



# 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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PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

5 February 2023

### **First Reading**      **Is 58:7-10**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Your light will shine like the dawn.*

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,  
and shelter the homeless poor,  
clothe the man you see to be naked  
and turn not from your own kin.  
Then will your light shine like the dawn  
and your wound be quickly healed over.  
Your integrity will go before you  
and the glory of the Lord behind you.  
Cry, and the Lord will answer;  
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'  
If you do away with the yoke,  
the clenched fist, the wicked word,  
if you give your bread to the hungry,  
and relief to the oppressed,  
your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your shadows become like noon.

### **Responsorial Psalm**    **Ps 111:4-9. R. v.4**

**(R.)** A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

1. He is a light in the darkness for the upright:  
he is generous, merciful and just.  
The good man takes pity and lends,  
he conducts his affairs with honour. **(R.)**
2. The just man will never waver:  
he will be remembered for ever.  
He has no fear of evil news;  
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. **(R.)**
3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear;  
open-handed, he gives to the poor;  
his justice stands firm for ever.  
His head will be raised in glory. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading**      **1 Cor 2:1-5**

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

*I came to you to proclaim Christ crucified.*

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as

the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

### **Gospel Acclamation**    **Jn 8:12**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
the man who follows me  
will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

### **Gospel**      **Mt 5:13-16**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*You are the light of the world.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'



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## REFLECTION by Fr Victor

In the gospel on the fifth Sunday in ordinary time, our Lord gives us two familiar and equally enigmatic metaphors which speak to us about Christian discipleship and Christian witnessing. He tells us that we are the “salt of the earth,” and “light of the world”.

What do salt and light tell us about Christian discipleship and Christian witness?

Salt and light are very useful for our day today life. They are there not for themselves but for others. Salt that remains in the cellar without being put in food remains useless. It will only end up being denatured, losing even its saltiness. Similarly, what’s light if it remains enclosed and doesn’t brighten its surroundings?

That says a lot about our way of being Christian in the world. Jesus does not call Christians to confine themselves in the ghetto of their religious likeness. For Christians holiness does not consist in setting themselves apart but in their involvement in creating a world that is more human and fraternal. It calls for rolling up our sleeves and get to work.

Our mission is to help those who have lost the taste of living to recover the meaning of life. We are called to be a beacon of hope for those who may be stumbling in the dark of hopelessness. Surely, there are people who have lost points of reference in their lives. We can offer them a helping hand. In this way we can be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

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

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## CONNECT. REFLECT. PROTECT. THIS SAFER INTERNET DAY

Safer Internet Day (Tuesday 7 February) is a global event that brings together communities, families, schools and organisations from more than 200 countries to help create safer online spaces.

This worldwide initiative is celebrating 20 years in 2023, making it a great time to reflect as well as look forward.

Technology has evolved dramatically in the past two decades and the benefits have been huge. These developments have also exposed us to many risks with real-world impacts, making online safety awareness even more important.

That's why the Office of Safeguarding is working with the Office of the eSafety Commissioner to call on people across our Diocese to **Connect. Reflect. Protect.**

**Connect** safely and with purpose – by keeping apps and devices secure and using social media in positive ways.

**Reflect** before we act – by taking a moment to consider how what we do and say online may affect others.

**Protect** ourselves and others by taking action – by telling family, friends or colleagues about eSafety and how we can help.

By doing these simple things, we can work towards making every day a Safer Internet Day.

For more information about Safer Internet Day, including information on how you can get involved visit:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/whats-on/safer-internet-day-2023>

### Why it’s important to **Connect. Reflect. Protect.** this Safer Internet Day



**Almost half**

of children were treated in a hurtful or nasty way online in the past year<sup>1</sup>

**26%**

of children have treated someone in a hurtful or nasty way online in the past year<sup>2</sup>

**1 in 10**

children have been the target of hate speech online<sup>3</sup>

**30%**

of teens have been contacted by a stranger online<sup>4</sup>

**47%**

of 14 to 17 year olds have received a sexual message from someone in the past year<sup>5</sup>

Many parents of 14 to 17 year olds aren’t aware their children have viewed potentially

**harmful content**<sup>6</sup>

**67%**

of adults have had a negative experience online in the past year<sup>7</sup>

**30%**

of LGBTIQ+ Australians experience online hate speech — double the national average<sup>8</sup>

**32%**

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples\* also experience hate speech — double the national average<sup>9</sup>

## **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.

## **KEEGAN/WOOD FAMILY GROUP**

Next Outing: Monday 20 February at 12pm.

