



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

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD – YEAR A

9 April 2023

First Reading Acts 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

Second Reading Col 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Cor 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.' So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.



REFLECTION by Fr Victor

Our Lenten journey and pilgrimage are over. Our fasting is complete; now we can feast and celebrate. We have travelled with Jesus from the harshness of the desert to the new life coming from the empty tomb. Having walked with Jesus as we carried our cross, we now share in and experience the joy and power of his resurrection.

Like today, at the time of Jesus also there was inequality, injustice, and poverty. He would have seen it, experienced it and been very familiar with it. But it is into that world that he came with the good news of the Kingdom of God. It is into our world today that Jesus comes with the same good news. It is in and through our world today that we experience and share in his resurrection.

The trial and crucifixion of Jesus must have been such a painful and even disappointing experience for his friends, followers, and family. They had placed such hope in Jesus, in his preaching, his teaching and in his miracles. Then they had to stand and watch as he was betrayed, condemned, beaten, and then crucified. They stood and watched him die.

It is in and through our ordinary daily lives and our world today that Jesus comes risen from the tomb. The resurrected Jesus comes to us as we are. But he also comes as he is; through the power of God, he is resurrected and comes to us with the gift of new and everlasting life. Death has not had the final say. Where there was despair, God brings us hope. Where there was darkness, God had bright light. Where there was death, God brought us not just life, but new and everlasting life. These are the gifts that God offers each of us through the resurrection of Jesus.

In a world where there is often the reality of suffering, violence, and injustice, we are called to be people of hope. This is not ordinary human hope. This is the hope that comes to us through the resurrection of Jesus. In the face of sadness, difficulty, and pain, we are called to look to and rely on the resurrected Jesus and not just on our strength and resources.

The call, invitation and even challenge of Easter is that I experience it personally deep within myself. I am called to be an Easter person, a person of the resurrection. I am called and asked to be a person who is filled with the new life and hope of the resurrected Jesus. We are to live our daily lives, filled with the Light, Joy, Life, and Hope of the Resurrection of Jesus.

The Lord is risen, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!


Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!




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.



JESUS CHRIST HAS TRULY
risen from the dead






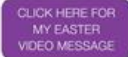

“As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. “Don't be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. **He has risen!** He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples...”

MARK 16:5-7

I wish you, your family, and loved ones a very happy and blessed Easter and may God bless you.



Bishop Michael Kennedy
BISHOP OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE



To view Bishop Michael Kennedy's video message, go to:
<https://youtu.be/Dfj7ww5p4Qw>


**HAPPY
Easter**

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.

UKRAINIAN EASTER SERVICE

The Upper Hunter Ukraine community will be celebrating their Easter Service in St James Church on 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 on **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/ for more information.

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.



EASTER SUNDAY 6TH APRIL

Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia!



Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion – past, present, and future. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**.





Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2023 Lenten appeal.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations. You can donate through the Project Compassion donation boxes available in the Church, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



*What do rabbits say before they eat?
"Lettuce pray"*

 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 10 April	Tuesday 11 April	Wednesday 12 April	Thursday 13 April	Friday 14 April	Saturday 15 April	Sunday 16 April
						DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
<i>Divine Mercy Novena Day 4</i>	<i>Divine Mercy Novena Day 5</i>	<i>Divine Mercy Novena Day 6</i>	<i>Divine Mercy Novena Day 7</i>	<i>Divine Mercy Novena Day 8</i>	<i>Divine Mercy Novena Day 9</i>	
<u>9.00am</u> Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration St James Muswellbrook		<u>9.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>11.30am</u> Adoration and Benediction <u>12.05pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook <u>5.30pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>10.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook
	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 16th April 2023

3rd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	K. Mason	M. Edwards	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	C. O'Brien Can you fill this position?	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			K. Goodwin
Counters	Therese Bristow and Esther Molloy						

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:

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."