



# 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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PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A

16 April 2023

### First Reading **Acts 2:42-47**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

### Responsorial Psalm **Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1**

**(R.)** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
his love is everlasting.

- Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.'  
Let the sons of Aaron say:  
'His love has no end.'  
Let those who fear the Lord say:  
'His love has no end.' **(R.)**
- I was thrust, thrust down and falling  
but the Lord was my helper.  
The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he was my saviour.  
There are shouts of joy and victory  
in the tents of the just. **(R.)**
- The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.  
This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

### Second Reading **1 Pt 1:3-9**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

### Gospel Acclamation **Jn 20:29**

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!  
Alleluia!

### Gospel **Jn 20:19-31**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,



so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,

they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book.

These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

### **REFLECTION by Fr Victor**

This Sunday we celebrate the Divine Mercy of God. The gospel tells the story of how the apostles encountered the risen Lord. The risen lord appeared to his apostles bearing in his body the wounds of the crucifixion. He commissioned them through the power of the Holy Spirit to forgive sins. He said to them: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' The forgiveness of sin is the merit of the passion and death of Jesus. It becomes available to us through the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Asking for forgiveness from God is not difficult if we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us to the father. Although we did not witness the crucifixion like the apostles, it does not deprive us of the grace to be forgiven. Jesus said to Thomas: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Jesus wants us to look at the cross and be convinced that our sins can be forgiven when we ask for forgiveness. The confessional is a place of grace where we can find joy. The apostles were filled with joy when they encountered the Lord in their hiding place with the doors locked. They received the mercy of God and in turn are made ministers of God's mercy.

God's mercy is powerful enough to unlock the closed doors of our hearts. Only forgiveness can remove from us the fear, guilt, pride, and emptiness that is associated with sin. How long are you going to live with guilt of your sin and pretend it doesn't affect you. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to motivate us towards the Divine Mercy of God.

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



## Have you thought?

### Those who have not seen

Jesus says to Thomas, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' That's us! Jesus' words in the gospel are meant for people like us living today. We are not in the position of Thomas and the other disciples who were able to see the risen Lord face to face and so convince themselves of his rising. The gospel recognises that to believe in the resurrection without that physical, personal encounter with Jesus is to be celebrated even more. Happy are we - Blessed are we - who have not seen and yet still believe!

There are many things present in our lives that we don't see with our eyes. Circle the words which represent things we do not see.

BIBLE

CRUCIFIX

LOVE

FORGIVENESS

JOY

PEACE

ALTAR

FLOWERS

BREATH

CANDLE

CHALICE

HOPE

### Complete the Text maze:

"You are my Lord and my God!"

START

E D R C A S F O **Y**

S A O L F W A U A

D N S Y M E R E R

M A O L

Y G D O

K O H T

C **D** F P

FINISH



## 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](mailto:muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au) or give details to Fr Victor.

## UKRAINIAN EASTER SERVICE

The Upper Hunter Ukraine community will be celebrating their Easter Service in St James Church this Sunday 16 April at 3pm. All are most welcome to attend!

## KEEGAN/WOODS FAMILY GROUP

Lunch at the **Denman Hotel 17 April** 1-5 Ogilvie St. 6547 2207. Meet at **12 noon**. Arrange transport if needed. Perhaps an opportunity for some 'window-shopping'. Lunch Menu \$15. Please give names to Robyn or Margaret by **Friday 14 April**.



## EASTER BLESSING OF PARISH HOMES

In many parts of the world, it has been tradition for a Priest to take the Holy water blessed at the Easter Vigil and bless people's homes. If anyone would like their home to be blessed, please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Victor to arrange a suitable time. The blessing ceremony generally takes 10 minutes.

## DIVINE MERCY GROUP

Will be meeting this **Divine Mercy Sunday 16 April**.

**Time:** 2.30pm

**Venue:** The Convent

All welcome. Join us for prayer and fellowship.

## 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/](http://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/schools/open-days/) for more information.

## THANK YOU!

**Caritas Australia** would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2023. If you still have your Project Compassion boxes at home, please bring them back next week or visit [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) and donate online. **Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.**



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

## WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023 SPECIAL COLLECTION

In August, Ruby Brown is representing the Muswellbrook parish for the World Youth Day in Lisbon. The parish contributes \$2500 toward the WYD expenses for Ruby. We will be holding a special collection on the weekends of the **22/23 and 29/30 April**, and we kindly ask parishioners to contribute generously towards Ruby's participation in the WYD. If you would like to donate electronically, please contact the parish office for details.



Ruby will be of immense help in forming the youth in our Parish.

Let us pray for the success of the World Youth Day.

