



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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

23 July 2023

First Reading **Wisdom 12:13.16-19**

A reading from the book of Wisdom

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.

You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there.

By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5**

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. **(R.)**
2. All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. **(R.)**
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Romans 8:26-27**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the

pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

Gospel Acclamation **Matthew 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 **Matthew 13:24-43**

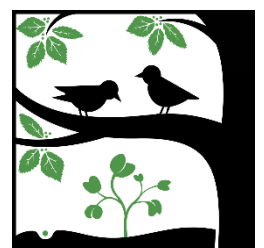
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'"

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he



would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the foundation of
the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

In the Gospel for the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. The parable of the wheat and weeds, the parable of the mustard seed, and the parable of the yeast.

The parable of the wheat and weeds challenges us to reflect on our hearts and choices. We all have moments of goodness and weakness, love and selfishness. Recognizing our imperfections humbles us and invites self-reflection. The parable urges us to protect the wheat within us and uproot the weeds. We nurture the good while striving for spiritual growth, repentance, and conversion. By embracing this process, we create space for God's grace to transform us, bearing abundant fruits of love, mercy, and compassion.

The parable of the mustard seed reveals the extraordinary potential in seemingly small aspects of our lives. Small acts of faith and love can have a significant impact when nurtured. It challenges our perception of value, reminding us that God's kingdom works humbly.

Simple acts of kindness, compassion, and faithfulness can ripple through lives, contributing to the growth of God's kingdom. Embracing small opportunities for love and service, we trust that God brings greatness through our humble efforts, cultivating a receptive heart for His transformative grace.

The parable of the yeast teaches us about the transformative power of God's Kingdom. Just as yeast leavens dough, our smallest actions infused with faith and love can have far-reaching effects. Our choices and interactions matter.

We can influence others through our words, actions, and attitudes, becoming agents of positive change. By embracing our personal witness and allowing faith to permeate our lives, we become vessels for God's grace, spreading love and bringing forth goodness, joy, and hope in our communities and the world.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

St James was the son of Zebedee and the brother of John the apostle. He was a fisherman from Galilee who became known as James 'the Greater' to distinguish him from the other apostle James 'the Less', son of Alphaeus. Jesus called James and John the 'sons of thunder', most likely in reference to their quick tempers. Along with Peter, James and John were among Jesus' closest friends and they were chosen to be witnesses to the Transfiguration and his agony in the garden. After Christ's death, James became the first apostle to be martyred when he was put to the sword by King Herod Agrippa I.



World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2023

PRAYER FOR THE THIRD WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

Virgin Mary,
Mother of faith and hope,
an example for this humanity bent by
indifference,
make me as willing as You
to accept the will of God,
to magnify and praise His Mercy.

Mary, Mother of fortitude,
you who knows my heart,
do not allow me to become discouraged.
I confidently surrender my life into
your hands.

Heal my wounds.
May your tenderness accompany me on
the way.

Your presence, Mother of love, brings
us to experience the joy of seeing our
families united.
Help me to transmit the tenderness and
Love of God to the grandchildren and
youth
so that, in addition to praying for them,
we can pray with them.

Mary, may the gift of the Holy Spirit
intercede for me:
sustain my weakness;
breathe into my heart the consolation
that I may leave traces of faith among
the young,
bearing witness to the beauty of life,
knowing that life has a limit
and that beyond it lies before us our
Father's embrace.

Amen.



ST THOMAS' CUPPA ROSTER

Please join us for a cuppa after Mass at St Thomas' on **Sunday 30 July**. July's rostered volunteers are Margaret Hamilton and Carol Bowen.



FEAST OF ST JAMES TRIDUUM

A 3-day Triduum of prayer leading up to the Feast of St James - Tuesday 25 July - will be held at Masses this Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.

ADELE ANNUAL LEAVE

The parish office will be closed over the following weeks:

1 – 4 August, 8 – 11 August, 15 – 18 August.

Please contact Colleen Kelly for any bulletin requests during this time.

P: 0402 242 273

E: kellymbrook@westnet.com.au

For urgent matters please call Fr Victor.

SEASON FOR GROWTH ADULT PROGRAM

The Seasons for Growth Adult Program is for anyone who is living with the effects of change and loss. Many factors can cause change such as the loss of someone or something you love, family separation and divorce, moving to a new place, impact of illness, migration, and family or work-life changes.

If you, or someone you know, are dealing with significant life changes, you are invited to attend the Adult Seminar:

Date: Saturday 2 September, 9.00am-12.00pm

Venue: Toohey Room, 841 Hunter St Newcastle West

RSVP: 27 August

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/season-for-growth-tickets-671239343947> or ring 4979 1334

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY - 23 JULY

The third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will have the theme, "His mercy is from age to age" (Lk 1: 50). This verse reminds us that God's mercy is manifested in history through the testimonies of those who have experienced it and passed it on to their children and grandchildren. The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is an occasion to once again express with joy that the Church wants to celebrate together with those whom the Lord -- as the Bible says -- has given "a full life".

Please help yourself to a copy of Pope Francis' message for this special day, available in the church foyers or read the Pope's message here:

<https://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au/news/>

**"God wants young people to bring joy to the hearts of the elderly, as Mary did to Elizabeth, and gain wisdom from their experiences."
- Pope Francis**



Message for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2023



www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

ART AND SPIRITUALITY WORKSHOP

Creation of art provides an opportunity for a deepening awareness of oneself and the world, and can act as a catalyst for evoking the Spirit. Art is a means to see-to-research and find the living meaning of what it means to open the heart. Everyone has the ability to create art, but in order for it to be theological, the artist needs to explore ways that it makes sense of faith. Opening the heart through art involves making meaning through the creation, then reflecting on the art itself and the unfolding the moment-to-moment direct experience of the process. This workshop will provide an opportunity to awaken the Spirit through the beauty of God's creation, prayer, and reflection. Participants will engage in art-making experiences which will nourish their faith.

Dates: Thursday September 14 (9am-3pm)

Venue: Kilaben Bay Community Centre

Cost: \$25 per person

To register go to:

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/art-and-spirituality-workshop-september-2023-tickets-632417346307

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, 26th 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/

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 24 July	Tuesday 25 July	Wednesday 26 July	Thursday 27 July	Friday 28 July	Saturday 29 July	Sunday 30 July
	<i>Feast of St James, apostle</i>	<i>Sts Joachim and Anne</i>			<i>Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus</i>	17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	5.30pm Mass 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
						8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 30th July 2023

5th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	C. Panis Can you fill this position?	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	M. Brown	M. Harris	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	B. Powell Can you fill this position?	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			K. Goodwin
Counters	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, Anne Rawson, Enrique Tuazon, Vinitia Fernando, Maree Bible, Kirsty Munn, Kellie Shaw, Vidhya Vijay, Michael Dolahenty, Jenny Paul, and Danielle Camilleri.

Baptism:

Anniversary: Margaretha and Adriaan Klasen

Recently Deceased: Lucrezia Casia

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/ or phone: 02 4979 1390

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."