



# 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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St James Primary School

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Website:

[www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au](http://www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A

27 November 2022

### First Candle

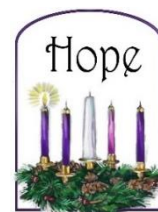
**Priest:** The first week of Advent we remember the gift of hope we have in Christ. The prophets of Israel all spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a savior would be born, a king in the line of David. They spoke of how he would rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

**Priest:** As followers of Christ, we wait with hope for his return. As we light this candle, we remember that it was from the manger at Bethlehem that he came and gave light to the world. As we light this candle, we are reminded to be alert and to watch for the light of Christ even in the most unlikely places and people.

*(Someone lights the first purple candle on the Advent Wreath.)*

**All:** Let us pray - Loving God, we thank you for the hope you give us. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by being open to seeing the light of Christ in others. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

**All:** Amen



### First Reading **Is 2:1-5**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.*

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come

the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills.

All the nations will stream to it,

peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations

and adjudicate between many peoples;

these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation,

there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come,

let us walk in the light of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm **Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.**

**(R.)** Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:  
'Let us go to God's house.'

And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

2. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name.

There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. **(R.)**

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:  
'Peace be to your homes!

May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!' **(R.)**

4. For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!'

For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. **(R.)**

### Second Reading **Rom 13:11-14**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The time has come, our salvation is near.*

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under

the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Gospel Acclamation** Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

**Gospel** Mt 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*Stay awake, you must be ready.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

**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.

**REFLECTION by Fr Victor**

This Sunday we begin a new season in the liturgical calendar of the Church. Today, we begin the great Season of Advent. There are two messages that we will hear over the next four weeks. One message and set of values will come to us from the media and the shops. We will be told that we will have to move faster, stay busy, queue longer in the shops and spend more money on those 'must have' presents so that we will have the 'perfect' Christmas, as if such a thing exists. We will be told and sold the idea that unless we buy more and more and surround ourselves with all the trappings of Christmas, we won't be happy. This most definitely is 'fake news.'

However, there is a very different message and set of values that will be offered to us through the gospels, the prayers, and the liturgy of Advent. We are being asked to prepare a way for the Lord, to stay awake, to make a straight path for the Lord and to get ourselves ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This is most definitely 'Good News!' The message of Advent is an invitation, and it is also a challenge to us. We are called to be looking forward, to be ready, to be prepared and we are asked to wait in joyful hope.

During these sacred days of preparation, we are being asked to take some time to be still and silent as we prepare ourselves deeply for Christmas. While we can't simply ignore the shops, the media, and the advertisements over the next few weeks, neither can we ignore the words and message of Jesus in today's gospel; "stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."

If we get too caught up in the shopping and spending, there is the danger that we will miss what Advent is really about. This is what the call to 'stay awake' means. We are asked not to miss the next four weeks of Advent. We are asked to prepare and get ready as best we can as followers of Jesus. It would be so sad, if after the shopping and all the other preparations we missed Advent and its joyful and hopeful message.

In what ways can I prepare a way for the Lord this Advent as I get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas?

**Wishing you a very fruitful season of Advent. Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!**



**St James Parish (Aberdeen & Muswellbrook) Christmas Appeal – WEEK 1**

**WEEK 1 of our Appeal:** Envelopes for our Christmas Appeal should still be available on the pews at all Masses up to and including the Third Sunday of Advent.

Cash can be placed in the envelopes and put on the Collection plate over the next three weeks but as many no longer carry cash can you please consider taking the envelopes home and using the bank details on the envelopes to direct deposit to the Muswellbrook Chapter account.

*If donating via direct deposit please keep your bank transfer docket for Tax Return June 2023 or contact St Vincent de Paul with transfer details and they can email you a receipt.*



## **NOVEMBER MASSES FOR THE DECEASED**

### ***Remembering those who have gone before us...***

If you would like your loved ones remembered during Masses in November, please place their name on the 'Prayer for the Deceased' list or on the November Mass Envelopes located in the Church foyers.

## **BLESSING OF GRAVES**

Thank you to those who took the opportunity to bless their loved ones graves.

Please see Fr Victor if you would like the grave of your loved ones blessed during the month of November.

## **AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED**

Copies of the Christmas Catalogue of *That Catholic Shop* are available in the foyer of the Churches. All proceeds assist the *work and mission* of Aid to the Church in Need. You can also visit [www.thatlittlecatholicshop.com](http://www.thatlittlecatholicshop.com) to see the range and order online.

