



# 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

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY – YEAR A

4 June 2023

### First Reading Ex 34:4-6. 8-9

A reading from the book of Exodus

With the two tablets of stone in his hands, Moses went up the mountain of Sinai in the early morning as the Lord had commanded him. And the Lord descended in the form of a cloud, and Moses stood with him there.

He called on the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness.' And Moses bowed down to the ground at once and worshipped. 'If I have indeed won your favour, Lord,' he said, 'let my Lord come with us, I beg. True, they are a headstrong people, but forgive us our faults and our sins, and adopt us as your heritage.'

### Responsorial Psalm Dn 3:52-56. R. v.52

(R.) Glory and praise for ever!

1. You are blest, Lord God of our fathers  
Blest your glorious holy name. (R.)
2. You are blest in the temple of your glory.  
You are blest on the throne of your kingdom. (R.)
3. You are blest who gaze into the depths.  
You are blest in the firmament of heaven. (R.)

### Second Reading 2 Cor 13:11-13

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers, we wish you happiness; try to grow perfect; help one another. Be united; live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with the holy kiss. All the saints send you greetings.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

### Gospel Acclamation See Apoc 1:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:  
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

Alleluia!

### Gospel Jn 3:16-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus,

'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.'

### REFLECTION by Fr Victor

Saint Augustine reminded Christians that: the Doctrine of Holy Trinity is a mystery of God, and no one on earth can fully understand it. We only believe in it. However, the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity reveals to us one thing: "God is love." In other words, in God, there is only love and harmony.

Although we can't even begin to get hold of or grasp the fullness of the Trinity, our faith helps us in some small way to experience its power and presence in our lives. The Trinity is part of our Christian faith and tradition. It cannot be understood with the head, but it is a reality that we are called to experience and believe in through our prayer and our heart.

When we use the word 'mystery' to talk about the Trinity, we are not talking about a puzzle or a riddle that is to be solved. The Trinity is a mystery that is so deep and meaningful that its riches can never be exhausted. The Trinity is the unique relationship of creative love that exists between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Through the gift and grace of our baptism and confirmation we are



personally invited to be part of this dynamic and life-giving union. As the first reading this Sunday tells us, '... The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which we have received.'

In moments of prayer and Christian living, we experience the love of the Trinity, and we are transformed. This is a free gift that always comes from God. It is made real and visible through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we are encouraged and strengthened to live our lives as followers of Jesus.

We are made in the image of likeness of a triune God who is not remote or distant, but God who became flesh and now lives amongst us. We are created in the image of God the Father who creates us, of Jesus the Son who saves us and the Holy Spirit who continues to strengthen us. As we celebrate this wonderful feast, we pray that each of us will continue to be blest in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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

## LIVING THE GOSPEL

### Sign of the Cross

Every time we bless ourselves or begin prayer with the sign of the cross, we reaffirm our belief in the Trinity. That seemingly simple prayer, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,' is, in fact, a confirmation of our belief in a triune God – three in one. The earliest use of the sign of the cross only involved tracing a small cross with the thumb or finger on the forehead as it is still done in baptisms or blessings today. Later, describing the shape of the cross on forehead, abdomen and shoulders became the common practice.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

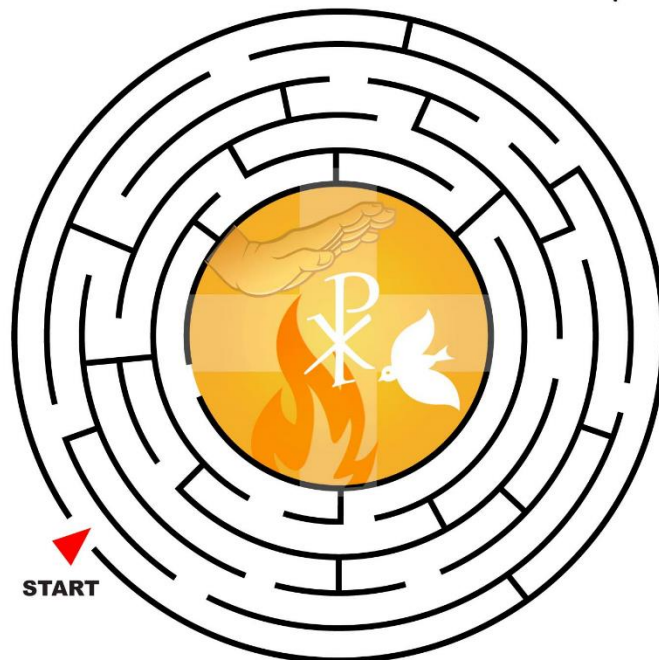
### We believe...

The teaching on the Trinity was not formally constructed until the 4th Century and was documented in the creed that emerged from the Council of Nicaea. The Creed that is said today in the Sunday liturgy is a version of that original Nicene Creed. The Nicene Creed spells out Christian beliefs about the nature of God, Jesus and the Spirit and was worded very carefully to negate a variety of heretical views that were held at the time. It is as much a statement about what we do not believe as it is a statement about what we do believe!