## PARISH WORKER REPORTING GUIDE LIVE VERSION

### CHECKLIST FOR MANAGING SAFEGUARDING REPORTS IN PARISHES

1.	Does a parishioner face an urgent, time critical, life threatening situation or other emergency? <input type="checkbox"/> YES Contact Emergency Services immediately P. 000 For more information go to the website: <a href="#">Information on 000</a> <input type="checkbox"/> NO <b>Now go to stage no. 2.</b>
2.	Has there been suspected or alleged criminal conduct against a child? <input type="checkbox"/> YES Contact the Office of Safeguarding [OoSG] P. 4979 1390 (Business hours, Mon. to Fri.) or use the <a href="#">OoSG online reporting form</a> OR Contact the NSW Police Assistance Line P. 131 444, then contact OoSG <input type="checkbox"/> NO / DON'T KNOW <b>Now go to stage no. 3</b>
3.	Have you determined whether the alleged conduct constitutes a risk of significant harm [ROSH] report? <input type="checkbox"/> DON'T KNOW <input type="checkbox"/> YES Contact the OoSG P. 4979 1390 or use the <a href="#">OoSG online reporting form</a> <input type="checkbox"/> NO <b>Now go to stage no. 4</b> <b>Now go to stage no. 5</b> <b>Now go to stage no. 6</b>
4.	Access the Online <a href="#">Mandatory Reporters Guide</a> [MRG] and enter the information available to you Remember to download the MRG Final Decision Report onto your computer. <input type="checkbox"/> YES the alleged conduct does constitute a ROSH Report <input type="checkbox"/> NO the alleged conduct does not constitute a ROSH Report <b>Now go to stage no. 5</b> <b>Now go to stage no. 6</b>
5.	The alleged conduct constitutes a ROSH Report. <input type="checkbox"/> Online MRG Decision states "Immediate report to Community Services" Phone the Child Protection Helpline <b>immediately</b> P. 132 111 <input type="checkbox"/> Online MRG Decision states "Report to Community Services" Contact the Child Protection Helpline within 24 hours P. 132 111 OR <a href="#">E-report to Dept. of Community &amp; Justice [DCJ]</a> <b>Now go to stage no. 6</b>
6.	Do you need to report the alleged conduct to OoSG? Is one or more of the people who committed the alleged conduct a parish or diocesan worker? (i.e. volunteer, employee, religious, cleric) Has there been an incident of serious child-on-child abuse? (e.g. physical assault, sexual assault or misconduct, persistent bullying serious psychological harm) If 'NO' to both questions stop, there are no more reporting obligations to meet. If 'YES' to either question, continue to the following questions Should the alleged conduct be reported to the OoSG? For detailed information go to: <a href="#">Reporting child abuse</a> For detailed information go to: <a href="#">Reporting abuse of vulnerable adults</a> Do you believe a parish worker is ministering to children without a WWCC? If you have answered 'YES' to any of two previous questions Contact the OoSG P. 4979 1390 or use the <a href="#">OoSG online reporting form</a> <b>Now go to stage no. 7</b>
7.	Should you advise the Bishop's Office? (incl. Vicar-General & Chancellor) Does the alleged conduct involve a priest or deacon? If 'YES' contact the Bishop's Office immediately. If 'NO' proceed to following questions. Have you contacted Emergency Services (000)? Is there an allegation of serious criminality involving a parish or diocesan worker? Is it likely that there will be media interest in the alleged conduct/incident? If you have answered 'YES' to any of the previous questions, consider whether you should advise the Bishop's Office.

When you have finished working through the reporting process, reset the form by clicking on this square: **CLEAR**

The Parish worker reporting checklist is now live on the Parish website 'Safeguarding' page. This is an interactive version that will guide you through a step-by-step process for reporting a complaint about the safety of a child or 'at-risk adult.' Once you have finished working through the steps, you can close the page. To access the interactive checklist, go to:

<https://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au/safeguarding-form/>

A printable version of the checklist, can be found on our 'Forms' page of the Parish website:

<https://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au/resources/forms/>

The checklist is an important tool to guide Parishioners in managing Safeguarding reports in the Parish and provides links and contacts to relevant agencies.

## ENGAGING YOUR FAITH

Engaging Your Faith is a series of short, online presentations that invite participants to reflect on what it means to be people of faith in the contemporary world. Experienced lecturers from Catholic Theological College present on a variety of topics including Philosophy, Lumen Gentium, Spirituality, Biblical Studies, Christian Meditation, Theology, Interfaith Relations, Future Technology, and Science and Religion.

Cost \$25 per session or \$40 per session for teachers seeking accreditation.

To register go to: <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/>

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 17 April	Tuesday 18 April	Wednesday 19 April	Thursday 20 April	Friday 21 April	Saturday 22 April	Sunday 23 April
						<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
9.00am <b>Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration</b> St James Muswellbrook		9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	11.30am <b>Adoration and Benediction</b>  12.05pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  5.30pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	10.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

## Minister Roster Sunday 23rd April 2023

4th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm <b>Saturday Muswellbrook</b>	M. Flanagan T. Furlong	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am <b>Sunday Aberdeen</b>	S. Milton	K. Mason	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am <b>Sunday Muswellbrook</b>	B. Powell Can you fill this position?	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			K. Goodwin
<b>Counters</b>	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, 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:** Desmond Wilkins

**Anniversary:** Stephen Lambley

**Baptisms:** Florence Wilkinson-Prangle, Theodore Wilkinson-Prangle, and Kingston Barnes

**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)

The Parish bulletin can be accessed on our website: [muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au](http://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au).

or on our Facebook page: **Catholic Parish of St James Muswellbrook**

Please email [muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto: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](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."**