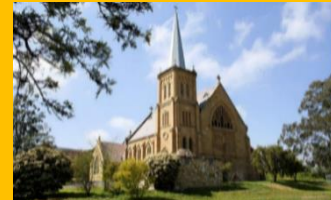




ST JAMES' PARISH

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

Principal: Mr Aaron Moon

Office: 6543 3094

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Parish Administration: Mrs Adele Skardon

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A

14 May 2023

First Reading Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! (R.)
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)
3. He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. (R.)
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.
I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever,
that Spirit of truth
whom the world can never receive
since it neither sees nor knows him;
but you know him,
because he is with you, he is in you.
I will not leave you orphans;
I will come back to you.
In a short time the world will no longer see me;
but you will see me,
because I live and you will live.
On that day
you will understand that I am in
my Father
and you in me and I in you.



Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them
will be one who loves me;
and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,
and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

REFLECTION by Michael Tate

Parallel Truths

Today's Gospel speaks of an advocate. This translates a Greek word: 'paraclete'. Our Lord says: 'I will send you another Paraclete to be with you forever.' Our Lord was a Paraclete, and he would send another.

What does this strange sounding word mean? Here is a hint. We all know that parallel lines run, well, para-llel. They run alongside each other. A paraclete is a person who stands alongside someone and pleads their case. That is how our Lord Jesus Christ saw himself. His role was not to condemn but to plead the case for mercy and compassion, to be the intercessor *par excellence*.

Our Lord promises another Paraclete dwelling within us, individually and as the body of Christ's disciples, the Holy Spirit advocating our cause, assisting us to live Truth-fully by the measure of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. This Paraclete particularly assists us by acting as the Spirit of Truth.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the two Paracletes, constantly pleading our case before the Throne of Mercy.

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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

Ten Quotes on Motherhood

- ☼ There is no role in life that is more essential than that of motherhood. - *Elder Russell Ballard*
- ☼ A mother understands what a child does not say. - *Jewish proverb*
- ☼ A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take. - *Cardinal Mermillod*
- ☼ The influence of a mother in the lives of her children is beyond calculation. - *James Faust*
- ☼ Moms are like buttons - they hold everything together. - *Unknown*
- ☼ When you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts. A mother always thinks twice, once for herself and once for her child. - *Sophia Loren*
- ☼ Mother is the bank where we deposit all our hurts and worries. - *Dewitt Talmage*
- ☼ Mothers are like glue. Even when you can't see them, they're still holding the family together. - *Susan Gale*
- ☼ Mother is the heartbeat in the home; and without her, there seems to be no heart throb. - *Leroy Brownlow*
- ☼ A mother's love is more beautiful than any fresh flower. - *Debasish Mridha*

God demands our respect for mothers:

- ✚ The Lord confirms a mother's authority over her children (Sirach 3:2).
- ✚ They store up riches who respect their mother (Sirach 3:4).
- ✚ They multiply sin who demean their mother (Sirach 3:11).

An important question every mother needs to ask herself is whether she fits in, in the description above, because there is such a thing as bad mothers. Sometimes, too, some mothers lose their God-given authority and become subservient to their children and manipulated by their children.

A good mother is the greatest gift. God stopped the work of creation when he made woman. God blessed her with the gift and power of reproduction. God could have used any other means of bringing human beings into the world. He did not. Rather, he designed the means of reproduction through woman. Childbearing is the greatest and highest responsibility. It is very sad that in some cultures women are maltreated; in some cultures, they are abused. In some cultures, women are discriminated against; some positions and benefits are denied to them. The good news is that women are rising up all over the world and breaking the human made yoke. We encourage our girls and young ladies to join in the "march of progress."

lots of **problems** in life
can be **solved** with a
cup of **tea**, a slice of **cake**
or a good sleep...

*for everything else... call **Mum**



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.

MOTHER'S DAY REGISTER

A registration sheet will be in the Church foyers this weekend. Please write the name of your mother's (living and deceased) and this will be placed on the altar with candles at all Masses for Mother's Day.

FANCY A GAME OF TABLE TENNIS??

If there are any parishioners who would like to play table tennis, they are more than welcome to use the table in the Convent. Please book through the parish office.

DIVINE MERCY GROUP

Will be meeting **Saturday 20 May**.

Time: 2pm

Venue: The Convent

All welcome! Join us for prayer and fellowship.



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 INFORMATION SESSION

For those who would like their children to participate in the Parish Sacramental Program this year, please come along to the information session being held on **Wednesday 17 May** in St James Church at 4pm.

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.

VARIETY CONCERT

Please come along to the Variety concert fundraiser being held by Upper Hunter Christian Education in support of Special Religious Education in Muswellbrook and Scone High Schools. Entertainment will include various musical items, poetry, and a digeridoo performance. Afternoon tea will be provided.

Where: St Andrew's Uniting Church, Scone

When: Sunday 21 May

Time: 2pm

For enquiries please call: 0431 893 559

To donate to Upper Hunter Christian Education online visit:

www.generate.org.au



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 *POSTPONED***** Due to the Bishop's visitation next weekend, the movie night will be rescheduled. Watch this space!

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!

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/>

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS NSW – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Bishops of NSW invite Expressions of Interest for the Board of Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW). Candidates should support the philosophy, values and aims of the Catholic Church (and preferably be practising Catholics who actively participate in the life of the Church) and be willing to contribute their expertise in collaboration with Board and other colleagues, consistent with good governance.

For full details and how to apply, please access the CSNSW Expression of Interest for New Board Members.

<https://mnnews.today/media/2862736/csnsw-board-positions-seeking-expressions-of-interest.pdf>

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 15 May	Tuesday 16 May	Wednesday 17 May	Thursday 18 May	Friday 19 May	Saturday 20 May	Sunday 21 May
						THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
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 21st May 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, Lucrecia Casia, Anne Rawson, Enrique Tuazon, Vinitia Fernando, Maree Bible, Kirsty Munn, Kellie Shaw, Alana Sharp, Vidhya Vijay, Benjamina Aguku, and Michael Dolahenty.

Baptism: Dakota and Kyson Bowditch

Anniversary: Irene Cooper, Millie Hobbs, and Sybil Lamb

Recently Deceased: Marge Ryan, Michael Johns, June Bailey, and Hans Daniel.

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."