At the Muswellbrook Chinese Restaurant, 55 Sydney St. Phone: 6543 2636.

Cost of lunch \$13 -\$15.

**IMPORTANT:** Please give names to Margaret (6543 1238) or Robyn (6542 5426) by **Saturday 18 February**.



## **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Please come and join us to spend time with the Lord on Saturday evening after Vigil Mass until 9pm in St James Church. All are most welcome!

## **WORD OF GOD SUNDAY**

The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February – February 5 in 2023 (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A). Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to “the celebration, study and dissemination” of the Word of God. Visit [www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodsunday](http://www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodsunday) to access resources to help commemorate the day and for suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings.

## **LENTEN ‘TRIUMPH’ BOOKLETS**

We have a small supply of Wollongong’s ‘Triumph’ Lenten Program booklets. Please contact the Parish office if you would like to purchase one. Booklets are \$7.00 each.

**Please note:** Those who are already in a Parish Lenten group will be receiving their booklets from their group leader. Please wait for them to distribute. Others who are not in an assigned group and would like one for personal reflection may purchase one from the office.



## **AUSTRALIA DAY AT ST JAMES**

Australia Day and The Republic Day of India which happens to fall on the same day of Australia day, was celebrated at St James Church, Muswellbrook, with Adoration, Benediction and Mass. Prayers were offered for religious and political leaders of both nations.



## **POPE FRANCIS NAMES NEW BISHOP OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE**

The Holy Father has appointed Bishop Michael Kennedy, currently the Bishop of Armidale, as the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Pope Francis made the official announcement at noon in Rome (10pm local time) on Thursday 2 February 2023.

Noting the appointment follows the untimely death of Bishop Bill Wright in November 2021, Bishop Kennedy said, “I willingly and heartily accept this new appointment, knowing that like all new endeavours, it will hold both joys and challenges. To be the chief pastor leading a Diocese in worship, teaching, evangelisation, and governance is an awesome privilege and responsibility.”

“I am now looking forward to meeting and getting to know the priests and the people of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.”

Bishop Kennedy was born in Wagga Wagga and educated in Catholic schools. He gained a Diploma in Education from the Sydney Catholic College of Education and taught for several years at Xavier Catholic College in Albury, before commencing seminary studies at Vianney College in rural New South Wales. In 1994 he continued his academic studies in Rome, attaining a Licentiate in Sacred Theology and a Diploma in Mariology.

Ordained a priest in 1999, Bishop Kennedy has held a variety of positions across New South Wales, most recently serving as the Bishop of Armidale, a position he has held since 2011. Bishop Kennedy has also previously served in roles across education and as the Director of Vocations, reflecting his commitment to his motto ‘Euntes Docete’ (*Go out and teach*).

In announcing this appointment, it is noted Fr Greg Barker stays on in the position as the Diocesan Administrator until Bishop Kennedy is installed in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Fr Greg said, “I know you will join with me in congratulating Bishop Michael and, that with much joy we will welcome him to the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle as our Bishop.”

“Bishop Michael is keen to meet us as soon as possible. His plan is to be in the Diocese next week for a short visit to meet, in the first instance, with the priests and then to meet those who are from our leadership and governance.”

“It has been my pleasure to serve this Diocese as the Diocesan Administrator for the last 14 months. I look forward to my next chapter and our journey together with Bishop Michael.” A date for the Oath of Office, Profession of Faith and Taking of Possession has not yet been set.

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 6 February	Tuesday 7 February	Wednesday 8 February	Thursday 9 February	Friday 10 February	Saturday 11 February	Sunday 12 January
						<b>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</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	11.00am <b>Funeral Mass of Fay Biddle</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
	<b>MASS CANCELLED</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

## Minister Roster Sunday 12th February 2023

2nd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm <b>Saturday Muswellbrook</b>	J. O'Brien J. Paul	F. O'Brien	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am <b>Sunday Aberdeen</b>	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	K. Mason				M. Hamilton
10am <b>Sunday Muswellbrook</b>	G. Griffin B. Powell	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			K. Goodwin
<b>Counters</b>	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, Margaret Blake, Rodrigo Canete, Helen Tumbers, Hilda Carey, Lucrecia Casia, Anne Rawson, Enrique Tuazon, Victoria Diputado, Vinitia Fernando, Maree Bible, and Kirsty Munn.

**Baptism:** Austin Hedges and Nelli Wooden

**Recently Deceased:** June McLennan, John Presland, and Fay Biddle.

**Anniversary:** Perce Goodwin, Joan Bowen, Thomas Molloy, Sr Laurel Dolahenty, Joan Powell, and Alma Dolahenty

**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."**