



# 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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**PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333**

**Phone: 6543 1167**

**Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm**

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A**

**16 July 2023**

### **First Reading** **Is 55:10-11**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

### **Responsorial Psalm** **Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8**

**(R.)** The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water,  
you fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over  
to provide its grain. **(R.)**
2. And thus you provide for the earth;  
you drench its furrows,  
you level it, soften it with showers,  
you bless its growth. **(R.)**
3. You crown the year with your goodness.  
Abundance flows in your steps,  
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **(R.)**
4. The hills are girded with joy,  
the meadows covered with flocks,  
the valleys are decked with wheat.  
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading** **Rom 8:18-23**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has

been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

### **Gospel Acclamation** **Mt 11:25**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the Sower;  
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

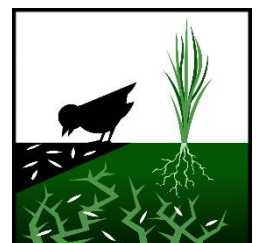
### **Gospel** **Mt 13:1-23**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a Sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up, they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:



You will listen and listen again, but not understand,  
see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,  
their ears are dull of hearing,  
and they have shut their eyes,  
for fear they should see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their heart,  
and be converted  
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears  
because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and  
holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to  
hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the Sower.  
When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without  
understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what  
was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the  
seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on  
patches of rock is the man who hears the word and  
welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he  
does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on  
account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one  
who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the  
word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches  
choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one  
who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears  
the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a  
harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now  
thirty.'

### **REFLECTION by Fr Victor**

On the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we celebrate Christ  
who came to sow the seed of the Word of God both in our  
hearts and in the world at large.

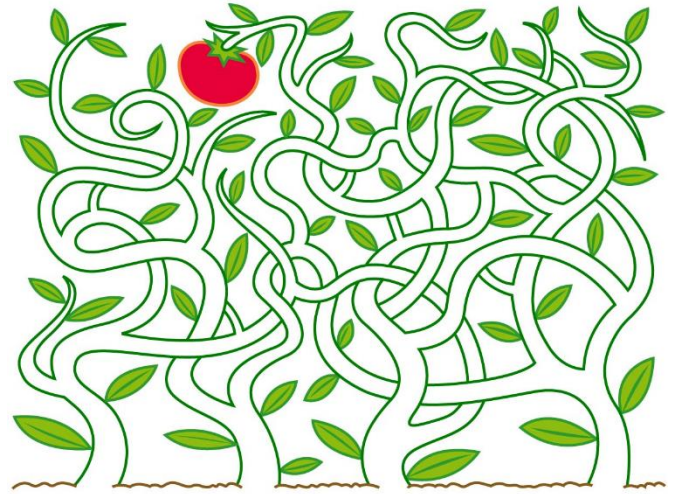
In the first reading of this Sunday, the Prophet Isaiah  
speaks about the power of God's Word. The Word of God  
rains down from the heavens and will not return until it  
has succeeded in what it was sent to do. In the gospel  
Jesus continues this message by telling his followers and us  
today the powerful parable of the Sower and seed. The  
farmer sows his seed. According to where it fell and how it  
took root, some of it died, withered, and produced no fruit  
crop. Other seeds fell on rich, deep, and fertile soil and  
produced a bumper crop.

We know that through this parable Jesus is talking about  
and describing himself. The Sower and seed are Jesus  
himself, the Word. He is the Word that has come down  
from heaven and he will not return until he has succeeded  
in what he was sent to do. The soil into which the seeds  
are sown are our daily lives. At times the words that Jesus  
speaks to us literally fall on deaf ears. We hear these  
powerful and challenging words from Jesus, but perhaps  
because of fear, we are reluctant to let them take root in  
our lives. But there are also times when we hear and  
welcome the words that Jesus speaks to us. We allow  
them to be sown in us, they take root, we nourish and  
nurture them and they produce fruit that can be seen in  
the quality of our daily lives.

Generally, we hear the word of God proclaimed when we  
gather as part of the parish community on a Sunday.

Hopefully through the hymns, the readings and the gospel  
and the homily we hear a word that nourishes, nurtures,  
and challenges us as we strive to live the Christian life. The  
real challenge is how we take that word away from the  
church after mass and live it in our daily lives with and for  
others in our families, parish community and  
neighbourhood.

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



Which of these four plants is the one bearing fruit?

