



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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

18 June 2023

First Reading **Ex 19:2-6**

A reading from the book of Exodus

From Rephidim the Israelites set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp.

Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, "You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own, for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation."'

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 99:2-3. 5. R. v.3**

(R.) We are his people:
the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. (R.)
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. (R.)
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading **Rom 5:6-11**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled surely we

may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

Gospel Acclamation **Mk 1:15**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is near;
repent and believe the Good News!
Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 9:36 – 10:8**

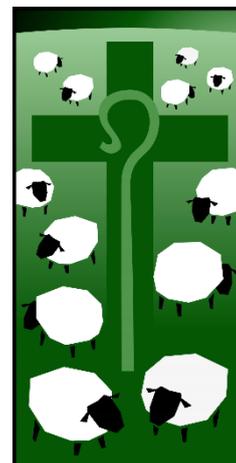
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'



REFLECTION by Fr Victor

The Gospel reading for the 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, is a reminder of the importance of evangelization in the life of a Catholic. However, many of us feel uncomfortable with the idea of evangelizing because most of us think that it is the work of the Priests and Religious or many others think that it involves knocking on a stranger's door and telling them about Jesus. Yet, evangelization is not always so formal, and we have many opportunities to spread the good news in our daily lives.

We can evangelize by offering a helping hand to someone in need and then sharing how we have been helped through the power of God. When someone asks us to pray for them, we can say a prayer with them and share a moment of connection and faith. We can also invite someone to come to Mass or attend a church event with us, sharing the joy of our faith and the community of believers.

However, to spread the light of Christ to others, we must first be able to see it shining in our own lives. We must strive to live our lives in a way that reflects the love, compassion, and mercy of Christ, so that others may be drawn to Him through us. Evangelization is not about forcing our beliefs on others, but about sharing the hope and joy that we have found in Christ and inviting others to join us on this journey of faith.

As Catholics, we are called to be missionary disciples, spreading the love of Christ to all those we encounter. This can be done in small ways, through acts of kindness and invitations to prayer or worship. By embracing our role as evangelizers, we can share the good news of the Gospel and help others to encounter the transformative power of Christ's love.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!



Have you thought?

The labourers are few

This passage is often used as the basis for sermons, conversations or even marketing about vocations – vocations to religious life as well as lay vocations. The image of a rich harvest with not enough labourers to reap the harvest is a powerful one. In the Western world in particular today it is very true of priestly and religious vocations. However, it is equally true of lay vocations. Too few people are prepared to 'own' their faith and live the message of the gospel in their day to day work and interactions with others. In what way are you a labourer in the harvest?



Jesus calls each of us to continue his mission as the Apostles did. What are some of the things that Jesus needs us to do?

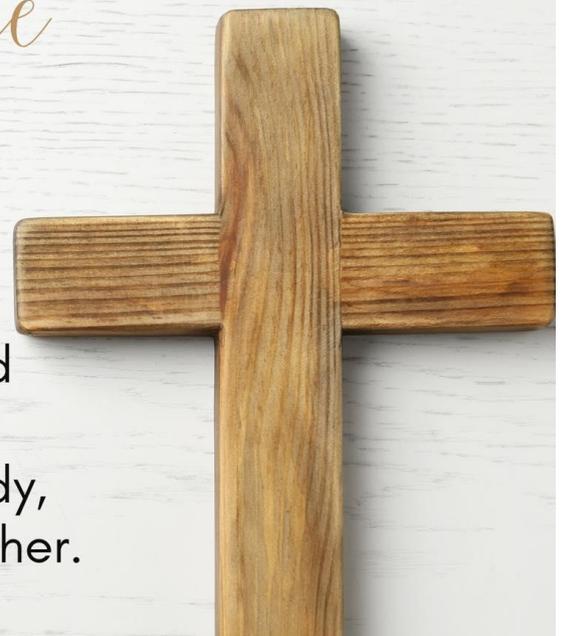
Four empty rounded rectangular boxes for writing answers to the question above.

Memorial Service

THURSDAY 22 JUNE 2023, 6.00PM

St Patrick's Catholic Church,
Queen St, Singleton

Please join Bishop Michael Kennedy and the St Patrick's Parish to gather as God's people broken open by tragedy, and united in love and care for each other.



SLEEPOUT

The Local Vinnie's Community Sleepout is back at 6:00pm on Thursday 22nd June 2023.

Grab your sleeping bag, favourite pillow and warm pj's and join the local community at Upper Hunter Youth Service, Muswellbrook Showground.

On the shortest and possibly the coldest night of the year, participants from local businesses and our community will sleepout to help change the lives of local people experiencing homelessness.

