



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au)

Parish Administration: Mrs Adele Skardon

Email: [muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

Website: [muswellbrookparish.org.au](http://muswellbrookparish.org.au)

PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A**

**26 March 2023**

### **First Reading** Ez 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

### **Responsorial Psalm** Ps 129. R. v.7

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading. (R.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you. (R.)
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak.  
(Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity. (R.)

### **Second Reading** Rom 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to

him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

### **Gospel Acclamation** See Jn 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

### **Gospel** Jn 11:1-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day?

A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase



Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,  
and whoever lives and believes in me  
will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me,  
but I speak  
for the sake of all these who stand round me,  
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

## REFLECTION by Fr Victor

We are entering into the fifth week of the Lent. The Church reminds us that what gives life to our mortal body is the Spirit of God. The same Spirit will resurrect Christ on Easter day. He is the one that makes a difference in the life of every child of God. Hence, as we prepare for the Paschal Feast, we must be docile to the Spirit of God that gives us life.

The gospel of this Sunday presents us with Jesus' demonstration of power. By raising Lazarus from death, Christ proved that he is really, the resurrection and life. He could not have achieved this without the power of the Holy Spirit. The regeneration, resurrection and restoration were possible through the power of the Holy Spirit. All we need to do is humble ourselves and allow him to use us. There are a few lessons we must learn from today's gospel. First, this miracle is an expression of love. We were told that when the message came to Jesus: "The man you love is ill." Jesus went because of the love he had for Lazarus and his family. Just as their joy was his joy, also, their sorrow became his sorrow. So, "Jesus wept!" Second, our faith is very important in the working of any miracle for us. Christ asked Mary and Martha: "I am the resurrection and the life...Do you believe in this...?" So, to resurrect Lazarus, the love of Christ and the faith of his sisters brought down the power of the Holy Spirit. Hence, the third lesson is that with Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit everything is Possible. This is because Jesus has authority over life and death.

Finally, Jesus is ever willing to help us no matter what it will cost him. It does not matter how long we have been spiritually dead or exiled. He knows us, loves, and calls us by our names as he called, "Lazarus, Come out!" If we hear and obey his voice, then he will restore life to our weak and mortal bodies through the power of the Holy Spirit.

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



FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF LENT  
25<sup>TH</sup> - 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH



Project Compassion brings together Australian schools, parishes, and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of four inspiring people whose lives have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Teresa, Priscilla and Thu. Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations. **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.**

Project Compassion donation boxes are available from your Parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.



Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

### **ST JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MASS**

This Saturday 25 March at 5.30pm in St James Church, students will participate in the Mass and provide beautiful music to complement the Liturgy. Let's make our Parish a welcoming place for these young people and join with them in celebrating the Mass with as many parishioners as possible! **Please come along and enjoy a sausage sizzle with St Joseph's students at the Convent and grounds after Mass.**



### **UPPER HUNTER TEACHER'S MASS**

The opening Mass of the school year for all teachers in the Upper Hunter will be held in St Thomas' Church on Tuesday 28 March at 5pm. Invitation is extended to all parishioners to attend.

### **LENTEN RECONCILIATION**

Reconciliation will be held at St James Church on Thursday 30 March at 7pm.

### **CHRISM MASS**

This year's Chrism Mass will take place in Holy Week on Tuesday 4 April at 7.00pm in the Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West. This is a first opportunity for all who wish to gather, to celebrate with our new Bishop, Michael Kennedy at Mass and a light supper. All are welcome. Those with a specific role in the Mass please arrive early as communicated. Read more at <https://tinyurl.com/chrism2023>

### **EARTH HOUR**

This Saturday 25 March from 8.30pm, you're invited to switch off and take some #TimeOutForNature during Earth Hour. Whether it's 60 seconds, 60 minutes or beyond the hour, let your churches be a leader and commit to taking time to reflect on the wonder nature provides us this Earth Hour.

