



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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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A

4 December 2022

Second Candle

Priest: The second week of Advent we remember the gift of Peace we have in Christ. Peace is a gift that we must be prepared for and must work for. God gives us the gift of peace when we turn to him working together in faith.

Priest: Through John the Baptist and all the other prophets, God asks us to prepare the way of the Lord, whom the prophet Isaiah calls “the Prince of Peace.” As we light this candle today we look with hope for the day that Christ’s peace will reign in our hearts, in our homes, in our communities, and in our world. As we light this candle, we are reminded to work for that peace of Christ to come and take root in us.

(Someone lights the first two purple candles on the Advent Wreath.)

All: Let us pray - Loving God, we thank you for the gift of peace you give us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord’s coming by working for Christ’s peace to take root in our family. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.



First Reading **Is 11:1-10**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,

a scion thrusts from his roots:

on him the spirit of the Lord rests,

a spirit of wisdom and insight,

a spirit of counsel and power,

a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)

He does not judge by appearances,

he gives no verdict on hearsay,

but judges the wretched with integrity,

and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,

his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,

faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb,

the panther lies down with the kid,

calf and lion cub feed together

with a little boy to lead them.

The cow and the bear make friends,

their young lie down together.

The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole;

into the viper's lair

the young child puts his hand.

They do no hurt, no harm,

on all my holy mountain,

for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord

as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse

shall stand as a signal to the peoples.

It will be sought out by the nations

and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. **(R.)**
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

In our gospel on Sunday of Advent, John the Baptist comes as a messenger in the wilderness not just with any news, but with 'good news' for all to hear. He comes to us with a message of hope. John tells us that someone (Jesus) is coming and that he is far more powerful than John. The first reading from the Prophet Isaiah describes the arrival of this person; 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power.' John reminds us today as he did in the desert that God has not forgotten us or the promise that was made to generations before us; Jesus the Messiah is coming. Jesus is coming not just into our world, but into our homes, lives, and our very hearts. This most definitely is 'good news.'

John came with a new message in a new place. Normally people went to the temple or the synagogue to hear the word of God. But John is in neither of these places. He appeared and spoke in the wilderness of the desert and as the gospel tells us all the people of Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him. Through John, God is proclaiming a new message in a new way. As the Prophet Isaiah reminds us, Yahweh says, 'look I am doing something new, it is already happening. Can you not see it? I will make a path in the wilderness.'

What is this new thing God is doing? Through the words and actions of Jesus, God breaks into our world and lives in a new, life-giving, and personal way. Our God is God of surprises and God's ways are not our ways.

John asks us to 'prepare a way for the Lord and make his paths straight.' What does it mean for us today? When the people heard John speak, 'they were baptised and confessed their sins.' An important aspect of our Advent journey and preparation is acknowledging that there are parts of our lives that need straightening!

Perhaps one way we could prepare away for the Lord during these weeks of Advent is to consider celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation. As we focus our attention on so many other things during the lead up to Christmas, let us not forget to prepare a place in our hearts to welcome Jesus.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

Draw a picture of John the Baptist
from his description in the bible.

He wore clothes made from camel's hair.
He wore a leather strap around his waist.
He ate locusts and wild honey.

ADVENT BOOKLETS AND COLUMBAN CALENDARS

We have a small supply of Advent reflection booklets and Columban calendars left over if anyone would like to purchase. Please contact the Parish office.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration tomorrow evening has been cancelled. Sorry for any inconvenience.

KEEGAN/WOOD FAMILY GROUP GATHERING

In light of the Parish Christmas get-together, we have decided not to go ahead with our gathering scheduled for Monday 12 December. We hope to see you all at the Parish Christmas gathering.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Christmas offering envelopes are available in the Church foyers. This contribution supplements the First collection which supports the Priests in our Diocese. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

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 to see the range and order online.

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



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.



St James Parish (Aberdeen & Muswellbrook) Christmas Appeal – WEEK 2

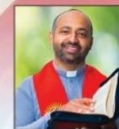
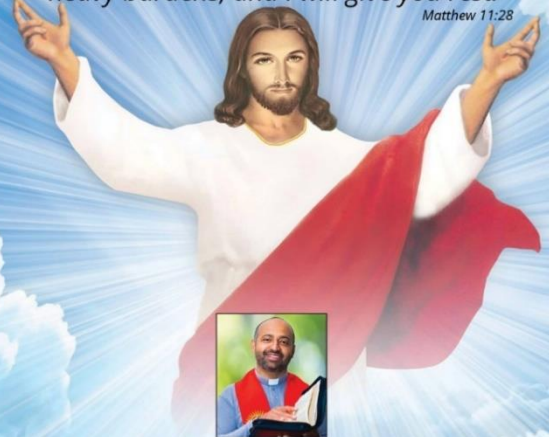
WEEK 2 – Please remember you can still donate to our Christmas Appeal. Envelopes should still be available on the pews at all Masses this weekend.

Cash can be placed in the envelopes and put on the Collection plate this week but as many no longer carry cash can you please consider taking an envelope home and using the bank details on the envelope to direct deposit to the Muswellbrook Chapter account.
Thanks Everyone!

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.

"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

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 5 December	Tuesday 6 December	Wednesday 7 December	Thursday 8 December	Friday 9 December	Saturday 10 November	Sunday 11 December
		<i>St Ambrose</i>	<i>The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>			THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer and Adoration St James Muswellbrook		9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	11.30am Adoration and Benediction 12.05pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass CANCELLED 9.30am End of Year Mass St James Primary School All welcome!	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook 5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	5.00pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Ministers Roster Sunday 11 December 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?			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	Can you fill this position?			C. O'Brien
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, Pauline Coleman, David Curran, Pat Hogan, Abbie Sweeper, Kym Mason, Mollie Hofman, Melanie Hoch, Kim Goodwin, Anne Hugo, John Presland, Margaret Blake, Rodrigo Canete, Fay Biddle, Helen Tumbers, Hilda Carey, Lucrecia Casia, and Anne Rawson.

Baptism: Oliver Auld

Recently Deceased: John Bermingham

Anniversary: Dulcie McTaggart

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

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."