## **SYNOD OF BISHOPS CONTINENTAL STAGE**

The Church around the world has entered the Continental Stage for the Synod of Bishops on Synodality. Groups around the country are praying with and responding to the Document for the Continental Stage, which was published recently. Download prayer resources, including for use in liturgies, read the document and access the submission portal at: [www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch](http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch) Pastoral Ministries is going to facilitate two online Zoom events for those who may wish to participate in that way. One will be held on Monday 28 November from 10am to Midday. The other will be held on Wednesday 30 November from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Details can be found at: <https://DCS22.eventbrite.com.au> or please contact Kate Crncevic on 4979 1329

[kate.crncevic@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:kate.crncevic@mn.catholic.org.au)

## **PRAYING THE GOSPELS**

Praying the Gospels will conclude for 2022 on Wednesday 23 November and recommence on February 1 2023.

Join us on Wednesday from 5.00-5.45pm. Zoom link:

<https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/61036103033>

Password: pray For more information contact:

[rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au)

## **JOB OPPORTUNITY: CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FUND**

The Catholic Community Fund (CCF) has a position vacant for a Customer Service Officer, full time, or part time for the right applicant. If you are interested or for more information, please contact Anne Campbell at the CCF Office on 4979 1163.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28



Fr. Roni George VC  
DRC, SOMERSBY

**DECEMBER 17TH (SATURDAY) 2022**

## **SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

at St James Catholic Church,  
65 Brook Street,

**Muswellbrook**

9.30am to 3.00pm

**Please Contact:** Monica Brown: [jeffmonica.brown@bigpond.com](mailto:jeffmonica.brown@bigpond.com), Tel: 0409 913 453  
or Colleen Kelly: [kellymbrook@westnet.com.au](mailto:kellymbrook@westnet.com.au), Tel: 0402 242 273

**Morning Tea will be provided**

**Please bring a plate to share for Lunch**

There is no charge for the retreat but a donation on the day to help pay the costs of transport for the team from Sydney on the day would be appreciated.



## **DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE**

160 Hensons Road, Somersby, SYDNEY-NSW 2250.  
Tel: 02 4372 1598, 04 6848 6782, email [drcsydney@gmail.com](mailto:drcsydney@gmail.com)  
• [www.divineretreatcentre.org.au](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org.au) • [www.facebook.com/divineretreatcentresomersby](https://www.facebook.com/divineretreatcentresomersby)

## **BECOME AN SRE VOLUNTEER**

Did you know that some 50% of Catholic children are in state schools? Have you ever thought of spreading the good news of the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ with children? Have you ever thought about becoming a Special Religious Educator?

This could be an opportunity for you to meet new people, discover new friendships and build quality relationships whilst mastering skills and confidence in Catechetics.

You can make a difference in the schools within your parish! For people of faith, knowing you are participating in Christ's call to share the Good News to all is a great source of joy and meaning.

If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please contact the Pastoral Ministries team on 4979 1200.



## **Parish Christmas Party**

December 14, 2022

6pm for 6.30pm dinner

In the Ron Adams Room at Muswellbrook Workers Club

All welcome. Pay for your own meals and drinks.

RSVP Monica Brown on ph. or txt 0409913453

by December 12



## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 28 November	Tuesday 29 November	Wednesday 30 November	Thursday 1 December	Friday 2 December	Saturday 3 November	Sunday 4 December
		<i>St Andrew, apostle</i>			<i>St Francis Xavier</i>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
9.00am <b>Private, Personal Prayer and Adoration</b> St James Muswellbrook		9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	11.30am <b>Adoration and Benediction</b>  12.05pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  5.30pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  6.30pm <b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>	10.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

## Ministers Roster Sunday 4 December 2022

1st Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm <b>Saturday Muswellbrook</b>	Can you fill this position?	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	J. Toohey R. Wood			C. Hayes
	Can you fill this position?						
8am <b>Sunday Aberdeen</b>	T. Hobbs	J. Lonergan	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am <b>Sunday Muswellbrook</b>	M. Kempis	Can you fill this position?	K. Mason	Can you fill this position?			C. O'Brien
	Can you fill this position?						
<b>Counters</b>	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, 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, Helen Tumbers, Hilda Carey, and Lucrecia Casia

**Recently Deceased:** Shirley Diffley, Margaret Parkinson, and John Bermingham

**Anniversary:** Colin Carter and Mary McCarthy

**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.

### 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."**