



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

Parish Priest: Fr Victor Babu Doss

Email: fvickybabu@gmail.com

Phone: 0484 903 427 or 6543 1167

St James Primary School

Principal: Mr Aaron Moon

Office: 6543 3094

Email: admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au

Parish Administration: Mrs Adele Skardon

Email: muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Website: muswellbrookparish.org.au

PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

12 February 2023

First Reading Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.

He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.

Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.

For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.

His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.

He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!

They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. (R.)

2. You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.

May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. (R.)

3. Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.

Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law. (R.)

4. Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.

Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 2:6-10

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

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached
maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of

the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The

hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is
the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory

before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the
masters of this age have ever known, or they would not

have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture
calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has

heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has
prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us
through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of

everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel Acclamation See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the

kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 5:17-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have
come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not

to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly,
till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little

stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is
achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of

the least of these commandments and teaches others to
do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of

heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them
will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes

no deeper than that of the
scribes and Pharisees, you will
never get into the kingdom of
heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said
to our ancestors: You must not
kill; and if anyone does kill he



must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

On the 6th Sunday of the year, we continue to reflect on the sermon on the mount. The Sermon on the Mount of Jesus aims to deepen our faith by purifying the motivations of our hearts. For instance, worshipping God is not only a matter of bringing offerings to the altar. Rather, it is more of being totally pleasing in the eyes of God. So, "if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Mt 5:23-24). He knows that anger leads to murder, and "whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment" (Mt 5:22). We come to Mass every Sunday, but it could be that some of us still hold grudges and vengeful feelings against somebody.

Harbouring ill feelings in our hearts is not only harmful to our spiritual and physical health, but it also renders our prayers and worship ineffective and useless. Furthermore, following Jesus is not just a matter of avoiding sin, but also calls us to do something more radical, by uprooting sin

from our hearts. This is the symbolic meaning of his shocking words about cutting one's hand and taking out one's eye. Just as love starts from the heart, so also sin. It is, therefore, very important that we always purify our hearts and minds and give no chance for sin to come in and take root in our lives. In this regard, the practice of daily examination of conscience and a more frequent trip to sacramental confession are very helpful. Truly, we need the help of Jesus. He is our spiritual vacuum cleaner. He wants to cleanse us thoroughly, to purify the inside of our hearts and every bit of our being so that we will become worthy of our dignity as children of God, truly pleasing in the eyes of our heavenly Father.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

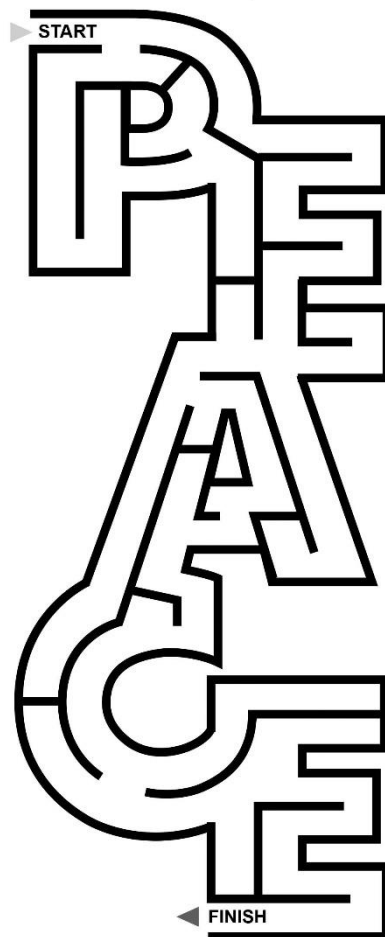


Have you thought?

Teaching examples

Jesus cites several examples of the Law to demonstrate the way in which he has come to fulfil those teachings, rather than to abolish them. He reinterprets the teachings on killing, adultery, divorce and oath-breaking. When there is an attitude of observing the very literal meaning of law, there is a tendency to look for loopholes wherever possible. This attitude had become the norm in Jesus' day. His reinterpretations are designed to challenge people to think about the law in a broader context and to take the law into their heart rather than looking for ways to get around it.