### **ENFLAMED BY LOVE CONFERENCE**



Newcastle Catholic Charismatic Renewal invites all people to the Enflamed by Love Conference, a series of workshops on evangelisation through faith, love, prayer, and discernment run by the Missionaries of God's Love (MGL) Sisters on Saturday 22/4/23 and Sunday 23/4/23 9am-3:30am at the Holy Cross Church Hall, 30 Oakland St Glendale. Cost: donation. Morning and Afternoon tea will be provided. BYO Lunch Please contact Wayne Caruana on 0466 631 394 or Mary-Anne De Luca 0409 077 373 for further information.

### **LOUD SKY**

Loud Sky is a powerful collaborative art exhibition featuring five Hunter-based artists who have created new works responding to stories of survival. These stories were uncovered through the Royal Commission into institutional response to child sexual abuse in the Hunter region in 2016. The exhibition opens at The Lock Up in Newcastle on Friday 31 March and runs until 21 May 2023. More information is available at <https://thelockup.org.au/loud-sky/>

### **PRINT AND PRAY- APRIL 27- CORCORAN CENTRE-MORPETH**

Join us during this Easter period for a day of prayer and printing. Participants will make their own Gelatine printing plate and experience the joys of using this form of monoprinting while engaging in prayerful reflection throughout the day. The printing process is extremely simple, versatile and addictive. It is equally well suited for professional or novice printmakers, craft enthusiasts, professional artists, and children. You will need to bring an apron, morning tea and lunch. Cost: \$25 for materials - participants will take home their own Gelatine printing plate. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/print-and-pray-april-2023-tickets-595247941617>

 <b>HOLY WEEK &amp; EASTER MASSES</b> 			
DATE	SERVICE	VENUE	TIME
SATURDAY 1 April	PALM SUNDAY VIGIL MASS	St James Church, Muswellbrook	5.30pm
SUNDAY 2 April	PALM SUNDAY	St Thomas Church, Aberdeen	8.00am
		St James Church, Muswellbrook	10.00am
THURSDAY 6 April	THE LORD'S SUPPER	St James Church, Muswellbrook	6.00pm
FRIDAY 7 April	STATIONS OF THE CROSS	St Thomas Church, Aberdeen	9.00am
		St James Church, Muswellbrook	11.00am
	THE LORD'S PASSION	St James Church, Muswellbrook	3.00pm
SATURDAY 8 April	EASTER VIGIL	St James Church, Muswellbrook	7.00pm
		<i>Followed by supper in the Convent</i>	
SUNDAY 9 April	EASTER SUNDAY	St Thomas Church, Aberdeen	8.00am
		St James Church, Muswellbrook	10.00am

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 27 March	Tuesday 28 March	Wednesday 29 March	Thursday 30 March	Friday 31 March	Saturday 1 April	Sunday 2 April
						<b>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</b>
<u>9.00am</u> <b>Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration</b> St James Muswellbrook		<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>11.30am</u> <b>Adoration and Benediction</b>  <u>12.05pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  <u>7.00pm</u> <b>Reconciliation</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  <u>5.30pm</u> <b>Stations of the Cross</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  <u>5.30pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  <u>6.30pm</u> <b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>	<u>10.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	<u>4.30pm</u> <b>Stations of the Cross</b>  <u>5.00pm</u> <b>Upper Hunter Teacher's Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

### Minister Roster Sunday 2nd April 2023

1st Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
<b>5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook</b>	Can you fill this position?	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	J. Toohey R. Wood			C. Hayes
	Can you fill this position?						
<b>8am Sunday Aberdeen</b>	T. Hobbs	J. Lonergan	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
<b>10am Sunday Muswellbrook</b>	M. Kempis	Can you fill this position?	K. Mason	Can you fill this position?			K. Goodwin
	Can you fill this position?						
<b>Counters</b>	Kay and Brian Mason						

#### 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, Lucrezia Casia, Anne Rawson, Enrique Tuazon, Vinitia Fernando, Maree Bible, Kirsty Munn, Kellie Shaw, and Vidhya Vijay.

**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)

#### 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/)

Muswellbrook Parish Promoter of Safeguarding: Jane Jacobs. Mobile: 0428 164 730 Email: [jane.jacobs@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jane.jacobs@mn.catholic.edu.au)

**"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."**