



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

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

25 June 2023

First Reading **Jer 20:10-13**

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah said:

‘I hear so many disparaging me,
“Terror from every side!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!”
All those who used to be my friends
watched for my downfall,
“Perhaps he will be seduced into error.
Then we will master him
and take our revenge!”
But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;
my opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure;
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.
But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice,
who scrutinise the loins and heart,
let me see the vengeance you will take on them,
for I have committed my cause to you.
Sing to the Lord,
praise the Lord,
for he has delivered the soul of the needy
from the hands of evil men.’

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35. R. v.14**

(R.) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my brothers,
an alien to my own mother's sons.
I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me. **(R.)**
2. This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favour.
In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me. **(R.)**
3. The poor when they see it will be glad

and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants in their chains.
Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,
the sea and all its living creatures. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Rom 5:12-15**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of ‘law-breaking’, yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

Gospel Acclamation **Jn 15:26. 27**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 10:26-33**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: ‘Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

‘Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground



without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows. 'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

House-tops and Sparrows

Our Gospel reads: '... not one [sparrow] falls to the ground without your Father knowing.'

But that is a bad translation. The Greek simply says 'not one [sparrow] will fall to the ground without your Father.' Full stop! Our Heavenly Father accompanies a dying sparrow as it dies! That is the measure of the Creator's love for all creatures. God wants to – does – enter into the moment of death, *our* moment of death.

Now, that *would* be consoling if I were facing what Jesus was foreseeing for his disciples in the first century. One of the first Christian groups to hear this Gospel was that set around the Tigris River running through Baghdad in modern day Iraq. Now they face terrible persecution from fanatical Muslims. We can barely imagine hearing today's Gospel amongst the remnant, left in Baghdad today. How does 'Do not be afraid' really sound to them? So, we could pause for a moment to pray for those for whom today's Gospel is a challenge beyond our imagining.

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Solemnity of
Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Patron of the Church of Maitland-Newcastle

June 27



The title Our Lady of Perpetual Help (also known as the Virgin of the Passion) came to prominence when in 1866 Pius IX entrusted the icon, then newly discovered, to the Redemptorists. The icon shows four holy figures: the Virgin Mother of God, the Christ Child and the Archangels Michael and Gabriel. Mary is shown looking away from her Son to ourselves, ready to help us in time of need. Mary is showing her Son to us, directing us to Jesus the Word who liberates us through his suffering and death. Mary is the faithful disciple, ever open to the Word of God in her life. For further information about the icon see:

<https://cssr.org.au/perth/our-lady-of-perpetual-help/>

VOLUNTEERING IN OUR PARISH

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an absolute and abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. As a volunteer working in a Diocesan Parish, you should be aware of your obligations and responsibilities. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Becoming a volunteer

To be able to volunteer within a Diocesan Parish you are required to read the Volunteer Induction Handbook and complete all necessary checks, inductions, and safeguarding training relevant to your role. This may mean you will be required to obtain a Working with Children Check and give the Diocese permission to conduct a National Police Check on your behalf. All paperwork and checks are to be completed and verified before you can commence in your volunteer role. Safeguarding training must occur within 6 months of your commencement as a volunteer. **All existing Volunteers are also required to meet these requirements.**

The Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012

Under this legislation people who undertake a role in child-related work in a paid or volunteer capacity in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are required by law to have a Working with Children Check Clearance. This 'Clearance' can be obtained from applying online at check@kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au. Volunteers receive a Clearance for free, and it lasts up to 5 years.

Please contact the Parish office if you have any questions about the Safeguarding requirements of your role. Safeguarding training is currently being arranged. Volunteers will be contacted accordingly.

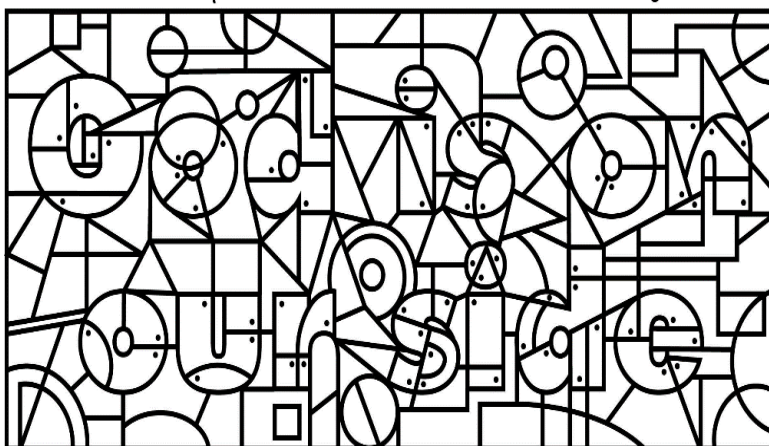


GOSPEL FOCUS

Fear

When scripture uses the term fear, it tends to fall into one of two meanings. When used in the context of 'do not be afraid' or 'fear not', it is a command to not be daunted by the woes and trials that the world imposes. The other use tends to be a command that we should fear God. In this context, the word does not mean to be frightened of God but rather to show proper reverence. To fear God is to stand in wonder and awe rather than to cower and hide. So, fear God, but do not be afraid!

