



# 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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Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday

2 July 2023

### First Reading 2 Kgs 4:8-11. 14-16

A reading from the second book of the Kings

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 88:2-3. 16-19. R. v.2

(R.) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king,  
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,  
who find their joy every day in your name,  
who make your justice the source of their bliss. (R.)
3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their  
strength; it is by your favour that our might is exalted:  
for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;  
our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

### Second Reading Rom 6:3-4. 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

### Gospel Acclamation Jn 15:26. 27

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.

Alleluia!

### Gospel Mt 10:37-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'



## **REFLECTION by Fr Victor**

The readings of this Sunday present themes like hospitality and some aspects of discipleship. In the first reading a Shunnamite woman welcomed Elisha the Prophet and made him feel at home in her own house. Hospitality was her act of love and ministry.

In the gospel for this Sunday Jesus clearly says that he is above everyone and everything in our lives – even family! But this does not mean that we ignore or dismiss others, especially those who might be in any sort of need. If we say that we are indeed Christian and follow the message and example of Jesus, then we are to be actively concerned about others around us. Jesus also says that whoever welcomes and serves his followers, welcomes, and serves him.

There would be something seriously wrong if we said that we were followers of Jesus and the gospel, but the quality of our daily lives did not show this. There would be something not quite right if we said we believed in loving our brothers and sisters, but our actions showed the opposite. As the Letter of St. James (2:26) reminds us; 'faith, if good deeds do not go with it, is quite dead'. When we gather to pray with each other at the Eucharist, we do so as brothers and sisters of Jesus and each other. Just before mass ends, we are sent out with these words of mission, 'Go now to love and serve the Lord'. Having heard the word of God and shared the Body and Blood of Christ, we are sent out to love and serve the Lord by loving and serving each other. Having prayed and precisely because we have prayed, we are to turn our attention to our brothers and sisters, especially those who are in most need.

Through the gospel, we hear Jesus asking us to commit our daily lives to him as his followers. May we also reach out and offer hospitality and kindness to those around us, especially those most in need of our help.

**Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!**

**S**t Thomas the Apostle was one of the twelve disciples commissioned by Jesus. In John's Gospel when upon hearing that Jesus had risen from the dead, Thomas replied, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe". But when Jesus appeared Thomas then professed his faith – this story giving rise to the name "doubting Thomas". After Jesus' death it is widely believed he sailed to India in 52AD where he established several churches in the southern state of Kerala. Tradition suggests he was martyred in 72AD; speared to death at a site now called St Thomas Mount, before being buried in Mylapore in modern day Chennai. St Thomas is one of the patron saints of India.



## **Feast of St Thomas the Apostle 3 July**

*O Glorious St. Thomas Your grief for Jesus was such that it would not let you believe He had risen unless you actually saw Him and touched His wounds. But your love for Jesus was equally great and it led you to give up your life for Him. Pray for us that we may grieve for our sins which were the cause of Christ's sufferings. Help us to give ourselves in His service and so earn the title of "blessed" which Jesus applied to those who would believe in Him without seeing Him.*

### **WE NEED YOUR INPUT!**

On the weekend of the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> July members of **the Parish Pastoral Council will address each Mass**. A report of achievements and activities during the first Term of the PPC from July 2020 will be presented.

Every meeting of the PPC commences with a prayer that includes:

***"You have called us to be the servants of Your servants – Our brothers and sisters in our Parish.***

***Help us to truly represent them and not simply ourselves.***

***May the true needs of our parish, and the common good of all be our concern.***

***Our concerns are aimed at the spiritual transformation of our parish community."***

**WE NEED YOU! We can't truly represent you if you haven't had the opportunity to tell us what your priorities are.**

- We ask that as many Parishioners as possible remain after Masses that weekend for a meeting of 45 to 60 minutes.
- During that time, we will present a list of the ongoing priorities and outstanding items from the 2020 plan.
- There will be an opportunity to include any items not already identified.
- Forms will be distributed for us to fill out identifying in order of personal preference OUR FIVE priorities.
- Sheets will be collected and collated, and the new Pastoral Plan prepared from the results and presented to the Parish in August.

