



# 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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Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

Website:

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

Our Lord JESUS CHRIST, KING of the UNIVERSE – YEAR C

20 November 2022

### First Reading 2 Sm 5:1-3

A reading from the second book of Samuel

*They anointed David king of Israel.*

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look' they said 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel."' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 121:1-5. R. see v.2

(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. Jerusalem is built as a city  
strongly compact.  
It is there that the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord. (R.)
3. 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.)

### Second Reading Col 1:12-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

*He has taken us into the kingdom of his beloved Son.*

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light. Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God  
and the first-born of all creation,  
for in him were created

all things in heaven and on earth:  
everything visible and everything invisible,  
Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers –  
all things were created through him and for him.  
Before anything was created, he existed,  
and he holds all things in unity.  
Now the Church is his body,  
he is its head.  
As he is the Beginning,  
he was first to be born from the dead,  
so that he should be first in every way;  
because God wanted all perfection  
to be found in him  
and all things to be reconciled through him and for  
him,  
everything in heaven and everything on earth,  
when he made peace  
by his death on the cross.

### Gospel Acclamation Mk 11:9. 10

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our  
Father;

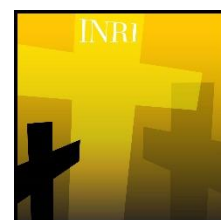
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel Lk 23:35-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according Luke

*Lord remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and



us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

**REFLECTION by Fr Victor**

The Gospel Reading on the last Sunday of the Liturgical year, may sound, somewhat incongruous to this joyous celebration of the feast of Christ the King. Nevertheless, the image of Jesus on the cross accurately captures the true nature of his Kingship. It is radically different from the kings of the world. Christ's Kingship is eternal, universal, and perfect. It is the Kingship, not of force or fear but of the power of love. Let us then turn toward the Crucified Lord! He is our true King! In our Christian life, the cross is the best for us. Let us not turn away from it. It is the throne of our King where he offered his life for our sakes; his crown is made of thorns; his garment is the blood flowing from the many wounds all over his body; his sceptre are the nails that pierced his hands and feet.

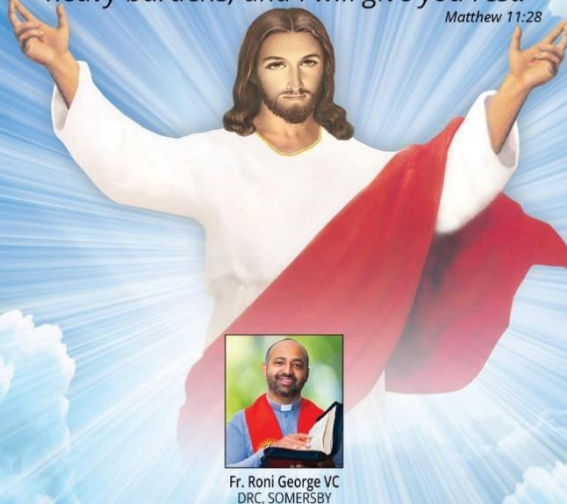
Again, at the end of the Liturgical Year, it is most fitting that the Church resounds the prayer invocation of the repentant criminal, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" and listens trustingly to the crucified King's compassionate assurance of salvation, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise".

Finally, the Liturgical Year ends awaiting the return of Christ, when evil will be defeated, and Jesus will begin his reign as the King of kings. Christ's kingdom begins in the community of people who live in a new and different way because of God's presence in their lives. Celebrating Christ's kingship gives us an opportunity to proclaim the good news that his second coming brings joy rather than fear, hope rather than despair. We are cleansed and renewed and brought closer to our God. The feast of Christ the king is both a challenge and an opportunity for us to become aware of our call to truly become both subjects and partners of Jesus our King. Long live the King! May his Kingdom come! And this is the Good News of today.

**Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!**

*"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, Tel: 0409 913 453  
 or **Colleen Kelly:** 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  
 • www.divineretreatcentre.org.au • www.facebook.com/divineretreatcentersomersby

**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.



**Next Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> November Season of Advent begins!**

This year the St James Parish (Aberdeen & Muswellbrook) is sponsoring a Christmas Appeal to support the works of St Vincent de Paul in our area.

We have invited Carol O'Brien, Manager of Muswellbrook Chapter to address all Masses in the Parish this weekend to launch the appeal and give us insight to the good works carried out locally at this time when many in our area are struggling to make ends meet.

Please welcome Carol and give generously to St V de P! Envelopes will be 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.