Color in the shapes that contain a dot • and discover the hidden message!



CHURCH ROSTER VACANCIES!

We have many spots available on our Church roster, especially for reading and presentation of the gifts. Please consider filling one of these ministries once a month to help lighten the load. You can view availabilities on the church noticeboard and in the bulletin. Talk to Fr Victor or call the parish office if you can help.



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.



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.

CHILDREN'S MASS THIS SUNDAY

St James Primary School staff, students and families will be joining the St James Parish community for Mass this Sunday at 10am. Please stay for morning tea after Mass.

WORKSHOPS AND CATHEDRAL LECTURE - RICHARD LENNAN

We are excited that Father Richard Lennan will be visiting his hometown this August. During his stay he is offering several workshops and presentations. Join Richard in 'tilling' the Church for a more faithful, just, and creative church, one responsive to the movement of grace.

Tues 15 -Workshop open to all diocesan community – The Church: Foundations, Challenges, and Possibilities- Maitland Gaol- 9.30am-3.30pm

Wed 16- Cathedral Lecture open to all diocesan community – Shaping the Church's Future: The Grace of Creative Faithfulness- Sacred Heart Cathedral. 6.00pm-7.00pm

Fri 18- Workshop open to all diocesan community – The Church: Foundations, Challenges, and Possibilities Forster Tuncurry Parish Hall. 9.30 am to 3.30pm

To register go to www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/upcoming-events/

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. For 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/>

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

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

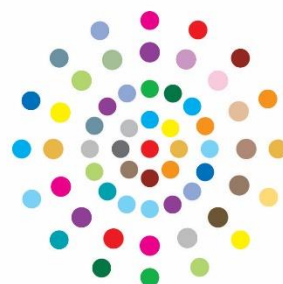
REDISCOVERING JOY - DR MICHELE CONNOLLY

How are hearts set on fire with love of God and love of the world? 'The only thing that counts for me,' wrote Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, 'is not to propagate God but to discover him.' Join us for a day of formation with Dr Michele Connolly, current Associate Professor of Biblical Studies within the Catholic Institute of Sydney and University of Notre Dame Australia. In a retreat style and setting, Michele will help us examine how rich and life-giving Scripture can be, revealing a God whose story intends to renew our lives and calls us to actively engage with the world.

Monday 11 September, Crown Plaza Hunter Valley, 9.30am – 3.30pm, \$30pp **RSVP:** 13 August 2023.

Registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rediscovering-joy-tickets-626620176817>



Refugee Week

Coordinated by
Refugee Council of Australia

What does it mean to be free?

To live without the fear of war, to have your basic human rights upheld, to live in equality and without the fear of persecution are just some of the examples of what freedom can entail. Everyday millions of people across the world embark on dangerous journeys for the sole purpose of finding safety and freedom. From Australia to nations across the globe, settling into a new environment after experiencing the perils of a refugee's journey can also provide the opportunity to live, to love and to dream. Visit the Refugee Council of Australia for more information and resources on refugees, such as films and books: <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resource-library/>

Weekly Mass Diary

| Monday 26 June | Tuesday 27 June | Wednesday 28 June | Thursday 29 June | Friday 30 June | Saturday 1 July | Sunday 2 July |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| | <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i> | | <i>Sts Peter and Paul, apostles</i> | | | 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| 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 2nd July 2023

| 1st Sunday of the Month | Readers | Cantors | Musicians | Gifts | Extraordinary Ministers | Altar Servers | Sacristan |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook | Can you fill this position? | C. Hayes | Sr. Dorothy | J. Toohey R. Wood | | R. Panis | C. Hayes |
| | Can you fill this position? | | | | | | |
| 8am Sunday Aberdeen | T. Hobbs | J. Lonergan | C. Bowen | | | | M. Hamilton |
| 10am Sunday Muswellbrook | M. Kempis | Can you fill this position? | K. Mason | Can you fill this position? | | | K. Goodwin |
| | Can you fill this position? | | | | | | |
| Counters | Kay and Brian Mason | | | | | | |

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:

Anniversary: Timothy Toohey

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."