***Please mark those two dates in your calendar and be prepared to assist us formulate the Pastoral Plan for the next three-year Term of the Council.***

***Many thanks.***

***St James Parish – Muswellbrook and Aberdeen Parish Pastoral Council***

## **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.



## **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. **Please use your newly numbered envelopes beginning this Sunday 2 July and dispose of your old ones.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Please come and join us to spend time with the Lord this Saturday evening after Vigil Mass until 9pm in St James Church. All are most welcome!

## **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/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/upcoming-events/)

## **AMEN CAMINO COMMUNITY WALK**

The aMeN CaMiNo is a response to a desire to be in communion with each other and our sacred earth. It is an opportunity to pause from routine, immerse yourself in reflection, contemplation and to provide a moment of space for each person to be conscious of God's gift of Grace. We understand not everyone is able to walk the five-day 100 km pilgrimage, so we invite you to sample the experience through the aMeN caMiNo Community Walk. Meet at Gun Club Rd Merewether for a 10 km walk through Glenrock Lagoon and loop back to Gun Club Rd.

**When:** Saturday 22 July, 8am-11am

**Registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/amen-camino-community-walk-tickets-653661347687>

## **ST JOSEPH'S MEN NEWCASTLE'S MOVIE NIGHT**

Calling all Men, St Joseph's Men Newcastle is holding a FREE movie and pizza night on 5 July, 6.30pm in the MacKillop Parish Pastoral Centre Function Room (7 Milson Street, Charlestown). We will be watching the movie, Fr Stu. There will be free pizza and drinks. All men are invited, and the night is completely free.

## **PINTS WITH A PURPOSE – Modern Day Pilgrims**

Meet Ellen, Joshua, Summer, and Rory, just a few 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? And how can we follow their journeys?

Join us on Monday the 3 July to hear all about our Modern Day Pilgrims.

**Time:** 6pm

**Location:** Sydney Junction Hotel

Please contact Eliza Beletich for any questions.

**P:** 4931 1228 **E:** [eliza.beletich@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto: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>

## **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/>

## **NAIDOC FUN DAY**

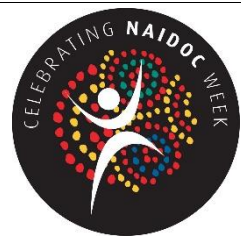
Join in the NAIDOC festivities at Victoria Park Muswellbrook on Sunday 30 July 2023. The day will run from 10am until 2pm.

What's on:

- ☞ Market stalls and coffee van
- ☞ Face painting
- ☞ Jumping castles and rides
- ☞ Fairy floss
- ☞ Free sausage sandwiches and soup
- ☞ Aboriginal food tasting
- ☞ Art workshops
- ☞ Weaving workshop

For any enquiries please contact:

[admin@wanaruahlandcouncil.com.au](mailto:admin@wanaruahlandcouncil.com.au) or 6543 1288



## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 3 July	Tuesday 4 July	Wednesday 5 July	Thursday 6 July	Friday 7 July	Saturday 8 July	Sunday 9 July
<i>St Thomas, apostle</i>						<b>14th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
9.00am <b>Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration</b> St James Muswellbrook		9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	11.30am <b>Adoration and Benediction</b>  12.05pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  5.30pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	10.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

### Minister Roster Sunday 9th July 2023

2nd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
<b>5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook</b>	J. O'Brien J. Paul	F. O'Brien	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
<b>8am Sunday Aberdeen</b>	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	K. Mason				M. Hamilton
<b>10am Sunday Muswellbrook</b>	G. Griffin B. Powell	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			K. Goodwin
<b>Counters</b>	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:** Isla Wilson

**Anniversary:** Frank McTaggart and Johny George

**Recently Deceased:** Luciano Guevarra

**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](mailto:muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

The Parish bulletin can be accessed on our website: [muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au](http://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](http://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au)

Have a complaint or wish to provide feedback? Visit: [officeofsafeguarding.org.au/feedback/](http://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/feedback/)

Muswellbrook Parish Promoter of Safeguarding: Jane Jacobs. Mobile: 0428 164 730 Email: [jane.jacobs@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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."**