



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 IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

15 January 2023

First Reading **Is 49:3. 5-6**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified';

I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength.

And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him,

to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel;

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9.**

(R.) Here I am, Lord;

I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. **(R.)**
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. **(R.)**
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. **(R.)**
4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord.

Second Reading **1 Cor 1:1-3**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation **Jn 1:14. 12**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Jn 1:29-34**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'



REFLECTION by Fr Victor

This Sunday is the second Sunday of Ordinary Time in the Church's liturgical calendar, Year A. Our readings this Sunday point to the fact that Jesus is God's servant and calls us to serve others as He did. Jesus is also the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

In the First Reading the word servant comes up three times. First, God identifies Israel as "my servant...in whom I shall be glorified". Second, He shows that the choice of His servant was made from conception: "he who formed me in the womb to be his servant". And third, God moves from merely identifying Israel as a servant to identifying him as the light of the nations to bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth: "It is not enough for you to be my servant...I will make you the light of the nation's so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

This servant is a messianic figure referring to Jesus and what an all-out servant he was! When you are in serious trouble, not many come out to serve you. Jesus is the humble Servant of God. He took upon Him the form of a servant (Phil 2:7), the Servant of God. He became a willing, humble, laborious, and faithful Servant for us. He even became a servant who accepted to be sacrificed for our sake.

The Gospel presents Jesus as the sacrificial lamb who takes away the sins of the World. "Sacrificial lamb" refers to an innocent person who is made to suffer for other people, who may themselves be innocent or guilty of some offence and whose suffering saves others from having to suffer themselves. Jesus was innocent, having done no wrong and spoken no deceit, as testified in 1 Peter 2:22. Yet He came to take away the sins of the world.

Christ, the Servant of God is also the Lamb who takes away our Sins. He has poured His mercy into the world. Pope Francis reminds us in Misericordia et Misera (Mercy with Misery) num. 2 "Mercy is this concrete action of love that, by forgiving, transforms and changes our lives. In this way, the divine mystery of mercy is made manifest. God is merciful (cf. Ex 34:6); His mercy lasts forever (cf. Ps 136). From generation to generation, it embraces all those who trust in him, and it changes them, by bestowing a share in His very life". Till today we are invited to benefit from God's mercy. Jesus is "the Lamb of God who takes away the Sins of the World".

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

Living the Gospel

Pointing the way

John the Baptist fills the role of 'pointing the way' to Jesus. In our own lives we also have the ability to 'point the way' towards Jesus. It doesn't need to be as blatant as John's 'Look, there he is!' However, the way we choose to live our life can point the way just as powerfully as John did. More often than not, our actions speak much more powerfully than any words we might utter. Consistently treating others with respect, maintaining prayer as a central part of life and working for justice in the world will make an impression on others and point the way to Jesus.

Prayer for the Appointment of our new Bishop

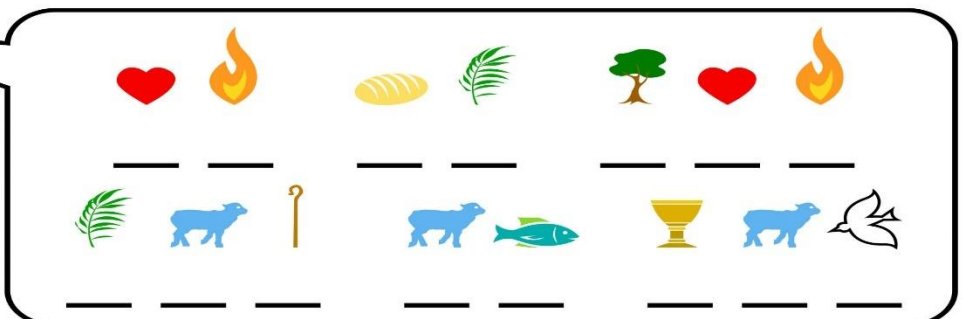
Shepherding God you reveal your way of unfailing love in the image of the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost, shows compassion, knows and is known by the sheep and lays down his life for them.

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.

