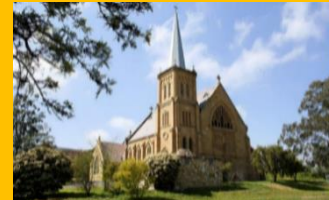




ST JAMES' PARISH

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

Parish Priest: Fr Victor Babu Doss

Email: fvickybabu@gmail.com

Phone: 0484 903 427 or 6543 1167

St James Primary School

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Office: 6543 3094

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Email: muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Website: muswellbrookparish.org.au

PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A

7 May 2023

First Reading **Acts 6:1-7**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22**

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **(R.)**
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

Second Reading **1 Pt 2:4-9**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation **Jn 14:6**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Jn 14:1-12**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am
you may be too.

You know the way to the place
where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not
know where you are going, so



how can we know the way?' Jesus said:
 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
 No one can come to the Father except through me.
 If you know me, you know my Father too.
 From this moment you know him and have seen him.'
 Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall
 be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,'
 said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?
 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
 so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?
 Do you not believe
 that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?
 The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:
 it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.
 You must believe me when I say
 that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;
 believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other
 reason.
 'I tell you most solemnly,
 whoever believes in me
 will perform the same works as I do myself,
 he will perform even greater works,
 because I am going to the Father.'

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

On this 5th Sunday of Easter, in a special way, the Church reminds us of who we are: 'We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated people, a people set apart; we are called out of darkness brought into the light of God'.

We live in a time of twenty-four-hour news on our televisions. We are surrounded and even bombarded by countless magazines and newspapers every day. There is more news and information available to us through the internet that we can manage or cope with. The news and its headlines change from day to day. Yesterday's news is not news! Celebrities come and go day by day.

However, in all this, Jesus remains constant. In a world in which we are surrounded by fast changing news and even 'fake news' Jesus is our Way, our Truth and our Life, every day and for all our days.

The media and advertisements tell us that unless we have the latest phone, the fastest car, and the most expensive clothes, that we won't be happy, content or fulfilled. This is 'fake news' and it is not the good news Jesus offers us. Our unique sacred dignity does not come from what we buy and own. Our deepest and truest sense of self-worth comes from being created and loved by God. It doesn't matter who we are or where we are from; we are loved just as we are. As the second reading this Sunday clearly tells us, 'We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated people, a people set apart; we are called out of darkness brought into the light of God'. This is good news, not fake news!

Jesus is not a celebrity. He is not here today and will be gone tomorrow. He does not offer us quick, easy, or instant solutions to life's daily problems. But he does promise to be with us walking by our side every step of the way. When we are lost, Jesus is our Way. When we are confused, Jesus is our Truth. When we are experiencing darkness, Jesus is our Life.

As we continue our journey through Easter, may we realise and appreciate deeply that we are a chosen race, royal priesthood, and a consecrated nation.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

Can you decipher what Jesus is saying?

come 2
 the except

" _____ come
 _ _ the _____
 except _____ ."

Mary in Your Home - A Parish Prayer Journey

The Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign, the Pilgrim Mother of Schoenstatt, is part of the Schoenstatt Movement, a Catholic Apostolic Movement.

The image of Christ and Mary is blessed and sent out from the Schoenstatt Shrine, which is similar to Mary who went to visit her cousin Elizabeth bringing the presence of Christ with her.

Mary, too, carries Christ into our homes, serves our spiritual needs, and works miracles by interceding for us before the throne of God.

The Schoenstatt Sisters at Mulgoa, Sydney have kindly obliged us with the Shrine of the Pilgrim Mother for the month of May 2023.

If you would like to have the Shrine at your home for a few days, kindly contact Nitasha Fernandes on 0470628153.



Shrine of the Pilgrim Mother

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous support of the WYD special collection over the past two weekends. The parish raised \$525.00 in support of Ruby's participation in the WYD. Anyone who would still like to donate can do so by handing it in to the parish office or donating electronically. 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.



KEEGAN/WOOD FAMILY GROUP

Date: 15 May

Time: Meet at 12 noon

Venue: Lunch at Railway Hotel 14/15 Market Street, Muswellbrook

Lunch menu is \$15. Attendance numbers are required for catering purposes. Please give names to Robyn or Margaret by Friday 12 May.



THE BISHOP IS COMING - SAVE THE DATES!!

Bishop Michael Kennedy will be visiting the Muswellbrook parish on the weekend of the **20/21 May**. Mark the dates in your diary. More details coming soon.

SUPPORTING THE VOICE

The notice that was published in the bulletin over the past two weeks in support of the voice, was sourced from the Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace an agency of the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference. We sincerely apologise if this has caused any distress.

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!

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.

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.

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/publiclecturecfl



Right across the Maitland-Newcastle volunteering brings people together: **it builds communities and creates a better society for everyone.**

To say thanks to all our incredible volunteers, we are hosting four events to celebrate and acknowledge the amazing work of our volunteers. Your local event:

16 May Muswellbrook: 6pm dinner at the Muswellbrook Workers Club.

RSVP to: volunteers@mn.catholic.org.au by 10 May or for more information call 4931 1259.



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!

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



CARITAS AUSTRALIA - SORRY DAY WEBINAR

Caritas Australia is pleased to invite your parish community to our Sorry Day Webinar with survivors from Kinchela Boys Home, one of the most notorious institutions associated with the Stolen Generations. On **Thursday 25 May 2023 from 11am – 12pm AEST**, we will be hosting a FREE online event to hear from Uncle Widdy (#36) and Uncle Bobby (#24), two survivors of Kinchela Boys Home, to learn about the Stolen Generations and the continuing legacy of these experiences. Don't miss this unique opportunity to mark Sorry Day and learn about the impact of the Stolen Generations directly from survivors.

To register, visit:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/sorry-day-webinar/>

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 8 May	Tuesday 9 May	Wednesday 10 May	Thursday 11 May	Friday 12 May	Saturday 13 May	Sunday 14 May
						SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Mother's Day
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration St James Muswellbrook		9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	11.30am Adoration and Benediction 12.05pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook 5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	5.00pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 14th May 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, Lucrecia Casia, Anne Rawson, Enrique Tuazon, Vinitia Fernando, Maree Bible, Kirsty Munn, Kellie Shaw, and Vidhya Vijay.

Baptism: Huxley Maunder and Rhett Wilson

Anniversary: Del Smith and Francis McTaggart

Recently Deceased: Michael Johns, June Bailey, Hans Daniel, and 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

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."