\$25.00 Sleepout Donation includes:

*Soup Kitchen *Local Entertainment *Trivia *Games

*Auction *Breakfast from Extreme Youth

For registration and donations go to Sticky Tickets:

https://www.sticktickets.com.au/kmfmw/vinnies_sleepout_2023.aspx

To view our online auction on the night, go to Vinnies Facebook page.

PLANNED GIVING RECEIPTS

The end of the financial year is creeping up on us! Parishioners who require a tax receipt **MUST** contact the Parish Office **prior to the 30th June**. Tax receipts **will not** be issued after this date. Please note: if you request a receipt after this time, I can only print a summary of your contributions which **cannot** be used for tax purposes.



KEEGAN/WOOD FAMILY GROUP

Lunch at the Commercial Hotel Aberdeen 63 Macqueen Street. (Ph 6543 7196) 19 June at 12 noon. Meet at Railway at 11.30am to share transport. Lunch specials \$15 – or purchase from the menu. Names to Robyn, Margaret by Thursday 13 June.

CHANGE TO MASS TIME AND OFFICE CLOSURE

There will be no Mass on Wednesday and the parish office will be closed as Fr Victor and Adele have a meeting to attend in Newcastle.

2023/2024 PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Planned Giving envelopes are available in the Church foyers. Some of you will notice that your giving number has changed. This will not affect your giving in any way. When the new financial year commences (Sunday 2nd July), please use your newly numbered envelopes, and dispose of your old ones.

REFUGEE WEEK PRAYER SERVICE

At 7pm on Tuesday 20 June the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office will host an online prayer service to commemorate Refugee Week. To register, visit [https://us06w-eb.zoom.us/j/8r-xaibfgFddptN#/registration](https://us06w-eb.zoom.us/j/8r-xaibfgFddptN#/)

CHURCH/FAITH CRAWL

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Council of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle invites you to visit four Newcastle faith communities on Wednesday, 19 July from 9:30am to 3:45pm. Lunch will be provided by the Salvation Army (\$10 per person). Registration is now open and closes Friday, 14 July. To register, visit:

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/church-crawl-tickets-648540932387

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MICHAEL

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Like you, I was deeply saddened to hear the news this morning of a fatal bus crash in the Hunter region and the terrible loss of life and injury. Our prayers are with the families and friends of those who have lost loved ones and with all those impacted by this tragedy.

This devastation in our community will be felt far and wide. A special prayer will be provided to our parishes for services this week and we offer our condolences, our prayers and our thoughts to all those involved.

Please join me in a quiet moment of reflection and the following prayer:

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Michael

PRAYER AND SUPPORT FOR THOSE IMPACTED BY HUNTER VALLEY BUS ACCIDENT

The Diocese has been working with our schools and services in Singleton and across the region to ensure we provide support needed to those in the communities. We will continue to provide this support as we come to terms with what has happened, and our parishes are providing support to anyone looking for comfort at this time with special prayers and services provided.

Prayer resources

✠ A prayer station has been established at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton and all people are welcome to light a memorial candle and gather in reflection.

✠ A memorial liturgy will be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton and St Patrick's parish Singleton. Dates and times will be updated as they become available.

Services and support available

For further information on services and support in our Diocese visit: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/prayers-and-support-for-those-impacted-by-hunter-valley-bus-accident/>

PINTS WITH A PURPOSE – Modern Day Pilgrims

Join us as we engage with a panel of our Pilgrims from across our diocese who are planning to journey into the Holy Land and on to World Youth Day in Lisbon. Who are they? Why are they going? What are their hopes for the journey?

Date: Monday 3rd of July

Time: 6pm

Location: Sydney Junction Hotel

Please contact Eliza Beletich for any questions.

P: 4931 1228 **E:** eliza.beletich@mn.catholic.org.au

DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE – JUNE PROGRAM

Spiritual Retreat at St Patrick's Wallsend – Monday 19 June – 7pm to 9pm

Spiritual Retreat at St Luke's Revesby – Tuesday 20 June – 7pm to 9pm

One Day Pilgrimage – Sunday 25 June – 9am to 4pm – Praise and Worship, Preaching the Word, Eucharistic Adoration, Holy Mass For more information visit,

<https://divineretreatcentre.org/>

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 19 June	Tuesday 20 June	Wednesday 21 June	Thursday 22 June	Friday 23 June	Saturday 24 June	Sunday 25 June
					<i>The NATIVITY of ST JOHN THE BAPTIST</i>	12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration St James Muswellbrook		NO MASS	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 25th June 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	K. Mason	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: 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, Vidhya Vijay, Benjamin Aguku, and Michael Dolahenty.

Baptism: Kinsey Lane

Anniversary: Helen Williams, Fr George Nugent

Recently Deceased: Pauline Coleman

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**

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."