



# 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

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A**

**27 August 2023**

### **First Reading** Is 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,  
I remove you from your post,  
and the same day I call on my servant  
Eliakim son of Hilkiyah.  
I invest him with your robe,  
gird him with your sash,  
entrust him with your authority;  
and he shall be a father  
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and to the House of Judah.  
I place the key of the House of David  
on his shoulder;  
should he open, no one shall close,  
should he close, no one shall open.  
I drive him like a peg  
into a firm place;  
he will become a throne of glory  
for his father's house.

### **Responsorial Psalm** Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

- (R.) Lord, your love is eternal;  
do not forsake the work of your hands.
1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
Before the angels I will bless you.  
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)
  2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love  
which excel all we ever knew of you.  
On the day I called, you answered;  
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)
  3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly  
and the haughty he knows from afar.  
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,  
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

### **Second Reading** Rom 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom  
and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his  
motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know  
the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor?  
Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything?  
All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To  
him be glory for ever! Amen.

### **Gospel Acclamation** Mt 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;  
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

### **Gospel** Mt 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put  
this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son  
of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist,  
some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'  
'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter  
spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the  
living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a  
happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that  
revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say  
to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my  
Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold  
out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of  
heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered  
bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be  
considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples  
strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.



## **REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate**

### **What's in a Name?**

Jesus had a sense of humour! Simon, son of Jonah, was far from being a rock solid supporter of Jesus. So Jesus gave him the nickname 'Rocky' which in the Greek is Petros.

Jesus puns with the nickname: 'You are Rocky and upon this rock I will build *my* church.' The natural personality of shifting sands was being transformed by the blessing just given (the only blessing bestowed upon an apostle by Jesus).

Notice that Jesus only makes promises about '*my* church', not a church shaped by human imagination, e.g. modes of Roman Imperial rule or with a Eurocentric mindset.

Fortunately, we have a successor of St Peter responding to our Risen Lord's command to St Francis of Assisi, 'Rebuild *my* church'.

We could pause for a moment to pray that the Risen Lord showers the 265th successor of St Peter with every blessing so that the Church of Jesus the Christ continues to prevail over the forces of death which threaten humanity.

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## **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE**

### **Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry**

## **Catholics reminded to preach the Gospel always, everywhere**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**July 18, 2023**

Catholics are being urged to “preach all the Gospel, to all the world, all the time” and to consider encounter, discipleship and mission from their Catholic foundations in a new document from the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry.

The document, titled *Evangelisation*, offers a scriptural and theological reflection on the proclamation of the Gospel through the lenses of encounter, discipleship and mission.

It draws on seminal documents on evangelisation from recent decades, including the teachings of Popes Paul VI, John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis.

“Almost 50 years ago, St Paul VI urged us to reflect on Christ the Evangeliser, but to also see ourselves as the evangelising Church,” said Archbishop Christopher Prowse, chair of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry.

“In recent years, the task of prophetic witness and convicted proclamation of the Gospel has increasingly been seen as the work of all the baptised, and we invite the faithful to reflect deeply and pray about that in this document.”

*Evangelisation* uses two well-known parables – the Samaritan woman at the well and the disciples on the road to Emmaus – as anchors for the consideration of the themes of encounter, discipleship and mission.

“By unpacking these familiar stories, and by contemplating how we encounter Jesus, how he made disciples and how we are called to be missionary, we can find ourselves challenged to be more and also to do more.

“The Bishops Commission felt compelled to provide something of a blueprint for evangelisation in our current context, and we commend it to the People of God as part of our journey, walking together.”

The document concludes with a reflection on St John Paul II's legacy as a proponent and practitioner of a spirit of evangelisation.

“There is an expression that could summarise the contribution of St John Paul II concerning evangelisation in general. It pertains to the fact that all the Church, and all the baptised, are to preach all the Gospel, including all Scripture and Tradition, to all the world,” the document states.

“We are a missionary people entering into the cultural worlds of our society and we do this all the time until Jesus comes again.

“In summary, all the Church, to preach all the Gospel, to all the world, all the time.”

*Evangelisation* can be found on the Bishops Conference website at [www.catholic.au](http://www.catholic.au)

## **THANK YOU!!**

Mary-Anne Pike provided the beautiful flowers and put together the arrangements on the altar for the celebration of Confirmation and First Communion. Thanks Mary-Anne!



## **PARISH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK**

Tuesday: 12.30pm – 2.30pm

Wednesday: 9.30am – 2.30pm

Thursday: Closed

Friday: Closed

The bulletin will be published on Wednesday. Please send any notices through by Wednesday morning. Thank you.

## **FATHER'S DAY REGISTER**

A registration sheet will be in the Church foyers this weekend. Please write the name of your father's (living and deceased) and this will be placed on the altar with candles at all Masses for Father's Day.

## **ST THOMAS' CUPPA ROSTER**

Please join us for a cuppa after Mass at St Thomas' this Sunday. August's rostered volunteers are Marianne and Cathy.



## **SAFEGUARDING TRAINING SAVE THE DATE!!**

Safeguarding training will be held in Singleton on **Saturday 30 September**. If you are a volunteer who has been told that they require this training, please put this date into your calendar. I will follow up with volunteers when I return from leave.

## **CAN YOU SUPPORT CATHOLIC CARE DURING AUGUST?**

CatholicCare's Community Kitchens offer more than just a meal. With the assistance of volunteers, CatholicCare has created a space where people can feel safe and enjoy the company of others and access other services if needed. We ask you to give a gift to our Make a Difference Appeal to help us to continue to feed and connect people through our Community Kitchens and other non-funded programs. At CatholicCare our programs really do make a difference in our local community. We can't do this work without the generosity of our community and people like you. Your tax-deductible donation will go a long way.

