



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

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Perpetual Day of Remembrance

10 September 2023

First Reading

Ez 37:1-14

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel

The hand of the Lord was laid on me, and he carried me away by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley, a valley full of bones. He made me walk up and down among them. There were vast quantities of these bones on the ground the whole length of the valley; and they were quite dried up. He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'You know, Lord.' He said, 'Prophesy over these bones. Say, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. The Lord says this to these bones: I am now going to make the breath enter you, and you will live. I shall put sinews on you, I shall make flesh grow on you, I shall cover you with skin and give you breath, and you will live; and you will learn that I am the Lord."''

I prophesied as I had been ordered. While I was prophesying, there was a noise, a sound of clattering; and the bones joined together. I looked, and saw that they were covered with sinews; flesh was growing on them and skin was covering them, but there was no breath in them. He said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man. Say to the breath, "The Lord says this: Come from the four winds, breath; breathe on these dead; let them live!"' I prophesied as he had ordered me, and the breath entered them; they came to life again and stood up on their feet, a great, an immense army.

Then he said, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole House of Israel. They keep saying, "Our bones are dried up, our hope has gone; we are as good as dead." So prophesy. Say to them, "The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this it is the Lord who speaks."''

Responsorial Psalm Ps 41:2-3; 42:3-4. R. see Ps 41:3

(R.) My soul is thirsting for the living God.

1. Like the deer that yearns
for running streams,
so my soul is yearning
for you, my God. **(R.)**
2. My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life;
when can I enter and see
the face of God? **(R.)**
3. O send forth your light and your truth;
let these be my guide.
Let them bring me to your holy mountain
to the place where you dwell. **(R.)**
4. And I will come to the altar of God,
the God of my joy.
My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp,
O God, my God. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rom 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine in the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:46-56

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.
Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me
blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me.
Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age
for those who fear him.

'He has shown the power of his arm,
he has routed the proud of heart.

He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.

He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy – according to the promise he made to our ancestors – of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

The Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday has been inscribed in the liturgical calendar of the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese, as a way for us to ‘live in remembrance’ of the pain and suffering caused by the abuse within our community. On this Perpetual Day of Remembrance, we, as Church in the diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, are called to remember those of our brothers and sisters who have been harmed – abused – by some members of our Church, and who were further harmed by having an insensitive disregard for others who placed the reputation of the Church above the lives and safety of innocents.

The readings for this Sunday, seek to help us to recall our experience of death, of loss, of dryness, of hopelessness amid impossible challenges – like a valley of lifeless, dry bones that we hear about in the first reading. In the face of such dryness and loss, God calls the prophet Ezekiel to speak a word that raises up new life. Our response to hearing this call is to proclaim in faith, ‘My soul is thirsting for the living God’. In the Gospel we hear the faith and promise of a young Mary, who though she felt ‘lowly’, dared to say ‘yes’ to God who had ‘done great things’ for her, and who promised to do so into the future, routing from the human heart all that diminishes the life of others. And so, as the second reading proclaims, the dying-rising pattern of our lives has its influence on others.

The stories of those who have been abused and harmed, the stories of those who walk that journey with survivors, the stories of those who have had their innocence stolen, had a direct influence on us. Their pain, their anger, their loss should and must encourage us on to change to a conversion of heart and mind.

The conversion we are called to is to ensure that those who have been harmed are supported and assisted, that we face the truth of our past with honesty, that we commit ourselves to ensure that we do all that we can to make our Church, our communities, places where children and the vulnerable are safe.

We cannot change the past, nor can we ignore it. We cannot pretend that some members of our Church did not abuse children, nor can we nullify our responsibility to provide remedy in ways that are meaningful. So, our task of conversion is not just momentary. It is not only putting safeguarding measures in place and complying with externally set standards but also to commit perpetually for the cause of victims and survivors and never repeat the past again.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe, and Stay Blessed!



This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that builds and supports safe communities for all people.