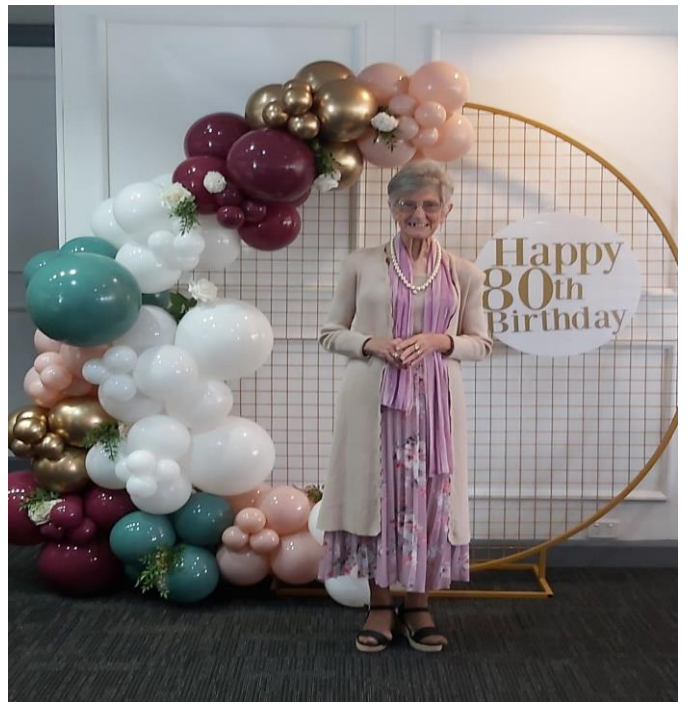


Use the code key to decipher what John the Baptist knew about Jesus



Happy 80th Birthday, Kay!!

Thank you for your selfless service in various capacities in the Parish of St James over the past 50 years.



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish office will be closed from Friday 13 January 2.30pm and will reopen Tuesday 31 January 9.30am. Please call Fr Victor's mobile for urgent matters: 0484 903 427

CONCRETER

URGENTLY seeking the services of a Concreter to extend the path from the Convent to the Car Park. Currently some people are unable to attend functions due to the uneven ground and trip hazards. If you are able to help please call: Colleen Kelly 0402 242 273.

RCIA CANDIDATE

We are happy to announce that Sarah Price would like to become a Catholic. Please keep Sarah in your prayers.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FUND

For more than 60 years, the Catholic Development Fund has given back to our Diocese. It might have been by financing the construction of schools, supporting CatholicCare's Community Programs or funding parish initiatives – their contribution to our region can be measured in many ways. And while the team continues to do their incredible work, they have a new sense of excitement for the future after launching a new name for the organisation – Catholic Community Fund (CCF). The new title encapsulates their work and dedication to the growth of our Diocese. "We have changed our name because we believe Catholic Community Fund reflects what our Fund stands for, what we represent and our focus for the future," Fund and Treasury Manager Jenny Chung said. "Many people may not know that over the last 10 years alone, the Fund has provided or given back over \$43 million to support the charitable works of the Diocese and its agencies. "The community is at the heart of everything we do, so it made sense for us to represent this in our name." To learn more about the Catholic Community Fund visit: <https://myccf.com.au/> Collect your free 2023 magnetic calendar compliments of CCF available in the Church foyers.

A STATEMENT FROM OUR DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR ABOUT THE DEATH OF CARDINAL GEORGE PELL

We pray for the repose of the soul of Cardinal Pell, comfort for his family and for all of those who loved him.

FR GREG BARKER

PUBLISHED JANUARY 11, 2023

It is with sadness that I have been informed today of the death of Cardinal George Pell. The Cardinal had undergone hip surgery in Rome and died due to heart complications post-surgery.

Cardinal Pell was Rector of Corpus Christi College, Melbourne in 1985 -1987, the Seminary in which I trained. Always controversial George was a decisive leader and I remember him as a good leader of the Seminary.

He was elected to the College of Cardinals in 2003 and appointed as head of the Vatican's Treasurer, a position he hoped to bring reform.

Many will be saddened by his passing. We will respect the grief of those he leaves behind, his sister and brother and their families and his many friends both here and overseas.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Cardinal Pell, comfort for his family and for all of those who loved him.

To read a statement from the Australia Catholic Bishops Conference visit:

<https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Statement-on-the-Death-of-Cardinal-George-Pell>



Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 16 January	Tuesday 17 January	Wednesday 18 January	Thursday 19 January	Friday 20 January	Saturday 21 January	Sunday 22 January
						3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer and Adoration St James Muswellbrook		9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>NO MASS</u>	5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook 5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	5.30pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 22nd January 2023

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	Can you fill this position?			C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	S. Milton	C. Wykes	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, Margaret Blake, Rodrigo Canete, Fay Biddle, Helen Tumbers, Hilda Carey, Lucrecia Casia, Anne Rawson, Enrique Tuazon, Victoria Diputado, Vinitia Fernando, and Maree Bible.

Baptism:

Recently Deceased: Cardinal George Pell, Pope Benedict XVI and Baltazar Punzalan

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

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."