Find your way through the maze



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.

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**.



'SHROVE TUESDAY' COMBINED SERVICE

This year the combined Church service will be held at **St Thomas'** in Aberdeen, followed by a meal at the Commercial Hotel.

Time: 5.00pm Combined Service at St Thomas'
5.30pm Burning of the palms at St Thomas'
6.00pm (approx) Meal at the Commercial Hotel

If you would like to attend dinner at the Commercial Hotel, please RSVP by **Sunday, 20th February to:**

Carol Bowen: 6543 7113/ 0438 812 898

Janet Parsons: 6543 7470/ 0408 437 457

Wendy Armstrong: 6543 1418

OR: Write your name on the sheet provided in the foyer of St Thomas' Church.

All Welcome!!

MIDDLE EAST EMERGENCY APPEAL

Caritas Turkey and other Caritas agencies are responding to a series of powerful earthquakes in southeast Turkey and Syria, where thousands of lives have been lost already and the death toll increases by the hour.

Caritas Turkey are on the ground coordinating with local authorities and other organisations to see how they can best assist. Your generous support can help provide emergency relief to help families recover and rebuild from disaster. Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to the Middle East by donating to our Middle East Emergency Appeal.

31ST WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

February 11 is World Day of the Sick, an observation started by Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses and for the caregivers. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes. People around the world take the time to pray for the sick and for those who work very hard to alleviate the sufferings of the sick on this day.

This year's theme is inspired by the parable of the good Samaritan in the Gospel of Luke: *'Take care of him: compassion is a synodal exercise of healing.'*

To read Pope Francis' World Day of the Sick message visit: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick.index.html#messages>

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 our 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. Rose McAllister: Manager Formation & Education 0414 962 922

Nicki Graham: Officer Formation & Education 0417 773 444

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR 2023/2024

CHRISTIAN FORMATION COURSE ARE NOW OPEN

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church? The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a learning experience that allows participants to explore the foundational elements of the Catholic Faith Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy.

- The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units
 - All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation
- By engaging in the course, it is hoped participants will:
- become more confident in understanding the Catholic faith
 - grow in their capacity to reflect on their life's journey realise that Christian faith is nurtured in community
 - be affirmed in their gifts for participating in the life of the faith community
 - grow in awareness of what it means to be a responsive member of the faith community

Commencing on Tuesday 2 May 2023, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol.

To find out more about the Christian Formation Course, visit: www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course/

2023 LENTEN REFLECTION: FINDING LIGHT WITHIN THE DARKNESS

Pastoral Ministries has prepared a Lenten resource for our diocese, *Finding Light within the Darkness*. Every Lent there is a fresh invitation to retreat from the noise and busyness of daily life. To listen with our heart, to contemplate our humanness so we can actively focus on humanity. We are invited to turn to God dwelling within us and consider how we can find light in the darkness and how we can be light to others. This resource provides opportunities for prayer, faith-sharing, and outreach in our local community. To access this resource, go to: www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/lent-2023/

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 13 February	Tuesday 14 February	Wednesday 15 February	Thursday 16 February	Friday 17 February	Saturday 18 February	Sunday 19 January
						7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
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 St James Muswellbrook 10.30am Mass St James Primary School	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 19th February 2023

3rd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	K. Mason	M. Edwards	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	C. O'Brien Can you fill this position?	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			
Counters	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, Margaret Blake, Rodrigo Canete, Helen Tumbers, Hilda Carey, Lucrecia Casia, Anne Rawson, Enrique Tuazon, Victoria Diputado, Vinitia Fernando, Maree Bible, Kirsty Munn, and Kellie Shaw.

Baptism:

Recently Deceased: June McLennan and Fay Biddle.

Anniversary: Eric Tanner

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."