



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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

9 July 2023

First Reading **Zec 9:9-10**

A reading from the prophet Zechariah

The Lord says this:

'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!
See now, your king comes to you;
he is victorious, he is triumphant,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will banish chariots from Ephraim
and horses from Jerusalem;
the bow of war will be banished.
He will proclaim peace for the nations.
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,
from the River to the ends of the earth.'

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 144:1-2. 8-11. 13-14. R. v.1**

(R.) I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God.

1. I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**
3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. **(R.)**
4. The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Rom 8:9.11-13**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Gospel Acclamation **Mt 11:25**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 11:25-30**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'



REFLECTION by Fr Victor

On this 14th Sunday of the Church's Ordinary time, she calls us in a special way to reflect on Jesus' humility, gentleness. These twin virtues of humility and gentleness are very necessary for our Christian journey.

Humility and gentleness are two virtues we should learn from Jesus. Jesus says, "learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart." We learn Jesus' humility from the manger in Bethlehem to small town Nazareth, and finally on the Cross. In fact, when we humbly serve our brothers and sisters in need, we will understand how humble God is. When we are patient and gentle to little ones, we will experience how God is kind and merciful to us all. Jesus used his humility to conquer Satan's pride. So, we, Jesus' disciples, should practice the virtue of humility to overcome our prideful heart. Arrogance and selfishness are always there. We have to guard them; don't let them have a chance to dominate our heart.

The wonderful thing is when we take time to be with Jesus to learn from him, he will give us rest. Many people think that going to Mass or spending time with Jesus in the church or chapel is a burden or waste of time. No, it is just opposite. I heard some people say something like: I pray to God to make me love him more, but look like I don't have it, so be it. Do you see what's wrong with that thought? I reply: If you want to love God, but you don't want to have time with him every day, or you don't want to read and reflect on the scriptures, or you don't want to go to Mass regularly, how can God help you? No virtue or adoration will come as natural, but we should practice till they become natural.

Dear friends, Jesus' teaching is always practical. He invites us to *take his yokes and learn from him*. He will make *our yoke become easy and our burden light*. May the Holy Spirit enkindle our zeal of learning from our gentle and humble King.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!



SEA SUNDAY

9 July 2023



PRAYER FROM POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mary, star of the sea, light of every ocean,
guide seafarers across all dark and stormy seas
that they may reach the haven of peace and light
prepared in him who calmed the sea.

As we set forth upon the oceans of the world
and cross the deserts of our time, show us, o Mary,
the fruit of your womb, for without your son we are
lost.

Pray that we will never fail on life's journey,
that in heart and mind, work and deed,
in days of turmoil and in days of calm,
we will always look to Christ and say,
"Who is this that even wind and sea obey him?"
Our Lady of Peace, pray for us!
Bright Star of the Sea, guide us!

**Our Lady, Star of the Sea, pray for seafarers,
pray for us.**

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

On the weekend of the 15th & 16th 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

KEEGAN/WOOD FAMILY GROUP

Planning meeting at Everest Restaurant RSL Club 17 July. Meet at 12 noon to enjoy lunch and share ideas for the next 6 months (Aug 2023 – Jan 2024).

Come along brimming with ideas! Lunch specials \$10.

Numbers attending required by Fri 14th July.



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

Please remember to collect your new set of planned giving envelopes from the church foyers.

SEA SUNDAY – 9 JULY

This Sunday 9 July is Sea Sunday, it's a moment when the church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them, we would not have most of the items we rely on for daily living. Can you support Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church? It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. To assist this Catholic ministry, please send your donations to:

<https://stellamarisaustralia.org/sea-sunday-appeal/>

LOCAL WORLD YOUTH DAY PILGRIMAGE

Are you 18-35? Would you like to celebrate World Youth Day with other young people in our diocese? Come and experience the historical and spiritual treasures of our diocesan story through a walking pilgrimage, taking in the beautiful communities and surrounds of Morpeth, Largs and Maitland.

When: Sunday, August 6th

Time: 7.30am-7.30pm

Where: Meeting at St Joseph's East Maitland, transport will be available to leave from the Diocese at Newcastle-West.

Cost: \$10 dollars (meals and transport included)

We will start and finish our pilgrimage at St Joseph's Catholic Church, East Maitland.

Registration is now open through Eventbrite:

<https://LocalWYD.eventbrite.com.au?aff=oddtcreator>

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>

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/

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.

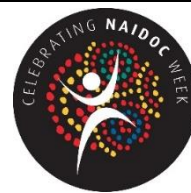
Registration:

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

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



OVERSHADOWED: FILLED WITH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, 18-20 AUGUST 2023

Join the MGL Sisters in a weekend retreat exploring what happens when we say yes to the Holy Spirit. Experience the life-changing power of deepening in God's love, surrendering to Jesus and living under the grace of the Holy Spirit. Venue: Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW Bookings:

<http://www.trybooking.com/CFBQX> (by 11 August)

Contact: Katherine - mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 10 July	Tuesday 11 July	Wednesday 12 July	Thursday 13 July	Friday 14 July	Saturday 15 July	Sunday 16 July
						15th 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 16th July 2023

3rd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	K. Mason	M. Edwards	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	C. O'Brien Can you fill this position?	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			K. Goodwin
Counters	Therese Bristow and Esther Molloy						

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, Rodrigo Canete, Helen Tumbers, Lucrecia Casia, Anne Rawson, Enrique Tuazon, Vinitia Fernando, Maree Bible, Kirsty Munn, Kellie Shaw, Vidhya Vijay, and Michael Dolahenty.

Baptism:

Anniversary: Michael Lambley

Recently Deceased: Margaret Blake and 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

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."