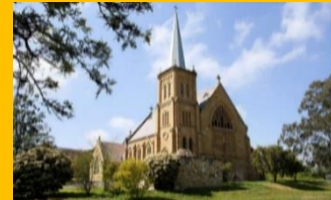




# ST JAMES' PARISH

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A

30 April 2023

### First Reading **Acts 2:14. 36-41**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

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

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. (R.)

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. (R.)

### Second Reading **1 Pt 2:20-25**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

### Gospel Acclamation **Jn 10:14**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and mine know me.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel **Jn 10:1-10**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.' Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,  
I am the gate of the sheepfold.  
All others who have come  
are thieves and brigands;  
but the sheep took no notice of them.  
I am the gate.  
Anyone who enters through me will be safe:  
he will go freely in and out  
and be sure of finding pasture.  
The thief comes  
only to steal and kill and destroy.  
I have come  
so that they may have life  
and have it to the full.'

### **REFLECTION by Fr Victor**

The fourth Sunday of Easter is called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Jesus uses the image of the shepherd caring for sheep to describe himself and his relationship with us. At the time of Jesus, shepherds were a part of daily life. When Jesus used the image of the shepherd, the people who listened to him would have understood immediately what he was talking about. So, what does it mean and say to us today?

Perhaps to our modern eyes all sheep look the same. However, this is not true; a shepherd can distinguish from another and knows each of them individually. When a shepherd calls a sheep, the sheep recognises the voice and responds. The single sheep and the whole flock know, trust, and follow the shepherd. Shepherds do everything they can to lead, guide and protect their flock. The sheep go wherever the shepherd leads them. The shepherd will never lead them astray or into any danger. This is as true today as it was at the time of Jesus.

But we are not sheep; but the language and image of Jesus the shepherd can help us to appreciate the relationship he offers each of us. We are known and loved personally and intimately by Jesus; we are not all the same to him. In the Prophet Isaiah we read these powerful and profound words; 'I call you by your name, you are mine, do not be afraid. You are precious to me, and I love you.' (42.1,)

These are the words that God speaks directly to each of us every day of our lives. If a shepherd cares for sheep with such love and attention, how much more does Jesus love and care for you and me?

Jesus calls us by our name out of love; he does not and cannot force us to listen or make us follow him. He invites us to follow him freely; the choice whether or not we accept this invitation is entirely ours. We may take our time in answering this call, but Jesus will wait and will never stop calling us by our name.

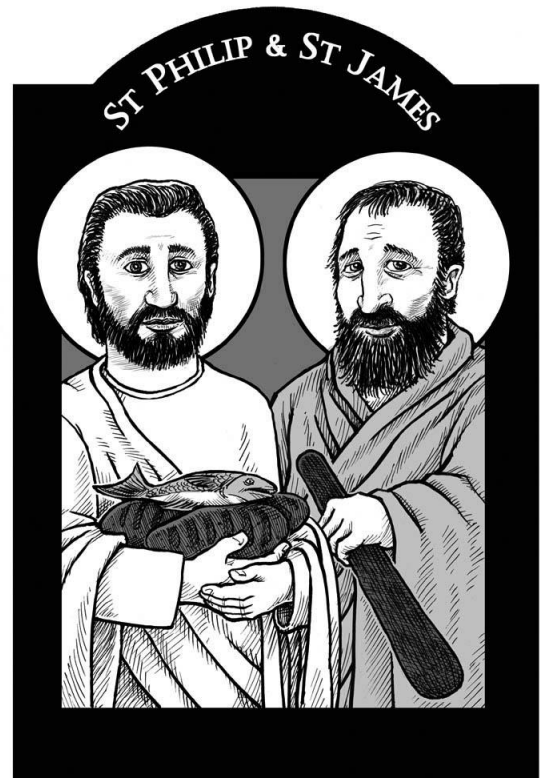
As we continue our journey through Easter in preparation for the celebration of Pentecost, may each of us realise how deeply and personally Jesus loves us. When Jesus calls us by our name, may we answer in faith, gratitude, and gratefulness. May we follow where he leads us.

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

## **GOSPEL FOCUS**

### **Life to the Full**

*John 10:10 is a very famous quote from this gospel passage. Having life to the full does not imply life filled with every convenience, comfort and wealth. Rather, it is about living a life filled with purpose and intent. If we fail to live with purpose and meaning then our life is a hollow shell of what it could be. Jesus came that we may have life – a life that is at its fullest when it is lived in such a way as to be an expression of what Jesus taught and lived.*



**Saints Philip and James, Apostles**

Philip and James were two of the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus. After Philip was called to be an apostle, he persuaded Nathaniel (St Bartholomew) to also follow Jesus. At the feeding of the 5,000 Philip passed the remark that, '200 denari would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little'. James was the brother of St Jude, and is often referred to as 'James the Lesser' to distinguish him from James, the son of Zebedee. Some traditions believe James was a cousin of Jesus, and others name him as the author of the Epistle of St James. Traditionally, Philip and James share the same feast day because their remains were both brought to the Church of the Apostles in Rome in May 561.

## **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!

### **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!

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

The parish office will be closed until approximately 1pm on Tuesday 2 May as Fr Victor and Adele will be attending a meeting.

### **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 or give to Fr Victor.

### **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.

### **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/publiclecturecf](http://www.acu.edu.au/publiclecturecf)

## **MISSION: TRANSFORM LIVES – PALMS AUSTRALIA**

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills and knowledge with those who have few other chances for training.

Build enduring global relationships while assisting sustainable, self-reliant, community development.

Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand.

Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know:  
Call: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567.



[www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au)

### **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 1 May	Tuesday 2 May	Wednesday 3 May	Thursday 4 May	Friday 5 May	Saturday 6 May	Sunday 7 May
		<i>Sts Philip and James, apostles</i>				<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
9.00am <b>Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration</b> St James Muswellbrook		11.00am <b>Funeral Mass of Hilda Carey</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  10.30am <b>Mass</b> Calvary Retirement Village	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  5.30pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  6.30pm <b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>	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 7th May 2023

1st Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	Can you fill this position?	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	J. Toohey R. Wood		R. Panis	C. Hayes
	Can you fill this position?						
8am Sunday Aberdeen	T. Hobbs	J. Lonergan	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	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, Lucrecia Casia, Anne Rawson, Enrique Tuazon, Vinitia Fernando, Maree Bible, Kirsty Munn, Kellie Shaw, and Vidhya Vijay.

**Baptism:** Mateo Fries

**Recently Deceased:** Hilda Carey

**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."**