You can find out more about the Church’s work in this area at:

www.catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023

In the Light of Your Love

*God with us,
you have made us in your image,
and filled us with the breath of your divine life.
Through the life of Jesus
you show us the way to live in the light of your love.
Create a clean heart in us O God.
Where people are disempowered
may we shine the light of your justice.
Where there is privilege and prestige
may we shine the light of your humility.
Where there is dishonesty and denial
may we shine the light of your truth.
Where transparency is lacking, and agendas are hidden,
may we shine the light of your integrity.
Where there is fear
may we shine the light of your courage.
Where there is judgement
may we shine the light of your compassion.
Where there is disrespect
may we shine the light of your love.
Where people feel silenced
may we shine the light of your word.
Where people feel excluded
may we shine the light of your acceptance.
Where there is sin
may we shine the light of your forgiveness.*

Create a clean heart in us O God.

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KEEGAN/WOOD FAMILY GROUP

18 September 2023: Shared lunch, and shared memories, at the "Old Convent", Brook Street. Meet at 12 noon. Bring along an item of interest to 'Show and Tell'. We will each make a donation to cover costs of tea and coffee provided by the Parish.



FR VICTOR LEAVE

Fr Victor will be going back to India for 5 weeks after this weekend's Masses. There will be no Masses held Monday – Friday during this time. We thank Fr Joseph Figurado and Fr Anthony Coloma for accepting to celebrate weekend Masses in Fr Victor's absence.

For emergencies, please call the Parish office or Fr Graham Fullick: 0477 720 270. Thank you, Fr Graham!

Wishing you safe and happy travels, Fr Victor! →

PARISH OFFICE HOURS CHANGE

As of next week, and for the foreseeable future, the parish office operating hours will be:

Wednesday: 9.30am – 2.30pm

Friday: 9.30am – 2.30pm

The office will no longer be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

PARISH SPIRITUAL RETREAT – SAVE THE DATE!!

St James' Parish Spiritual Retreat will be held on Saturday 18 November this year. Mark it in your calendar! Further details to follow.

PARISH VOLUNTEER SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

!!!RESCHEDULED AND CHANGE OF VENUE!!!

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, 7 October**

Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm (lunch provided)

Location: **Club Singleton, William Street, Singleton**

Cost: Free

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

COLUMBAN CALENDAR, THE SIGN: ADVENT DAILY REFLECTIONS, AND DAILY MASS BOOK

If you would like to purchase any of these resources, please place your name and order on the forms that are in the Church foyers.

Prices are approximate.

Columban Calendar 2023 **\$6.70 - \$8.18**

The Sign: Advent Reflections **\$5.00**

Daily Mass Book 2024 **\$26.00**

Movie Night



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At The Old Convent, St James Catholic Church Muswellbrook

Movie; an Alfred Hitchcock movie
I Confess

Friday September 15, at 7pm

Bring your snacks and drinks

Cuppa provided

All welcome

ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT

The Pastoral Ministry Network is excited to invite you to the annual 'Alive in the Spirit' Event!

After two years of dynamic online gatherings, Alive in the Spirit is thrilled to be gathering for an in-person event on Wednesday 25 October 2023 at Hornsby RSL from 10am - 4pm.

This year's conference will focus on the theme of Communion, Participation, and Mission, which is drawn from the Synod on Synodality. The Synod encourages us to seek new vision, energy, and life for the Catholic Church. The Pastoral Ministry Network AGM will follow at 4.30pm to top off a great opportunity for networking, growing in faith and sharing our hope for the Church.

Tickets are \$149 for non-members. We encourage you to share this image across your own networks inviting all wanting to be Alive in the Spirit!

For all enquiries, please contact Lisa on 0419 418 547 or email info@aliveinthepirit.com.au.



NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

3 - 9 September 2023

NAPCAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PARISH CATHOLIC NETWORKS

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 11 September	Tuesday 12 September	Wednesday 13 September	Thursday 14 September	Friday 15 September	Saturday 16 September	Sunday 17 September
			<i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>			24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration St James Muswellbrook	NO MASSES					10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
						8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 17th September 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	Joel and Therese Bristow						

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: Judy Chlebowicz, 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:

Anniversaries: Maria Wilson and Kevin Shadforth

Recently Deceased:

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."