



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

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – YEAR A

2 April 2023

First Reading **Is 50:4-7**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2**

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' **(R.)**
2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. **(R.)**
3. They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! **(R.)**
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' **(R.)**

Second Reading **Phil 2:6-11**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are,
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation **Phil 2:8-9**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death
dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel of the Palms Blessing **21: 1-11**

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When they drew near to Jerusalem
and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them,
'Go into the village opposite you,
and immediately you will find an ass tied,
and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.
If anyone says anything to you, you shall say,
"The Lord has need of them,"

and he will send them immediately'.
 This took place to fulfil
 what was spoken by the prophet, saying,
 'Tell the daughter of Zion,
 Behold, your king is coming to you,
 humble and mounted on an ass,
 and on a colt, the foal of an ass'.
 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;
 they brought the ass and the colt,
 and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon.
 Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road,
 and others cut branches from the trees
 and spread them on the road.
 And the crowds that went before him
 and that followed him shouted,
 'Hosanna to the Son of David!
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
 Hosanna in the highest!'
¹And when he entered Jerusalem
 all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?'
 And the crowds said,
 "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

With the Palm Sunday, we are entering into Holy Week. A lot is going to happen this week. Jesus is going to do and say things that will annoy and anger the Jewish and Roman leaders. He is going to do and say a lot of things that will confuse and challenge his closest friends, followers and even his family.
 By the end of the week, he will share a meal with his apostles. He will offer himself to them through bread and wine. He will take the place of a slave and do the unthinkable; he will wash the feet of those who are at table with him. After this meal his closest friends will turn their backs on him. Judas will betray him, and Peter will deny him thrice. A few hours later Pilate will condemn him to death. The soldiers will beat him and make him carry his own cross and he will die on the cross. Finally, he will rise again from his death.
 I think the danger is that because we read and hear this story every year, we can become used to it and a bit overly familiar with it and what it means to us. The invitation and question that Passion or Palm Sunday puts before us is where am I as Jesus is going through all of this? At the beginning of Lent Jesus said to each of us 'Take up your cross and follow me.' Am I still walking with him or am I hiding safely at the back of the crowd keeping my distance? Where am I as Jesus carries his cross?
 Mary, the mother of Jesus is the great disciple of Holy Week. She followed him and stayed with him every step of the way. She has the courage, strength, and faith to stand with the other women as he died when all the others deserted him. As we begin our own Journey through the dramatic events of Holy Week can we stand with Mary? Can we be inspired by her and so draw courage and strength from her so we too can stay with Jesus?
 The journey of Holy Week does not end nor stop at Calvary but leads us to the empty tomb. There is no resurrection without crucifixion. We are not asked to stay

at the cross, but we are asked to experience the cross. Then and only then can we share in and experience the joy and new life that God freely offers each of us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
 Perhaps Holy Week offers each of us the opportunity to hear that invitation that Jesus gave us at the beginning of Lent; 'Take up your cross and follow me.' This is an invitation that Jesus gives to each of us. However, each of us have to make our own response. What's yours?

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

WORDSEARCH

Try to find these words:



- branches
- clothes
- crowd
- disciples
- donkey
- excited
- followed
- Hosanna
- Jerusalem
- road
- shouted
- village

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



**SIXTH SUNDAY
 OF LENT
 (PALM SUNDAY)
 1ST – 2ND APRIL**



Every day, more than 200 million children miss out on school, around 690 million people go hungry, and 2.2 billion people cannot access clean drinking water. With your generosity, Caritas Australia has been able to help millions of vulnerable people around the world, through the Project Compassion appeal.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023 to help continue empowering vulnerable communities around the world to lift themselves and their communities out of poverty.

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, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



HOLY LAND COLLECTION – GOOD FRIDAY



The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 7th. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing. Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Whilst life in the Holy Land is returning to some new sense of normality (as is the rest of the world) the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world. In 2022 Australian Catholics were extremely generous and we were able to send to the Holy Land \$1.4 million [compared to \$1,126,098 (2021) \$406,023 (2020) and \$1.3 million (2019)]. The reality for the Holy Land mission is that they will continue to face challenges financial and spiritual and so we again ask Catholics around the world again to be as generous as possible, with their financial support as well as the spiritual support. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday. Thank you.

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!

EASTER VIGIL SUPPER/CUPPA

Supper/cuppa will be held in the Convent after the Easter Vigil Mass. Please bring a plate to share.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023

If you would like your child to take part in the Sacramental Celebration of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation this year, please email their details to muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au or give details to Fr Victor.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

The Divine Mercy Novena commences on Good Friday and finishes on the Sunday after Easter, known as Divine Mercy Sunday. This is a blessed opportunity to reap the extraordinary graces this powerful Novena obtains. Commence the Novena on Good Friday. Each day there is a prayer to be said, until Divine Mercy Sunday. If you can also attend confession during this time, there are more graces to be obtained. The Novena finishes on Divine Mercy Sunday, you are also encouraged to go to Holy Communion on this day. Come to Jesus, trust in His Divine Mercy whilst also praying for our world and your family.



More information can be found on this website:

www.thedivinemercy.org

A booklet for the Novena will be available at the back of the church on Palm Sunday.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS

Don't forget to turn your clocks **back 1 hour** on Saturday night 1 April.



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>

SCHOOL OPEN DAYS

If you're interested in enrolling your child at a Catholic School for 2024, you should attend one of our open days. Visit www.mn.catholic.edu.au/schools/open-days/ for more information.

 HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASSES 			
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 3 April	Tuesday 4 April	Wednesday 5 April	Thursday 6 April	Friday 7 April	Saturday 8 April	Sunday 9 April
MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK	TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK	WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK	THE LORD'S SUPPER	PASSION OF THE LORD	HOLY SATURDAY	SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION
				<i>Divine Mercy Novena Day 1</i>	<i>Divine Mercy Novena Day 2</i>	<i>Divine Mercy Novena Day 3</i>
<u>9.00am</u> Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration St James Muswellbrook	<u>7.00pm</u> Chrism Mass Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle	<u>9.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>11.00am</u> Stations of the Cross St James Muswellbrook <u>3.00pm</u> Liturgy St James Muswellbrook	<u>7.00pm</u> Easter Vigil Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>10.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook
				<u>9.00am</u> Stations of the Cross St Thomas Aberdeen		<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 9th April 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, Kellie Shaw, and Vidhya Vijay.

Recently Deceased: Anna George

Anniversary: Adam Tanner and Bill Hobbs

Baptism: Tullie Gurtman

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/

Muswellbrook Parish Promoter of Safeguarding: Jane Jacobs. Mobile: 0428 164 730 Email: 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."