Donating is simple and only takes a few steps. Visit:

[www.mycause.com.au/page/318856/make-a-difference](http://www.mycause.com.au/page/318856/make-a-difference)

## **BECOME AN SRE VOLUNTEER**

Did you know that some 50% of Catholic children are in state schools? Have you ever thought of spreading the good news of the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ with children? Have you ever thought about becoming and Special Religious Educator?

You can make a difference in the schools within our parish! For people of faith, knowing you are participating in Christ's call to share the Good News to all is a great source of joy and meaning.

If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please contact the Pastoral Ministries Team.

Rose Mcallister: Manager Formation & Education  
49791346

Nicki Graham: Officer Formation & Education 0417 773  
444

## **FATHER'S DAY MONSTER RAFFLE, ST MARY'S SCONE**

Please support Scone parish's annual Father's Day fundraiser. All proceeds go towards St Mary's Scone Centenary. Raffle will be drawn at Mass on Sunday 3 September.

**2 tickets for \$5.00 or**

**5 tickets for \$10.00**

**9 HIGH VALUE PRIZES TO BE WON for DAD worth over \$800. GREAT ODDS with 9 Lucky Winners! Family Dad, Sports Dad, Handyman Dad, Living it up Dad...**

Equal 1st. \$200- voucher to the **Royal Hotel, Murrurundi**. Donated. Thanks John Adams.

Equal 1st. \$200- voucher to **Linga Longa Inn, Gundy**. Donated. Thanks Max & Daniel.

3rd. \$100- gift card to **Scone Mitre 10**.

4th. \$100- voucher to **Scone Sports Store**.

5th. \$60- voucher to **Beer Wine Spirits BWS**.

6th. \$50- voucher to **Asser House Cafe Scone**. Donated. Thanks Stuart & Ivy Jamieson.

7th. \$50- voucher to **Asser House Café Scone**. Donated. Thanks Stuart & Ivy Jamieson.

8th. **Penfold's "Bin 28"** fine red & Ultimate Dad "Toblerone" chocolate. Donated.

9th. Six pack "**Stone & Wood**" beer & Ultimate Dad "Toblerone" chocolate. Donated.

## **ONLINE BANKING, CASHLESS TRANSFER.**

**Just type in your MOBILE PHONE No**

**OR Initials and Surname as your unique identifier.**

\$5 transfer buys 2 tickets.

\$10 transfer buys 5 tickets.

\$15 transfer buys 7 tickets.

\$20 transfer buys 10 tickets.

**Account Name: St Mary Fund**

**BSB: 932000**

**Account: 100508911**

## **PASTORAL PLACEMENT PROGRAM**

Applications are now open for the 2024 Pastoral Placement Program!

The Pastoral Placement Program offers participants an experience of ministry in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The purpose of this program is to enable participants the opportunity to experience different workplaces and ministries across the diocese. These 'on the ground' ministry work placements help participants explore the opportunities that are available to them to serve God and the local community of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The Pastoral Placement Program provides participants with a year-long discernment journey, involving the see, judge, act philosophy, to make an informed choice about the possibility of their future ministry or career choices.

For more information and to learn how to apply go to:

[www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/pastoral-placement-program/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/pastoral-placement-program/)

## Weekly Mass Diary

| Monday<br>28 August  | Tuesday<br>29 August                           | Wednesday<br>30 August                            | Thursday<br>31 August   | Friday<br>1 September                             | Saturday<br>2 September  | Sunday<br>3 September                                |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|
|  |  |   |   |   |  | <b>22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time<br/>Father's Day</b> |
| 9.00am<br><b>Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration</b><br>St James<br>Muswellbrook |  | 9.00am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James<br>Muswellbrook | 11.30am<br><b>Adoration and Benediction</b><br><br>12.05pm<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James<br>Muswellbrook | 9.00am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James<br>Muswellbrook | 9.00am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James<br>Muswellbrook<br><br>5.30pm<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James<br>Muswellbrook<br><br>6.30pm<br><b>Eucharistic Adoration</b> | 10.00am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James<br>Muswellbrook   |
|  | 5.00pm<br><b>Mass</b><br>St Thomas<br>Aberdeen |   |   |   |  | 8.00am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St Thomas<br>Aberdeen       |

### Minister Roster Sunday 3rd September 2023

| 1st Sunday of the Month            | Readers                     | Cantors                     | Musicians   | Gifts                       | Extraordinary Ministers | Altar Servers | Sacristan   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 5.30pm<br>Saturday<br>Muswellbrook | Can you fill this position? | C. Hayes                    | Sr. Dorothy | J. Toohey<br>R. Wood        |                         | R. Panis      | C. Hayes    |
|                                    | Can you fill this position? |                             |             |                             |                         |               |             |
| 8am<br>Sunday<br>Aberdeen          | T. Hobbs                    | J. Lonergan                 | C. Bowen    |                             |                         |               | M. Hamilton |
| 10am<br>Sunday<br>Muswellbrook     | M. Kempis                   | Can you fill this position? | K. Mason    | Can you fill this position? |                         |               | K. Goodwin  |
|                                    | Can you fill this position? |                             |             |                             |                         |               |             |
| <b>Counters</b>                    | Kay and Brian Mason         |                             |             |                             |                         |               |             |

#### 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:** Anmol, Mick Chisholm, David Curran, Pat Hogan, Abbie Sweeper, Kym Mason, Melanie Hoch, Kim Goodwin, Anne Hugo, Helen Tumbers, Anne Rawson, Vinitia Fernando, Kirsty Munn, Kellie Shaw, Vidhya Vijay, Michael Dolahenty, Jenny Paul, George Henriques, and Danielle Camilleri.

**Recently Deceased:** Ernestina Klein

**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/) or phone: 02 4979 1390

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."**