



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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

3 September 2023

First Reading **Jer 20:7-9**

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2**

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

- O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**
- So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**
- So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**
- For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Rom 12:1-2**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God.

Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel Acclamation **See Eph 1:17-18**

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 16:21-27**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'



REFLECTION by Fr Victor

Last week Peter responded to Jesus' question, "But who do you say that I am?" with "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." For this Jesus identified Peter as "blessed", pronounces him as the "rock" upon which he will build his church.

This week, Jesus tells them for the first time about his coming passion. He tells them that "he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised."

Now Jesus saying he "must go to Jerusalem" would make sense to Peter but not to suffer and be killed. Jesus is the Christ. He is supposed to be the one to set them free from their enemies. How could he be killed by the elders and the scribes? The Romans were the ones seen as the enemies.

So, most of what Jesus says makes no sense to Peter. Peter, who had just called Jesus, the Christ rebukes him. Jesus then says to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me." Now Peter the Rock has become Peter the Block

Why? Jesus gives the answer. Peter is "thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Peter was waiting for the Messiah, the Christ. His soul was thirsting to know our Lord, but he had his expectations of what the Messiah would be like. When Jesus tells us of his coming passion, it doesn't find what Peter was expecting.

People often think that if they believe in Jesus and come to church everything should be fine. We might often think of church as a place we go to flee from our problems. Coming to church can be a powerful help in the problems we face but being Christian can be a challenge. Knowing this, Jesus goes on to say, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

"Deny himself" and "take up his cross" are hardly words that we might put on the noticeboard or bulletin to invite people to come to church, but they are essential to understanding what it means to be Christian. Peter was very open to Jesus as the Christ as he saw the role of the Christ, but he wasn't ready for Jesus to be the Christ that God willed. He would need time and grace for that.

When we face suffering in our lives, we might rush to ask Jesus to fix that suffering. Are we open to him "fixing" the suffering in the way he wants or just the way we want? Going a step beyond that, do we want Jesus to change just one part of our life that we don't like or are we willing to let him change our whole life?

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!



OFFICE OF
BISHOP MICHAEL KENNEDY

Friday 18 August 2023

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write to you about the Perpetual Day of Remembrance only a few days after returning from our Diocesan World

Youth Day (WYD) pilgrimage. The experience of WYD is a gift that I will continue to reflect on over the coming weeks. Primary amongst the gifts I am receiving is an awareness of the blessing young people are and bring to our Church, and a renewed hope for all we can become as we continue to journey together, building the Kingdom of God here and now.

Coming to reflect on the importance of the Perpetual Day of Remembrance immediately following my experience of WYD has sharpened my sense of the imperative for us to remember and pray to ensure that the abuse that devastated the lives of so many children and young people and their families never happens again.

Being new to the diocese I am looking towards my first experience of the Perpetual Day of Remembrance, established throughout the diocese by my predecessor Bishop Bill Wright. This day holds before us our history of child sexual abuse and the reality of its continual unfolding in the lives of those directly and indirectly affected. To further embed our remembrance in the life and prayer of the church, in 2020 Bishop Bill Wright decreed Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday as a feast inscribed in the diocesan liturgical calendar. This was explained in the letter accompanying the decree.

It is my desire that we continue to mark the Perpetual Day of Remembrance in our parishes – particularly on Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday – our schools, our agencies, our communities, and households.

Some may find this remembering uncomfortable. Some may even prefer that we stop remembering. We are, however, the faithful people of God, and when one of us suffers, we all suffer. This means that we are called to stand with and pray for our brothers and sisters who are often unable to pray themselves. This is a necessary part of who we claim ourselves to be as the Church.

Remembering also helps to reignite hope. As Fr Richard Lennan, one of our own, reminded us in one of his recent presentations in the Diocese:

- Hope builds faith, acknowledging that God holds us,
- Hope expresses itself in love, that nurtures the hope of others,
- Hope enables us to name reality, it is neither avoidance nor wishful thinking, and
- Hope enables us to face what is broken and engage with change.

In the spirit of that understanding of Christian hope, I urge us all to embrace our marking of the *Perpetual Day of Remembrance*.

Yours in that same hope,

Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

FATHER'S DAY REGISTER

You are invited to write the name of your father's (living and deceased) on the registration sheets available in the Church foyers this weekend. This will be placed on the altar with candles at all Masses this Father's Day.

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

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

PARISH VOLUNTEER SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

This training forms part of the **Diocese's mandatory training regime** and is specifically designed to support parish workers undertaking a broad range of ministries in church facilities and out in the community. The training targets the safeguarding needs of faith communities. The course will address:

- the Diocese's Safeguarding Framework policy
- indicators of risk and vulnerability
- indicators of abuse and neglect
- boundaries in ministry
- responding to disclosures
- reporting obligations
- contributing to a 'Safe' culture

Date: Saturday, 30 September

Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm (lunch provided)

Location: Singleton Golf Club, 51 Boundary Street, Singleton

Cost: Free

Parishioner volunteers who are required to attend this training will receive an email from the parish office this week.

140TH JUBILEE OF THE SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH, LOCHINVAR

On Monday 4 September the Sisters of St Joseph, Lochinvar are celebrating 140 years of ministry within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Four Sisters arrived from Perthville on 2 September, 1883 and enrolled the first children in Primary school the next day. We rejoice that this ministry of education continues today in many schools throughout the Diocese in the hands of faith-filled, deeply committed lay teachers. And so it is with great joy, that we give God thanks for the graces and blessings given to us, our students, their parents, our school staff and friends over these many years. We invite you to remember us in prayer at this very significant point in our history.

GOD OUR FATHER,

In Your wisdom and love You have created us and called us Your own.

Bless our fathers, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers.

In moments of joy, rejoice with them. In times of struggle, give them Your courage and perseverance.

Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor and appreciate them always with a spirit of profound respect.

May the example and prayer of St. Joseph inspire them to live their vocation with courage. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Happy Father's Day!



Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 4 September	Tuesday 5 September	Wednesday 6 September	Thursday 7 September	Friday 8 September	Saturday 9 September	Sunday 10 September
				<i>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>		23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday
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 10th September 2023

2nd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	J. O'Brien J. Paul	F. O'Brien	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	K. Mason				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	G. Griffin B. Powell	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: Anmol Massey, 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.

Baptism:

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

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."