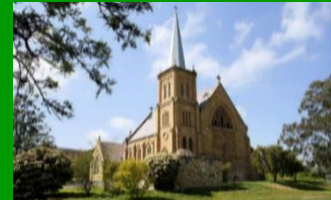




ST JAMES' PARISH

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: frvickybabu@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

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

19 February 2023

First Reading Lv 19:1-2. 17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 3:16-23

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

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple. Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why?

Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Jn 2:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 5:38-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'



REFLECTION by Fr Victor

In these Sundays of Ordinary Time, coming after Christmas Time, we can hear so clearly the radical call of following Jesus Christ. The gospel readings teach us the 'New Order', the 'New Way', the 'Way of Christ', the 'Christian Way'.

In our gospel this Sunday, Jesus puts before us the question and the dilemma of what we should and how we are to behave when someone says or does something to us that is so painful. Do we return one painful word or action with the same anger? Jesus knows and quotes the Jewish Law. It was allowed to take 'an eye for an eye and tooth for tooth.'

However, as with last week's gospel, Jesus wants his disciples and us to go further. As his followers and disciples today and following his own example, Jesus asks us not to respond with anger, aggression, or violence when a wrong is done to or against us. We are called not to let another person's behaviour towards us to lash out in violence, verbally or in action. Challenging and difficult as this is, we are to take as our model, the life, and actions of Jesus himself. This is the cost of being a Christian.

This may sound naive, simplistic, unrealistic, and even foolish. And while it can be done, it is by no means easy. There are three examples that we can look to and learn from. Mahatma Gandhi responded to unjust laws and oppression with passive non-resistance. He stood up and spoke out against the wrongs he saw, but he did not respond with violence. Maximilian Kolbe, who gave his life in the concentration camp for that of another man, refused to hate those who killed him. And finally, Martin Luther King, following Gandhi's example also protested against racism peacefully. By following the example of Jesus, who did not return violence with violence, these three great figures also had their life brutally taken from them. Yet their message and example live on today for us. We may not be asked to give our lives for the gospel, but we are asked to offer each other the hand of peace, reconciliation, and forgiveness. Somebody has to have the courage to take the first step to stop the violence.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

**HISTORICAL
CONTEXT**

Let him have your cloak as well

This one is a little stranger to our modern cultural norms. In Jesus' time, it was not shameful or embarrassing for a person to be naked but it was shameful for the person who caused them to be naked. By law, if you were unable to repay a debt, the person to whom you owed money could literally take your clothes as payment of the debt. What Jesus says is, if someone demands your tunic as payment of a debt, give them everything you're wearing to shame them for making you naked to collect their debt.

**Complete the Text Maze:
"Forgive others and God will forgive you."**

START **F**

F	E	P	I	T	Y	H	A
O	E	N	E	M	I	E	S
R	G	I	S	R	M	K	P
S	E	V	P	I	L	B	R
R	O	V	R	S	A	N	A
E	T	H	E	U	G	D	I
W	Q	R	Y	D	O	B	S
A	I	E	I	W	C	I	E
R	O	R	L	O	T	L	Y
D	G	T	L	F	G	I	N
S	R	L	O	O	R	V	I
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L	A	S	X	V	K	Y	O
J	U	D	G	E	E	Z	U



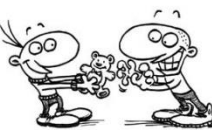

*CAN YOU FIND THE SIX HIDDEN WORDS FROM THIS WEEKS GOSPEL READING? FINISH

**HISTORICAL
CONTEXT**

Walk two miles

Roman soldiers were allowed by their own military laws to require any person to carry the soldier's pack along the road from one milestone marker to another. That is, they could order a man to walk one mile with their pack. If they made someone carry their pack for more than one mile, the soldier himself was subject to discipline and punishment. Jesus says, 'If anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him.' Like turning the other cheek, it is turning the tables on the one who would oppress you and bringing shame upon them.

How can we love our enemies? Tick the best answers in the boxes below.

 <p>If someone slaps you on the cheek, do you...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A: Slap them back</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B: Forgive them, or...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C: Call the police</p>	 <p>If someone teases you and calls you names, do you...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A: Throw a tantrum</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B: Find nice things to say about them, or...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C: Ask God to punish them</p>	 <p>If someone wants to share your favorite toy, do you...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A: Tell them to go away</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B: Let them play with it, but only for 5 minutes, or...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C: Let them have it for as long as they like</p>	 <p>If someone is mean to you...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A: Ask God to bless them</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B: Tell everyone how bad that person is, or...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C: Get even with them</p>
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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.

'SHROVE TUESDAY' SERVICE

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

Time: 5.00pm Service at St Thomas'
5.30pm Burning of the palms at St Mark's Hall
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!!*

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.



An opportunity to farewell our members **Mary-Ellen and David Leedham**, soon to retire to Brisbane, and to mark **Carol Garlands' 80th Birthday**.

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

MISSION: CHANGE THEIR LIVES ... AND YOURS.

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents. Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa, and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know:

RING: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567.

www.palms.org.au



Palms Australia



MENALIVE WEEKEND FOR MEN

Real men don't do church? Wrong, but living out your faith can be pretty tough, and most of us need help. If you are a bloke over 18, consider this: On the 25 and 26 March, experienced leaders from the menALIVE team will be running a menALIVE weekend in Toronto for Catholic men. Come along and be inspired, encouraged, and rediscover God's purpose for your life. Details and registration forms are available in the church foyer. The cost is \$50 per person, with lunch and dinner on Saturday provided. Enquiries, phone Phil McWilliam (0408 88 0408), Col Gwynne (0409 047 644), or Toronto Parish Office (4959 2777).

HISTORY, THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF SYNODALITY - FREE ONLINE COURSE OFFERED BY BOSTON COLLEGE

Through an online platform you will have access to a series of pre-recorded videos during the months of February and March 2023.

"Synodality is not the chapter of a treatise on ecclesiology, and even less a fad, a slogan or the new term to be used or manipulated in our meetings. No! Synodality expresses the nature of the Church, its form, its style, its mission."
Pope Francis

To register go to:

<https://formaciononline.bc.edu/en/home/>

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.



PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY 18TH AND 19TH FEBRUARY



Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **For All Future Generations.**

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2023 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come.

As St Pope John Paul II said, **"The future starts today, not tomorrow."**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes available from your Parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 20 February	Tuesday 21 February	Wednesday 22 February	Thursday 23 February	Friday 24 February	Saturday 25 February	Sunday 26 February
	SHROVE TUESDAY	ASH WEDNESDAY				FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer and Adoration St James Muswellbrook		9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook 10.30am Liturgy St James Primary School	11.30am Adoration and Benediction 12.05pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook 5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	5.00pm Service St Thomas Aberdeen	5.30pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen				8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 26th February 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?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	S. Milton	K. Mason	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	Can you fill this position? 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, Margaret Blake, Rodrigo Canete, Helen Tumbers, Hilda Carey, Lucrecia Casia, Anne Rawson, Enrique Tuazon, Vinitia Fernando, Maree Bible, Kirsty Munn, and Kellie Shaw.

Baptism: Cooper Bishop

Recently Deceased: Beryl Smith, Luke Shea, and Victoria Diputado

Anniversary: Myra and Joe Jeans

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."