



# 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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A**

**17 September 2023**

### First Reading

**Sirach 27:30 – 28:7**

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,  
and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance  
of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,  
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another,  
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself,  
can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;  
who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating,  
remember dissolution and death, and live by the  
commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your  
neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most  
High, and overlook the offence.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8**

**(R.)** The Lord is kind and merciful;  
slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**
3. His wrath will come to an end;  
he will not be angry for ever.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults **(R.)**
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

**Romans 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 John 13:34**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:  
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

**Matthew 18:21-35**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I  
forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven  
times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-  
seven times.

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king  
who decided to settle his accounts with his servants.

When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who  
owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of  
paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold,  
together with his wife and children and all his possessions,  
to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down  
at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay  
the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for  
him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this  
servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant  
who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by  
the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe  
me", he said. His fellow servant fell  
at his feet and implored him,  
saying, "Give me time and I will pay  
you." But the other would not  
agree; on the contrary, he had him  
thrown into prison till he should  
pay the debt. His fellow servants



were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

### **REFLECTION by Fr Graham Fullick**

#### **Mt 18 21 35 How often must I forgive?**

St. Peter asks "If a brother sins against me how many times must I forgive him? Seven?" No. "70 times 7!" We should first notice that St. Peter is listening to the Lord's message of saving forgiveness. Jesus means "God saves". Peter refers to others as "brothers". This presupposes a loving, faithful family relationship. That is a good start, a Church dawning. Pope Francis at the Synod on Families in AD2015 said families are the places where we are to hear, say and do "I love you", "I am sorry" and "I forgive you". St. Peter thought he was being magnanimous when he said 7 times. But then we wonder, what about forgiving his enemies, and befriending them too with God's love. "The Hiding Place" is a book by Dutch woman Corrie ten Boom (see Amazon!) who with her sister Betsie, was sent to Ravensbruck Nazi Concentration Camp, for helping to hide Jews. Among unspeakable privations and cruelty, she survived, but her sister was murdered. Post-War Corrie went around Europe and USA, mostly churches, giving talks. Whilst speaking at a service in Munich she suddenly caught sight of a man she knew, a hated SS guard at Ravensbruck, and he was a painful distraction her whole talk. Afterwards, he came to her and, with a broad smile on his face, greeted her, thanked her for her message, and said how thrilled he was to hear her say that through Jesus, all our sins are washed away. He stretched out his hand to shake hers—and she instinctively drew back. Did she reflect afterwards about today's Gospel? Our base, Original Sin, fallen natural instinct, is not to forgive. Only the redeemed will forgive for Jesus is the New Creation who redeems our wills.

We are not forgiven once and saved. We are justified once in the great action of the Passion Cross and Resurrection. However, we fall into and out of grace, into and out of proper love, into and out of wanting to forgive by our very nature, redeemed as it is. Even Mary was "preserved" from Original Sin. No, we forgive precisely because Jesus knows we sin often, and He took on all sins. Moreover, every time we forgive another from our heart, we and the other are built up in Grace because our humility allows the infill, and we share God's Grace with others. Only the devil wants us to bubble with hatred, unforgiveness and fear.

The freedom of forgiveness is the embrace of the Redeeming Cross and Living Sacrament of the altar alive, lived, sanctified and sanctifying. Hallowed be Thy name...As we forgive... It is not that God has a contract of *tit for tat*: forgive or you won't be forgiven. We make 'enemies' of God if we do not forgive others. God is the-always forgiving one. We like (or properly, unlike) the unforgiving servant **must** forgive. If **our** hearts are hardened by unforgiveness, they simply block out the forgiveness God offers. Scars may be there, but God's forgiving mercy is balm. We may be bruised, wounded by sin like Christ (a privilege), but unbowed by the devil's will for retribution. Christ saves and transforms in the Cross: Victory over the wages of sin, death. Eternal life, the beatific vision in heaven.



I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race, and I have  
remained faithful.

2 Tim 4:7



**Mrs. Anthoniammal**  
(W/o. Late P. Mangalam)

**Born on**  
17-05-1927

**Died on**  
19-09-2022

**Mass**

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 10.30 am  
St Antony's Friary Church  
Madiwala Checkpost, Bangalore

## **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.



## **MOVIE NIGHT TONIGHT!!**

**Where:** The Convent, St James Muswellbrook  
**When:** Friday 15 September  
**Time:** 7pm  
**Movie:** 'I Confess' an Alfred Hitchcock film  
Please bring your own snacks and drinks. Cuppa will be provided. All are welcome!

## **ST THOMAS' CUPPA ROSTER**

Please join us for a cuppa after Mass at St Thomas' **Sunday 24 September**. September's rostered volunteers are Margaret and Carol.



## **FR VICTOR LEAVE**

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!*

## **PARISH OFFICE HOURS CHANGE**

The new 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**

Parishioner volunteers who are required to attend this training have now been emailed or contacted by phone.

**Date:** Saturday, 7 October

**Time:** 9.30am – 12.30pm (lunch provided)

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

**Cost:** Free

**RSVP:** **To the Parish office by 29 September**

## **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**

## **SACRED@SEVEN**

Sacred@Seven is back! Come along for a beautiful night of Adoration, prayer, free food, and fellowship.

Where: Sacred Heart Cathedral.

When: Wednesday 20 September at 7.00pm.

All are welcome!



## **EMERGENCY APPEALS**

**Morocco Earthquake and Libya Floods**

[www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

## **CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S EMERGENCY APPEALS – MOROCCO / LIBYA**

Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands of people have died and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water and medical assistance. Please support **Caritas Australia's emergency appeals**. Donate at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

## **"TILLING THE CHURCH: THEOLOGY FOR AN UNFINISHED PROJECT." ZOOM DISCUSSION.**

While Father Richard's visit was short, he last left our Diocese with riches that we can continue to explore together, as our church is an unfinished project and in need of tilling.

So, let's continue the discussion!

You are invited to discuss Father Richard's latest publication, "Tilling the Church: Theology for an Unfinished Project" chapter by chapter over the next several months online.

Wednesday 18 October: Introduction and Chapter 1. The Church as Project

Wednesday 22 November: Chapter 2. Symbolizing Grace

Wednesday 21 February: Chapter 3. The Pilgrimage Community of Faith and Hope

Wednesday 20 March: Chapter 4. Engaging the Graced World

Wednesday 17 April: Chapter 5. The Future-Oriented Past

Wednesday 15 May: Chapter 6. The Art of Faithfulness and conclusion

To register go to: [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tilling-the-church-theology-of-an-unfinished-project-tickets-708150125087](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tilling-the-church-theology-of-an-unfinished-project-tickets-708150125087)

## **USEFUL LINKS**

AURORA Magazine:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/aurora>

Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan eNewsletter:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/dioupdate-e-newsletter/>

Diocesan News Service:

<https://mnnews.today/>

Faith Formation Page:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/>

DoMN Library:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/library/>

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 18 September	Tuesday 19 September	Wednesday 20 September	Thursday 21 September	Friday 22 September	Saturday 23 September	Sunday 24 September
			<i>St Matthew, apostle, evangelist</i>			<b>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
9.00am <b>Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration</b> St James Muswellbrook	<b>NO MASSES</b>					10.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
						8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

### Minister Roster Sunday 24th September 2023

4th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm <b>Saturday Muswellbrook</b>	M. Flanagan Can you fill this position?	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am <b>Sunday Aberdeen</b>	S. Milton	C. Wykes	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am <b>Sunday Muswellbrook</b>	B. Powell T. Furlong	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			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:** 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:** Francis Dolahenty, John Driscoll, Campbell Hollis

#### **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](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."**