 2023.

FR VICTOR'S RETURN

Fr Victor will be returning to the Parish early next week. Please note the changes to the Mass Diary overleaf. Welcome back Fr Victor!

KEEGAN/WOOD FAMILY GROUP

Lunch at the **Commercial Hotel Aberdeen** 63 Macqueen Street. (Ph 6543 7196) **17 October**. Meet at Railway at **11.30am** to share transport. Lunch specials \$15 – or purchase from the menu. Names to Shirley, Robyn, Margaret by **Thursday 13 October**.



KAIROS VISIT TO ST HELIERS

A Kairos Team will be visiting St Heliers Correctional Centre on 7-11 November. Your support would be appreciated. There is a notice on the Bulletin Board at the back of the church outlying the ways you can help.

"Remember those in prison, as you were in prison with them". (Heb 13:3)

Contact Stephen Thatcher for details.

WE HAVE A VACUUM CLEANER!!

Thanks everyone. The Convent was gifted a brand new, still in the box, vacuum cleaner following our request in last week's bulletin. Many thanks to Luke and Nelly for the vacuum cleaner that was bought for a project that never eventuated. Much appreciated!

DID YOU NOTICE THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS?

Thank you to St Joseph's High School and the Year 12 Graduation. Over the last three weekends, we have had the pleasure of seeing beautiful flowers on the altar. They were originally used for the Year 12 Graduation and because the school holidays arrived the next day or so, they brought the magnificent flowers and put them on our altar, and they have lasted three weekends with a little bit of tender care from Chris Hayes. Thanks again, St Joseph's!

PRAYER FOR HSC STUDENTS

Please keep all HSC students who are preparing for their final exams over the coming weeks in your prayers. May God continue to guide, give strength, and wisdom to every student during this final part of their school journey.

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 are in the Church foyers. Prices are approximate:

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

Incarnate Advent Reflections **\$5.00**

Daily Mass Book 2023 **\$24.00**

DIOCESAN REFLECTION DAY ON OUR SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS

You are invited to attend the Diocesan Reflection Day on our Spiritual Foundations marking the anniversary of Bishop Bill's death. To be held on Saturday 12 November, 9.30 am for a 10.00 am start and finish at 3.00 pm. There are various locations to choose from including, Victor Peters Suite-Newcastle West, San Clemente High School - Mayfield, St Pauls High School - Booragul, Catherine McAuley College - Medowie, **St Joseph's High School – Aberdeen** and St Clare's High School – Taree.

The six hubs will allow people to gather together in a close by location and enjoy fellowship with each other. Please bring a plate to share for morning tea and lunch with those attending.

The reflection purpose will be:

- To gather and reconnect with our diocesan people
- To pray, reflect and engage with one another
- To reflect with our diocesan foundational principles
- To renew our sense of community after months of restrictions

Registration is open now by this link:

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

They will close on Monday 7 November.

CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL WEEKEND

The Catholic Mission Appeal will be held in our Parish next weekend – 22nd and 23rd October.

"What we do for our brother, we are doing it for God.

Because God is invisible, but we see Him in our brothers and sisters who are in need." ~Bishop Musie

This year, we invite you to partner with the essential work of the community and Church in Ethiopia as they look to establish a goat rearing centre to provide nutritious milk for families in most need. In addition, the Centre will provide opportunities for agricultural training and employment.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

BRING HOPE TO NEELA AND HER FAMILY

Many families in Emdibir are subsistence farmers, and distressingly, many are unable to put enough food on the table each day.

Next week Catholic Mission will offer you the opportunity to partner with the Church and community in Emdibir, Ethiopia, where your gift can help build a life-changing program from the ground up to help address this urgent need.

We hope you will take this opportunity to make an incredible impact for those in need.



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/ethiopia



Weekly Mass Diary

| Monday 17 October | Tuesday 18 October | Wednesday 19 October | Thursday 20 October | Friday 21 October | Saturday 22 October | Sunday 23 October |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| <i>St Ignatius of Antioch</i> | <i>St Luke, evangelist</i> | | | | | 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| 9.00am Private, Personal Prayer and Adoration 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 | 10.00am Funeral Mass St Thomas Aberdeen | | | | 8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen |

Ministers Roster Sunday 23rd October 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 | | | R. Panis | C. Hayes |
| 8am Sunday Aberdeen | S. Milton | K. Mason | 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, Pauline Coleman, David Curran, Pat Hogan, Abbie Sweeper, Kym Mason, Mollie Hofman, Melanie Hoch, Kim Goodwin, Anne Hugo, John Presland, Kay Goodwin, Margaret Blake, Rodrigo Canete, Fay Biddle, and Helen Tumbers.

Anniversary:

Recently Deceased: Marie Clifford, Norma Rowan, and Peter Gleeson

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."