## **Living the gospel**

### **Scatter that seed!**

*The teaching of the parable of the sower is as true for us today as it was in its original context. The word of the kingdom continues to fall on people who are at various stages of readiness to receive it. What Jesus suggests to his disciples – and to us – is that the 'good soil' can't always be predicted. Jesus doesn't tell his disciples to only sow the word in people who are receptive. Rather, he wants them – and us – to scatter the word everywhere and to rejoice when it does find good soil and yields a rich harvest.*

**Mary of Magdala** was a disciple of Christ who was healed by him when he cast out seven devils. She stood at the foot of the cross as Jesus died, and went to the tomb to anoint his body on the morning of Easter Sunday. She was the first witness to Jesus' resurrection when she found his tomb empty. In St Mark's Gospel, it is Mary

Magdalene to whom the risen Jesus first appears and further to this, in St John's account, Jesus gives her a message to pass on to his brethren. Since the time of Pope Gregory the Great, a tradition in the Western church arose that identified Mary Magdalene as the unnamed sinner who anointed Christ's feet, and Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha and Lazarus. But since 1969 the new Roman calendar has rejected this belief entirely.



## **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.



## **HAVE YOUR SAY THIS WEEKEND!!**

Don't forget to stay behind after Masses this weekend to  
share your thoughts and ideas for the development of the  
new Pastoral Plan.

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

**Many thanks, St James Parish – Muswellbrook and  
Aberdeen Parish Pastoral Council.**

## **'COME REST A WHILE' REFLECTION DAY**

In appreciation of current and interested Christian  
Initiation ministers, 'Come rest a while' is an opportunity  
to listen, reflect and get to know other ministers.

**When:** Saturday 9 September

**Where:** Charlestown

**Time:** 10am – 3.30pm

Morning tea and lunch provided. Details and registration  
at [come-rest-2023.eventbrite.com.au](https://come-rest-2023.eventbrite.com.au)

For enquiries or registration assistance contact  
[sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au) P: 4979 1134

## **CHRISTIANS FOR PEACE NEWCASTLE HIROSHIMA DAY COMMEMORATION – SUNDAY 6 AUGUST**

A commemoration of Hiroshima Day will be held at Choral  
Evensong at 6pm on Sunday 6 August 2023 at Christ  
Church Cathedral. The Guest Preachers on this special  
occasion will be the Rev'd Dr Erica Mathieson & Rev'd Dr  
Ray Williamson. People of all faiths are warmly invited to  
share in this annual service of commemoration as we  
remember those who have suffered as a result of war and  
join together in prayers for peace in the world.

Contacts: George Garnsey 4934 2658 or

Doug Hewitt 0431 935 097

## **GUEST SPEAKER: CHARBEL RAISH TESTIMONY**

There are many ways to grow our faith. The pinnacle being  
attending Holy Mass and participating in the Eucharist.  
Spiritual reading (with careful selection of course) is  
another way to deepen and widen our intimacy with God.  
Another is listening to others witness to their spiritual  
journey. In response to an expressed need for such  
witnessing, Wallsend-Shortland parish are excited to  
announce that Charbel Raish will be giving his testimony at  
**Our Lady of Victories School Hall on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup>  
August, 10:30am – 12:30pm.**

Charbel is the founder of Parousia Media which was born  
in May of 2005. He has organized over 1000 face to face  
and virtual events consisting of local and international  
speakers who have featured all over Australia and the  
world. Charbel has coordinated Faith Formation events for  
over 21 years.

Please come and join us. If this is well received, we hope  
to have many other such events in our parish. To register,  
please contact Sr Mary on, 0249 55 95 75.

## **WORKSHOPS AND CATHEDRAL LECTURE**

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/)

## **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>

## **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 6<sup>th</sup>

**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 (meals and transport included)

Registration is now open through Eventbrite:

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

## **THE BOOMER CHALLENGE | BEING SAFE ONLINE**

The Boomer Challenge gives children aged 8 to 12 the  
skills to recognise potentially unsafe and risky online  
situations, and to make decisions and problem solve in the  
online world. Join Millsy, his sister Kristy and their  
technologically challenged grandparents for a fun and  
engaging online game that will teach children about the  
pitfalls of the online world.

<https://danielmorcombe.com.au/keeping-kids-safe/keeping-kids-safe/the-boomer-challenge/>

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 17 July	Tuesday 18 July	Wednesday 19 July	Thursday 20 July	Friday 21 July	Saturday 22 July	Sunday 23 July
					<i>St Mary Magdalene</i>	<b>16th 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 23rd July 2023

4th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	M. Flanagan  Can you fill this position?	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	S. Milton	C. Wykes	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	B. Powell T. Furlong	M. Kelly	C. Kelly				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, Rodrigo Canete, Helen Tumbers, Lucrecia Casia, Anne Rawson, Enrique Tuazon, Vinitia Fernando, Maree Bible, Kirsty Munn, Kellie Shaw, Vidhya Vijay, Michael Dolahenty, Jenny Paul, and Danielle Camilleri.

**Baptism:**

**Anniversary:** Kevin Johns

**Recently Deceased:** Margaret Blake

**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."**