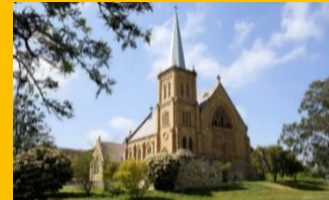




ST JAMES' PARISH

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

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St James Primary School

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PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

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Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD – YEAR A

21 May 2023

First Reading **Acts 1:1-11**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6**

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**

3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Eph 1:17-23**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation **Mt 28:19. 20**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 28:16-20**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All



authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

On the Solemnity of the Ascension, we focus our minds and hearts not so much on Jesus' departure from this world, but rather on his continued presence among us. With Ascension, the earthly mission of Jesus comes to an end; he has through his life, death and resurrection accomplished the plan and will of God. As this part of Jesus' life ends, he now passes his mission onto his disciples and followers. While Jesus' earthly ministry ends, theirs is just beginning. One chapter of Jesus' life is ending, and another is just beginning.

Before Jesus takes his leave of them, he passes on and entrusts them with the responsibility of carrying on his mission of proclaiming the good news of the gospel and of establishing the kingdom of God. This ordinary group of men and women are the ones who were chosen by Jesus to be the heralds and witnesses of the resurrection. Through their words and actions, the world would know that Jesus was alive and more alive and present than ever he was. As Jesus' earthly life and ministry ends, theirs and our mission and ministry begin.

Today the responsibility of building God's kingdom now belongs to us. The first friends and followers of Jesus are our ancestors, and we are their descendants. It is now up to each of us in our own way to carry on the mission and ministry of Jesus. Through us today, the world will know that Jesus is alive, present, and active in our world. As Pope Francis says to each of us, every Christian is a missionary disciple to the extent that they have experienced the love of God in Jesus.

Even though we are celebrating the Ascension of Jesus, he has not left, deserted, or abandoned us. He is with us when we gather to hear the scriptures being proclaimed. He is with us when we celebrate his presence through his Body and Blood. He is with us when we reach out to help and support each other. He is with us when we live our daily lives as his disciples.

These are the signs that Jesus is in us and with us; today and forever.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

Unscramble the words below to find out what Jesus told his disciples before he ascended into heaven.

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 WITH YOU
 THE
 OF



TIME REMEMBER UNTIL ALWAYS AM END

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

SOME PHOTOS FROM BISHOP MICHAEL'S VISIT TO ST JAMES PRIMARY SCHOOL TODAY



PENTECOST SUNDAY PARISH GATHERING

On Sunday 28 May, we will have a multicultural Mass followed by morning tea to celebrate Pentecost Sunday. **Please come in traditional cultural dress or wear something red.** 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 for you all as to what we have achieved over the past 3 years. All welcome!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BISHOP!!

We extend a very warm welcome to Bishop Michael who is visiting our parish this weekend. There will be a cuppa and morning tea with the bishop following 10am Mass. Please bring along a plate to share.

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.

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.

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



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>

POPE FRANCIS TO OPEN LAUDATO SI' WEEK

This Sunday 21 May Pope Francis will open Laudato Si' Week which, for the rest of the world takes place 21 to 28 May. In Australia, we celebrate a week earlier (16 to 24 May) allowing Australians to celebrate both Laudato Si' and Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June).

As part of the celebrations, the Vatican is inviting everyone to view the movie *The Letter*. *The Letter* tells the story of a journey to Rome of frontline leaders to discuss the encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* with Pope Francis. The Laudato Si' Week organisers hope the global celebration will "unite Catholics to rejoice in the progress we have made in bringing *Laudato Si'* to life."

To find out more about *The Letter* visit:

<https://laudatosiweek.org/>

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2023

27 MAY — 3 JUNE

BE A VOICE FOR GENERATIONS

Muswellbrook Shire Council invites you to the annual raising of the Aboriginal Flag during National Reconciliation Week.

Date: Wednesday 31st May 2023

Time: 10:30am – 12pm

Location: Reconciliation Mural, Simpson Park, Market Street, Muswellbrook

*Wet weather venue: Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre

Muswellbrook Shire Council also invites you to a morning tea following the ceremony to celebrate this important week.

RSVP: Monday, 22nd May 2023

Phone: Muswellbrook Shire Council on 6549 3700 or
Email: council@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.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 22 May	Tuesday 23 May	Wednesday 24 May	Thursday 25 May	Friday 26 May	Saturday 27 May	Sunday 28 May
		<i>Our Lady, Help of Christians</i>				PENTECOST SUNDAY
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration St James Muswellbrook	2.00pm Funeral Mass of Alana Sharp 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 Bishop's Mass St James Muswellbrook
						8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 28th May 2023

4th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	M. Flanagan T. Furlong	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	S. Milton	C. Wykes	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
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: Pauline Coleman, David Curran, Pat Hogan, Abbie Sweeper, Kym Mason, Melanie Hoch, Kim Goodwin, Anne Hugo, Margaret Blake, Rodrigo Canete, Helen Tumbers, Lucrezia Casia, Anne Rawson, Enrique Tuazon, Vinitia Fernando, Maree Bible, Kirsty Munn, Kellie Shaw, Vidhya Vijay, Benjamina Aguku, and Michael Dolahenty.

Baptism: Aria Pike

Anniversary: Elsie Gallagher

Recently Deceased: Catherine Stanley, Alana Sharp, Iris Spittles, and Marge Ryan

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."