



# 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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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A

11 December 2022

### Third Candle

**Priest:** The third week of Advent we remember the gift of Joy we have in Christ. We remember the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her - a child who would save and deliver all people. Joy is the gift we all receive from the unconditional love Christ has for us.

**Priest:** God wants us all to have joy. The angel who announced to the shepherds that Jesus had been born told them: "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people -for to you is born this day, in the City of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." As we light this candle, we remember that Christ came to bring true and everlasting joy to all people. As we light this candle, we are reminded that Christ came to save all people.

*(Someone lights the first two purple candles and the pink candle on the Advent Wreath.)*

**All:** Let us pray - Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by helping us see that Christ came for every person we meet wherever we go. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

**All:** Amen.



### First Reading **Is 35:1-6, 10**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*God himself will come and save us.*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,  
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,  
steady all trembling knees  
and say to all faint hearts,

'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,

the retribution of God;

he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

the ears of the deaf unsealed,

then the lame shall leap like a deer

and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,

for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,

everlasting joy on their faces;

joy and gladness will go with them

and sorrow and lament be ended.

### Responsorial Psalm **Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4**

**(R.)** Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

### Second Reading **Jas 5:7-10**

A reading from the letter of St James

*You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart,

because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation** Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

**Gospel** Mt 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

**REFLECTION by Fr Victor**

One of the most well-known Christmas carols is 'Joy to world.' The words to this carol were written by Isaac Watts in 1719. At Christmas it will be sung all over the world. The third Sunday of Advent is called 'Gaudete' Sunday which means 'Joy' or 'Rejoice'. The opening antiphon for this Sunday's liturgy asks us to Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near. We rejoice because of the signs associated with the coming of the Messiah. The gospel of this Sunday tells of the signs that are associated with the coming of the saviour of humanity. The disciples of John the Baptist were told to report back to their master that the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor. The words of Jesus Christ to the disciples of John the Baptist re-echo the prophecy of Isaiah featured in the first reading of this Sunday. We are filled with joyful anticipation of the feast of Nativity. Our joy lies in the experience of wholeness that Christmas brings. The deprived of our community will express similar joy if our generosity is extended to them this Christmas. The birth of the saviour in our hearts will motivate actions that will bring joy to the hearts of our neighbours. The

miraculous joy of Christmas is founded on God's generosity. God gave his only son Jesus Christ to be born for the salvation of humanity. Similarly, our generosity, motivated by the birth of the messiah in our heart, will bring joy to the hearts of the lonely and abandoned, the poor and homeless, the sad, confused, and undecided etc. Generosity brings joy to the hearts of the poor.

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

**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



**COMMUNITY**  
**Christmas Carols**  
**5.00PM • SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER 2022**  
IN THE GROUNDS OF ST ALBAN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MUSWELLBROOK  
Corner of Brook Street and Hunter Terrace  
**PLENTY OF STREET PARKING AVAILABLE**  
BYO CHAIRS/PICNIC RUGS, PICNIC FOOD & BEVERAGES  
OR PURCHASE FOOD & DRINKS ON SITE:  
BARISTA COFFEE CART WITH HOT & COLD DRINKS  
MUSWELLBROOK ROTARY CLUB BBQ  
Music and Singing provided by the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music  
**CAROL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR A GOLD COIN DONATION**  
*Everyone is Welcome!*

Anglican Church Muswellbrook | Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music | ENQUIRIES 02 6541 2718 atalbansoffice@bigpond.com

**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.

### **RSVP'S FOR PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY**

RSVP's for Christmas dinner need to be sent to [jeffmonica.brown@bigpond.com](mailto:jeffmonica.brown@bigpond.com) by TUESDAY MORNING to allow for setting up the Ron Adams Room for our Dinner. Or phone Colleen Kelly 0402 242 273

### **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.

### **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.

### **ST JAMES PARISH SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

Please join our community for a day of spiritual renewal led by Fr Roni George and the team from The Divine Retreat Centre, Somersby.

**Date:** Saturday 17th December

**Time:** 9.30am – 3.00pm

**Venue:** St James Church, 65 Brook Street, Muswellbrook  
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 with the cost of transport for Fr Roni and his team would be greatly appreciated.

Contacts: Monica Brown:

[jeffmonica.brown@bigpond.com](mailto:jeffmonica.brown@bigpond.com),

Ph: 0409 913 453 or Colleen Kelly:

[kellymbrook@westnet.com.au](mailto:kellymbrook@westnet.com.au),

Ph: 0402 242 273

### **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AROUND THE DIOCESE**

Are you thinking about attending mass this Christmas? If you're not sure where to go, we've put together a list of services happening across the Diocese! You'll find it here: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/parishes/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/parishes/)



### **St James Parish (Aberdeen & Muswellbrook) Christmas Appeal – WEEK 3**

**WEEK 3 – Last week to collect your envelopes** for 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.*

### **SAVE THE DATE: TORONTO MEN'S WEEKEND**

A MenALIVE Men's Weekend will be held at the St Joseph's Toronto Parish on the weekend of 25 and 26 March 2023. The weekend is suitable for all men from 18 years of age and provides an opportunity for attendees to explore what makes them feel fully alive.

More information including how to register will be provided closer to the date. For more information on MenALIVE, visit: [www.menalive.org.au](http://www.menalive.org.au)

## Christmas Mass Times

### Christmas Eve

5pm St James Church  
Brook Street, Muswellbrook

8pm St Thomas Church  
Segenhoe Street, Aberdeen

### Christmas Day

9am St James Church  
Brook Street, Muswellbrook



## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 12 December	Tuesday 13 December	Wednesday 14 December	Thursday 15 December	Friday 16 December	Saturday 17 December	Sunday 18 December
	<i>St Lucy</i>	<i>St John of the Cross</i>				<b>FOURTH 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	9.30am <b>Spiritual Retreat</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

## Minister Roster Sunday 18th December 2022

3rd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm <b>Saturday Muswellbrook</b>	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?			C. Hayes
8am <b>Sunday Aberdeen</b>	K. Mason	M. Edwards	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am <b>Sunday Muswellbrook</b>	C. O'Brien Can you fill this position?	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			K. Goodwin
<b>Counters</b>	Therese Bristow and Esther Molloy						

### 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:** Lincoln MacDonald and Alby Baber

**Recently Deceased:**

**Anniversary:**

**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."