**S**t Boniface was born in c.675 in Devonshire and was educated at a Benedictine monastery. Ordained a priest at the age of thirty, Boniface became a missionary to Germany and in 722 was consecrated Bishop of Hesse. A popular story of his evangelisation tells of his encounter with a pagan tribe that worshipped the Norse god Thor in the form of an oak tree. Boniface walked up to the ancient tree and cut it down with an axe, then stood on the trunk and said, "How stands your mighty god? My God is stronger than he." This led to widespread conversions and with the timber from the oak, he built a chapel dedicated to St Peter, Prince of the Apostles. He became an Archbishop in 732 and died in 754 after being attacked by a band of pagans while evangelising in Holland.

Find your way to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit



## **PENTECOST SUNDAY MASS**

Thank you to all those who contributed to the preparation of the Pentecost multicultural Mass and those who prayed in their native languages. Thank you to the Indian, Filipino and English choirs! It was a wonderful celebration of diversity in our parish community.

## **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

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

## **CHANGE TO MASS TIME THIS WEEK**

Mass in St Thomas at 5pm on Tuesday is cancelled as Fr Victor has an appointment to attend.

## **CURSILLO WEEKEND**

Come journey with us as we share our faith stories – a weekend of meditations, prayers, songs and talks by laypeople, religious and priests – at the Catalina Conference Centre, 171 Dorrington Road, Rathmines, from Thursday 15 June to Sunday 18 June inclusive.

For details, please ring:

Sr Christine O'Connor on 0412044785

Stephen Thatcher on 0437673378

## **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.

## **CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE**

### **MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL**

Can we help you? The Church is aware of the stresses associated with marriage breakdown and divorce and understands that many people have questions about the processes which might allow a divorced person to remarry in the Catholic Church. If you have any questions or would like to have a confidential chat about your situation, please contact Jane at the Tribunal on 4979 1370.

### **ST JOSEPH'S MEN NEWCASTLE MEETING**

The St Joseph's Men Newcastle group will host its next meeting on Wednesday 7 June from 6.30pm at the Sydney Junction Hotel. Entry is free. It's an opportunity for men across our Diocese to come together. For more information or to connect with the group, visit [St Joseph's Men Newcastle on Facebook](#).

## **CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE**

### **Find Your Path at CTC Online**

#### **Information Session**

Monday 19 June at 7.30pm (AEST)

Register via our website:

[ctc.edu.au/information-session](https://ctc.edu.au/information-session)

For more information contact:

Dr Christopher Knauf:

[ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/](https://ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/)



CATHOLIC  
THEOLOGICAL  
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY  
OF DIVINITY

MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST AUSTRALIA

*Inviting Couples and Young Adults*

CHRISTIAN LIFE SEMINAR

**FIRM IN FAITH  
FOUNDED IN LOVE**



17TH JUNE & 1ST JULY 2023  
FROM 10:30 AM TO 3:00 PM

VENUE: SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE  
3 MARKET LANE, MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333



PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT DENNIS - 0447 626 273

## **NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK**

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. The dates for NRW are the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey— the successful **1967 referendum**, and the **High Court Mabo decision** respectively. Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds, and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

For more information visit:

<https://nrw.reconciliation.org.au/>

## **INTRODUCTORY CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION (CPE) (40 HOURS)**

This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of pastoral/spiritual care. It is a qualification required by NSW Health for those wishing to become hospital visitors. It covers such topics as listening skills, empathy, grief and loss, self-awareness, and hospital procedures. It is conducted over six Mondays from 9am to 4pm. A certificate is awarded on completion.

The course starts on 17 July and goes until 21 August.

Registration due by 1 July. MacKillop Parish Charlestown

For more information contact:

Fr. Roger Zohrab- Pastoral Care Coordinator

Mobile: 0408 151 481 | [roger.zohrab@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:roger.zohrab@health.nsw.gov.au)

## **USEFUL LINKS**

Some useful links and resources:

*AURORA* Magazine:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/aurora>

Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan eNewsletter:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/dioupdate-enewsletter/>

Diocesan News Service:

<https://mnnews.today/>

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 5 June	Tuesday 6 June	Wednesday 7 June	Thursday 8 June	Friday 9 June	Saturday 10 June	Sunday 11 June
						<b>THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST</b>
9.00am <b>Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration</b> St James Muswellbrook	<b>NO MASS</b>	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  6.30pm <b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>	10.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
						8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

### Minister Roster Sunday 11th June 2023

2nd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm <b>Saturday Muswellbrook</b>	J. O'Brien J. Paul	F. O'Brien	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am <b>Sunday Aberdeen</b>	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	K. Mason				M. Hamilton
10am <b>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:** 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:** William Irwin and Maeve Seib

**Anniversary:** Gordon Smith, Victor Oakes, Francis Dolahenty

**Recently Deceased:** Marion Bristow

**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."**