## **KEEGAN/WOODS FAMILY GROUP**

Our Christmas gathering will be at the **Everest Restaurant RSL Club on Monday 21**



**November. Meet at 12 noon. Wear Christmas attire.** Let's celebrate and give thanks for the blessings of 2022. Arrangements for our celebration have changed. Meal will be selected from the menu. Names to Margaret or Robyn by Saturday 19th November.

## **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**

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.

## **THANKSGIVING MASS**

The Newcastle Catholic Charismatic community invites everyone to join in celebrations for a Thanksgiving Mass on Friday 2 December from 7pm at Holy Cross Catholic Church Glendale. We also want to especially invite all priests and deacons in the Diocese as a way of giving you a special thanks for your service and sacrifice as you have shepherded the community through challenging times. Please contact Wayne Caruana on 0466 631 384 or on [wayne.caruana@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:wayne.caruana@mn.catholic.edu.au) for more details and RSVP.

## **JOB OPPORTUNITY: CASUAL RECEPTIONIST**

The Sisters of Mercy at Tighes Hill are looking for a Relief Casual Receptionist/Secretary for a short assignment from 8 December 2022 to 6 January 2023. The days will be each Thursday and Friday from 9am to 5pm. Previous experience and an understanding of Catholic organisation is preferred. If you are interested in this assignment, please call Sister Margaret on 4964 6400.

## **WHITE RIBBON HUNTER NETWORKING BREAKFAST**

On Friday 25 November you're invited to join White Ribbon Hunter and CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning for the White Ribbon Breakfast. Guest speaker Devon Cuimara will discuss the role men play in preventing violence against women. The event starts at 7am, tickets are \$45. Visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/white-ribbon-hunter-networking-breakfast-tickets-424853316707](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/white-ribbon-hunter-networking-breakfast-tickets-424853316707) for more information or to book.

## **BISHOP'S AWARD 2022**

Nominations are now open for the 2022 Bishop's Award! The award aims to recognise the good works of students and young people across our Diocese who were actively involved in their parish communities. Applications close on 2 December 2022. Find out more: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/youth/bishops-award](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/youth/bishops-award)

## **ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES; MAKE A DIFFERENCE OVERSEAS.**



Do you require professional renewal, or are you seeking a retirement challenge? Communities abroad are asking for qualified and experienced Australians able to mentor their people in education, health, administration, trades, agriculture and more. Imagine yourself re-engaging your vocational passion in Africa, Asia or the Pacific. Since 1961 Palms Australia has been recruiting Australians able to offer mentoring that will allow overseas counterparts opportunities otherwise unattainable. Sharing your skills will strengthen the capacity of workers overseas to serve their communities for generations to come, long after you return home. Communities in American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Zambia are seeking to fill a variety of roles. Enquire about those roles via [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au) or by calling 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

## **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.

## **WAITING WITH PURPOSE**

Waiting with Purpose is a resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of people – family, friends, colleagues, ministry teams – to reflect mystagogically on the Advent gospels. This is an opportunity to encounter Christ where we are, to pay attention to what Christ reveals in the scripture and the living tradition of our faith, to share this, to connect it to our life now and to be changed by it. Mystagogical Reflection deepens our capacity to live from Christ. To access the resource, go to: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year) For those wanting to connect via Zoom during Advent we will be hosting Waiting with Purpose Advent Reflection each Monday at 10am. To register go to: [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/waiting-with-purpose-advent-2022-tickets-443044436837](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/waiting-with-purpose-advent-2022-tickets-443044436837)

## **PRAYING THE GOSPELS**

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message. Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm. Zoom link: <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/61036103033> Password: pray

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 21 November	Tuesday 22 November	Wednesday 23 November	Thursday 24 November	Friday 25 November	Saturday 26 November	Sunday 27 November
<i>The Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<i>St Cecilia</i>		<i>Sts Andrew Dung-Lac and companions</i>			<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A</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	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 27th November 2022

4th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm <b>Saturday Muswellbrook</b>	M. Flanagan T. Furlong	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am <b>Sunday Aberdeen</b>	S. Milton	C. Wykes	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am <b>Sunday Muswellbrook</b>	A. Jacob Can you fill this position?	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			C. O'Brien
<b>Counters</b>	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, Helen Tumbers, Hilda Carey, and Lucrezia Casia

**Recently Deceased:** Shirley Diffley and Margaret Parkinson

**Anniversary:** Bishop Bill Wright

**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.

### 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."**