



# 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A

23 April 2023

### First Reading **Acts 2:14, 22-33**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,  
for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.  
So my heart was glad  
and my tongue cried out with joy:  
my body, too, will rest in the hope  
that you will not abandon my soul to Hades  
nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.  
You have made known the way of life to me,  
you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

### Responsorial Psalm **Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v.11**

**(R.)** Lord, you will show us the path of life.

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.  
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.'

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize.' **(R.)**

2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **(R.)**
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay. **(R.)**
4. You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever. **(R.)**

### Second Reading **1 Pt 1:17-21**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

### Gospel Acclamation **See Lk 24:32**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:  
make our hearts burn with love  
when you speak.

Alleluia!



## **Gospel**      **Lk 24:13-35**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

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### **REFLECTION by Fr Victor**

On the 3rd Sunday of Easter, we experience another appearance of the risen Lord to two of his Disciples. These two disciples are walking to Emmaus. They are leaving Jerusalem and going back to their place because their dreams were shattered. They have just experienced the betrayal, denial, condemnation, and death of Jesus. As they walk along, they are talking about all the events that have just happened.

As they carry on their journey a stranger joins them and asks them a simple and polite question; 'What are you

talking about as you walk along?' They ask if he is the only one who does not know all things that have happened in Jerusalem. Again, this stranger asks them another question; 'What things? He is interested in all the things that have happened to them. As they walk and talk, the stranger simply listens to them. He wants to hear their story. Only when they have told him all the things that have happened to them, he reveals his identity that he is the Risen Lord! Their eyes and hearts are opened as they listen to him and when they see him at the breaking of the bread.

This is an image and symbol of the Pilgrim Church which we are all part of. We are walking along with each other as members of the Body of Christ. We are not alone. Jesus too, walks with us on our journey as individuals and as a church. Jesus is deeply interested in our story. Through this gospel, he asks each of us what our own personal experience and story is. As we walk along on our journey through life, Jesus walks by our side as he walks along the road to Emmaus. He asks us to tell him our story and waits for us to share with what is deepest and most important to us. Having asked us to share our story with him, he walks by our side and listens. Each of us has a personal, unique, and sacred story. Pope Francis reminds us of this when he says, 'Each of us has a story, a story of grace, a story of sin, a story of journey, many things. It is good to pray with our story.'

As we continue our journey through this Easter Season, we pray that we will know that Jesus is walking by our side as our friend and companion. He is also with us on our journey and pilgrimage through our daily life.

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

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### **ANZAC DAY PRAYER**

God of love and liberty, we bring our thanks this day for the peace and security we enjoy, which was won for us through the courage and devotion of those who gave their lives in time of war. We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain, but that their spirit may live on in us and in generations to come. That the liberty, truth and justice which they sought to preserve may be seen and known in all the nations upon earth. This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## **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.



### **CLAIM THE DATES!!**

**Movie night** 20 May 7pm at the Kelly's home, 88 Ironbark Road. The movie will be "I confess", an Alfred Hitchcock thriller.

**Pentecost Sunday, Parish Gathering** 28 May. We will have a multicultural Mass followed by morning tea to celebrate Pentecost Sunday. After this we would like to have a Parish gathering to give parishioners an opportunity to express concerns or ideas for our future direction. At this gathering there will be an update to you all as to what we have achieved over the past 3 years. All welcome!

### **DO YOU HAVE BOOKS TO DONATE?**

If you have educative books of any field and in good condition that you no longer want, we would love to add them to the parish library! Please hand into the parish office of give to Fr Victor.

### **PRESBYTERY WORKS**

From Wednesday to 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.



### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK**

The parish office will be closed Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday this week. Please send any requests for the bulletin by Thursday 10am at the latest. Thank you.

### **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.

### **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.

### **PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES**

If you still have your Project Compassion box at home, please bring it with you to Mass this weekend. *Remember: If you would like a tax receipt, you must indicate this on your Project Compassion box.*

## **HOLY LAND COLLECTION**

Thank you for supporting the Holy Land (Good Friday) Collection as encouraged by Pope Francis. Through this Collection, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. When you contribute to the Holy Land Collection, you become an instrument of peace in the land where Jesus walked.

### **ACU CENTRE FOR LITURGY - PUBLIC LECTURE 8 MAY 2023**

ACU is offering another wonderful opportunity for us to learn and think more deeply about liturgy. Who are we? What does theology have to do with it? And do our liturgies and rituals need to adapt or resist these changes? You are invited to think about registering at [www.acu.edu.au/publiclecturecfl](http://www.acu.edu.au/publiclecturecfl)

### **SUPPORTING THE VOICE**

This year, Australians will be presented with a significant choice on whether to heed the calls of First Nations People and establish an indigenous voice to parliament. It is regrettable that the Voice referendum which aims to unify our country has become so highly politicised.

Pope Francis has called for the inclusion of input from indigenous people and displaced ethnic groups into the political processes. "Representative bodies are inconceivable when only the dominant power occupies spaces," he said, suggesting the need to establish a quota system that "reintegrates" historically marginalized groups "into the decision-making space that has been taken away from them." (National Catholic Reporter)

The Uluru Statement from the Heart speaks about the disempowerment that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have felt since colonisation began. The Voice is an important step in addressing that sense of disempowerment.

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC), the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) and the Plenary Council have all endorsed the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Support for the Voice ought not be a passive process, confined to the singular act of voting. We should become active participants in the work to encourage community support for the Yes campaign. Our active participation is also needed in the processes to shape the Voice after the referendum as well as to begin the national response to the calls for truth telling and treaty. It is important for us to be conscious of the need, in all this work, to recognise and support the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the process.

**The Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace have compiled a list of resources and education for all things related to the Voice to Parliament, and the Uluru Statement from the Heart:**

Yes23 (also known as "From the Heart")  
<https://yes23.com.au/>

Together, Yes <https://togetheryes.com.au/>

The Uluru Dialogue <https://ulurustatement.org/>



## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 24 April	Tuesday 25 April	Wednesday 26 April	Thursday 27 April	Friday 28 April	Saturday 29 April	Sunday 30 April
	<b>ANZAC Day</b>	<b>St Mark, evangelist</b>				<b>FOURTH 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 30th April 2023

5th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	C. Panis  Can you fill this position?	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	M. Brown	M. Harris	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	B. Powell  Can you fill this position?	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			K. Goodwin
<b>Counters</b>	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:** Desmond Wilkins

**Anniversary:** Allan Hamilton

**RCIA Candidate:** Sarah Price

**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."**