



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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Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

5 March 2023

First Reading Gen 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. (R.)
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

Second Reading 2 Tm 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Mt 17:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'



REFLECTION by Fr Victor

This Sunday is the second Sunday of Lent. Through his transfiguration, Christ reveals to us the glory that would be ours in future if we remain faithful and triumph.

Through this, he encourages us to be strong and courageous in our journey this season of Lent.

In our gospel this Sunday, Jesus takes Peter, James and John away from the noise and business of the marketplace and takes them up a mountain. This is not unusual in itself. We know from the gospels that Jesus himself often went to the mountain top to pray on his own. While they are on the mountain, Jesus was Transfigured.

As we continue our Lenten journey and Jesus continues his own journey towards Jerusalem, he knows what he is facing. He will be betrayed, denied, condemned, and crucified. Perhaps he feels and senses the disciples' fear and anxiety and so wants to reassure them. So, he gives them a glimpse of the shape of things to come; he is revealed to them in all his glory.

Maybe, this brief glimpse of Jesus in all his glory is also meant for us today. Perhaps like the disciples, we too experience fear, doubt and even a lack of faith. Perhaps we too need to be encouraged and strengthened by Jesus, especially as we continue our journey through Lent. We too need know that our prayer, fasting and sharing with the poor is not an end in itself or that it is all done in vain. We are heading towards the resurrection and the new life of Easter, but we have a distance to go yet. But the experience of Jesus transformed offers each of us a taste of what lies ahead of us. If we share in the suffering and passion of Jesus, we will also share in his resurrection. As St. Paul tells us in his letter to the Romans, if we have become one with him in his dying as he did, in the same way, we shall be one with him by being raised to life as he was. (Rom. 6.5)

This is the hope in which we are asked to have faith as we make our way through Lent. When we are tempted to give up and give in, let us look to Jesus changed and transformed. May we see in him the future that is

promised to us, not only at Easter but in the fullness of God's Kingdom.

As we continue to make our way through Lent, let us do what the voice of God says to each of us; 'This is my Son, Listen to him.' So, let us always listen to him.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

Living the gospel

'Listen to him!'

God's voice from the cloud claims Jesus as his Son, the Chosen One and then goes on to instruct those present – and we, the readers – to 'Listen to him!' For the disciples, this was a message not to get carried away with their own ideas about the Messiah but to listen to what Jesus was saying about the suffering he must endure and to what he was saying about true discipleship. Jesus tells us that to be a follower of his involves sacrifice, hardship and often unpopularity. It is this message we must listen to as much as the promise of salvation.

By using the words below, can you work out what the voice from the cloud said to the apostles?

SON AM LISTEN TO SAYS
BELOVED HIM IS PLEASED

THIS __ MY

_____ ,

AND I _____

WITH _____

__ WHAT HE _____

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis:

- Fast from hurting words say kind words.*
- Fast from sadness be filled with gratitude.*
- Fast from anger be filled with patience.*
- Fast from pessimism be filled with hope.*
- Fast from worries trust in God.*
- Fast from complaints contemplate simplicity.*
- Fast from bitterness fill your heart with joy.*
- Fast from pressures be prayerful.*
- Fast from bitterness fill your heart with joy.*
- Fast from selfishness be compassionate to others.*
- Fast from grudges be reconciled.*
- Fast from words be silent so you can listen.*



PRESBYTERY WORKS

Between Tuesday and Friday this week, there will be contractors working on the Presbytery to repair and replace damaged gutters. Due to the high-risk nature of this work, we ask that Parishioners do not visit the Presbytery or Parish Office during the week. Please call Fr Victor or the Parish Office if needed. Thank you.



THE CONVENT!

The painting is done, the new blinds and carpets are in and we are looking forward to parish groups utilising our newly refreshed venue. Available for meetings, cuppas, etc. Please contact the office to book your event and dates. We may need to review what events will be suitable at this stage. We do not have a stove/kitchen but if there is interest in utilising events needing a kitchen, we may progress to install a large oven and update the old kitchen in the near future.

BISHOP MICHAEL KENNEDY INSTALLATION

Our new Bishop will be installed on Friday 17th March in the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newcastle. Please keep Bishop Kennedy in your prayers.

"I assure the people of both dioceses (Armidale and Maitland-Newcastle) of my prayers for them and ask your prayers in return," he said. "Please pray that I be a true shepherd in the image of Jesus Christ, and that all together we will live the joy of the Gospel united in faith and love." - Bishop Kennedy

WAY OF THE CROSS – SUNDAY 26 MARCH

This year, following over 55 years of local tradition, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle will once again celebrate the Ecumenical Way of the Cross on the grounds of Toronto Parish, Kilaben Bay on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Picking up the theme from this year's World Youth Day (WYD) – "Mary arose and went with haste" – we will join with Bishop Michael Kennedy as we experience the Way of the Cross through the eyes of Mary. We will journey with creative retellings of Mary's story as shared by women from across our Diocese and fellow Christian Churches. This prayerful experience will be supported by our school communities and local WYD pilgrims.

People will start gathering at St Joseph's Toronto from 2pm at the Community Centre. The event will start at 3pm, afternoon tea will be provided.

DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE – MARCH 2023 PROGRAM

The Divine Retreat Centre will host several retreats in March, they include:

- 1st Friday Healing Service, Chatswood – 3 March
- One Day Malayalam Retreat – 4 March
- Lenten Growth Retreat – 17 to 19 March
- Spiritual Retreat at St Patrick's Wallsend – 20 March
- Spiritual Retreat at St Luke's Revesby – 21 March
- One Day Pilgrimage – 26 March

For more information, visit www.divineretreatcentre.org



SECOND SUNDAY OF
LENT
4TH AND 5TH MARCH



Tereesa is a Gamilaroi woman from Western Sydney who struggled with homelessness while raising her four children. Through the Baabayn Young Mums and Bubs Group, Tereesa was able to reconnect with her culture and create a better future for her children.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

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.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

aMeN caMiNo

The aMeN CaMiNo offers an opportunity to become a local pilgrim in your own diocese, to encounter God through nature, to escape from the busyness of life and to connect with others. During this one-hundred-kilometre experience you will walk with others over a variety of terrain, exploring bush, beach, lake, and mountains. As the days pass and you experience self-emptying, an awakening of the senses is heightened, allowing you to fully immerse yourself in the wonder and awe of God's creation. There will be many moments to reflect, pray, journal and be still, all within our very own Maitland-Newcastle Diocese. For more information, visit:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/amen-camino/

Information brochures are available in the Church foyers.

PRAYING THE GOSPELS

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home.

God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message. Join us each Wednesday 5.00 - 5.45pm.

Zoom link: <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/68191395109>

Password: 316071

For more information contact:

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 6 March	Tuesday 7 March	Wednesday 8 March	Thursday 9 March	Friday 10 March	Saturday 11 March	Sunday 12 March
						THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
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 5.30pm Stations of the Cross St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook 5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	4.30pm Stations of the Cross 5.00pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 12th March 2023

2nd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	J. O'Brien J. Paul	F. O'Brien	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	K. Mason				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	G. Griffin B. Powell	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			K. Goodwin
Counters	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, 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.

Recently Deceased: John Walmsley and Mollie Hofman.

Anniversary: Terry Toohey

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."