



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

Parish Priest: Fr Victor Babu Doss

Email: frvickybabu@gmail.com

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St James Primary School

Principal: Mr Aaron Moon

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PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Tue - Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

24 September 2023

First Reading **Isaiah 55:6-9**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18**

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Philippians 1:20-24. 27**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation **John 13:34**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 20:1-16**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, “You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?” “Because no one has hired us” they answered. He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.” So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came last” they said “have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no



right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

REFLECTION by Fr Graham Fullick

Mt 20 1 16 Labourers in the Vineyard and the Lord's Generous Reward

Ask a child what is the colour of the internet *emoji* face and its expression for envy or jealousy. It is a face vomiting green with envy! This is a "parable of reversal" i.e. the last will be first and the first last. Last week St. Matthew took us through Jesus' teaching on God's generous forgiveness and our need to forgive "from the heart" meaning from the soul out. Jesus pours out God's eternal, generous Mercy upon us. We cannot vomit back envy. Now Jesus turns to God's justice and our envy. Before God, no matter how righteous we think we are to merit God's justice which is mercy and forgiveness, we are but ragged beggars in the marketplace. In the hierarchy at the time, poor labourers congregated in the marketplaces hoping to gather "day wages" for work. The payment of a *denarius* at the time was the amount sufficient for a day to pay enough for a large peasant family's sustenance. Starting at 6am, field work in desert-bordered lands was arduous.

The Gospel contrasts the generosity of the landowner with the envious reaction of the labourers. We are right to react to injustice, but in our relationship with God, we have no cause for envy, jealousy or rancour. St. Dismas on his cross beside Jesus repents at the very last from his heart and prays just "Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom". Jesus answers him "This very day you will be with me in paradise". Did Mary at the foot of the Cross explode with rage at the conversion and new life restored of a sinner? They both inherited the same "wages of Eternal Life". God comes into the world in Jesus that we may have life and have it to the full. The basic gift of God to all is life. Without gratitude for that we would have nothing to moan about in jealousy nor to rejoice in. Can we seek God's grace to overcome self-satisfaction and rather rest contented in the Lord—and active in charity, not envy? Charity can last to the end in life and forever in heaven.

Did you get the answer last week to Corrie ten Boom's dilemma with the SS Guard at her forgiveness talk? She tried to respond by putting her hand out to him to forgive, but alone she could not. Then she prayed a silent prayer standing there before the repentant Nazi "Lord I can't forgive. Give me your forgiveness!" Quite extraordinarily she felt the power of the Holy Spirit in her arm to raise her hand to his, and as she did so, she felt a freeing love for this man despite his atrocities to her and her dead sister. Only God gives us strength to forgive. Alone, separated from his grace, we cannot forgive.

START

E	V	E	G	S	O	I	L	H	E
H	P	R	U	T	Y	T	K	X	J
T	S	Y	O	N	E	J	R	G	V
E	R	T	N	F	D	A	U	C	E
L	H	W	E	U	F	P	O	H	Y
Z	O	I	G	A	T	W	I	A	R
S	J	S	O	R	S	D	L	L	B
T	H	N	U	I	P	Y	R	L	E
I	Y	O	W	F	B	N	G	A	D
K	A	E	T	I	R	L	E	S	T

FINISH



COMPLETE THE TEXT MAZE

"Everyone who is now first will be last!"

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 109TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2023

Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay.

Dear brothers and sisters!

The migratory flows of our times are the expression of a complex and varied phenomenon that, to be properly understood, requires a careful analysis of every aspect of its different stages, from departure to arrival, including the possibility of return. As a contribution to this effort, I have chosen to devote the Message for the 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees to the freedom that should always mark the decision to leave one's native land.

"Free to leave, free to stay" was the title of an initiative of solidarity promoted several years ago by the Italian Episcopal Conference as a concrete response to the challenges posed by contemporary migration movements. From attentive listening to the Particular Churches, I have come to see that ensuring that that freedom is a widely shared pastoral concern.

"An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said: 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him' (Mt 2:13).

To read the full message visit:

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

DIVINE MERCY GROUP

Will be meeting **Thursday 28 September**.

Time: 2.30pm

Venue: The Convent

All welcome! Join us for prayer and fellowship.



ST THOMAS' CUPPA ROSTER

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



MASS CHANGE THIS WEEKEND

There will be no 5.30pm Vigil Mass this **Saturday 23 September**. Masses on Sunday will be as usual. Thank you, Fr Anthony, for celebrating Masses in our Parish this weekend.

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

The term of the current Parish Pastoral Council has now expired, and nominations are open to form a new Parish Council. Further details are attached to this week's bulletin.

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**

CARITAS AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

The next edition of the Caritas Australia Newsletter is out. You can access it here:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/media/qsyfbnm/your-compassion-in-action-september-2023-digital-1.pdf>

MEN'S ROSARY GROUP

The Month of the Holy Rosary 2023 begins on Saturday 1 October and ends on Monday 31 October.

The first Newcastle Maitland diocese Men's Rosary will be held on Saturday 28 of October, 1pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West. For More Information contact Jason on 0499 854 928.

PARISH MOVIE NIGHT

Last Friday's Movie Night at the Old Convent was a great night of dramatic movie, popcorn, snacks, and friends. We watched the Alfred Hitchcock thriller 'I Confess', a great movie with a sensational end. Come along to our next movie!



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



EMERGENCY APPEALS

Morocco Earthquake and Libya Floods

www.caritas.org.au

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-enewsletter/>

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 25 September	Tuesday 26 September	Wednesday 27 September	Thursday 28 September	Friday 29 September	Saturday 30 September	Sunday 1 October
				<i>Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels</i>		26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration St James Muswellbrook	NO MASSES				5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
						8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 1st October 2023

1st Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	Can you fill this position?	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	J. Toohey R. Wood		R. Panis	C. Hayes
	Can you fill this position?						
8am Sunday Aberdeen	T. Hobbs	J. Lonergan	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	M. Kempis	Can you fill this position?	K. Mason	Can you fill this position?			K. Goodwin
	Can you fill this position?						
Counters	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: 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: William Palmer

Anniversaries: Anne Lonergan

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**

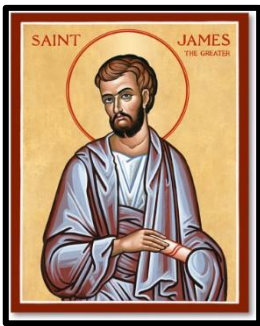
SAFEGUARDING THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY

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."



ST. JAMES' PARISH

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PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION 2023 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Term of the Current Parish Pastoral Council is now expired and Nominations are open to form the new Parish Council. The new PPC will be a combination of some existing members and some new members. This form contains details of the election process (below), a role description & expected attributes of candidates (back page) and a nomination form (inside).

Nomination forms can be returned in the following ways:

1. Leave the nomination form in the white box at the foot of the altar
2. Email the nomination form to the Parish office at muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Nominations will open weekend 23/24 September and close 14/15 October.

Nominees will be invited to attend an informal information night after close of nominations on Wednesday 25th October at 5.30pm in the Convent which will explain the role of the Parish Council and its members. This information night is also open to any parishioners who wish to attend.

It is anticipated that a general election will be held across the parish on the weekend of 4/5 November with the new Parish Council being inducted Sunday 26th November – Feast of Christ the King.

Any questions regarding the election process may be directed to victor.babudoss@mn.catholic.org.au

Role Description for Parish Councillor

- ❖ Be an active and enthusiastic member of the Parish community
- ❖ Be a visible member of the Parish Council at liturgies, at Parish events and within Parish ministries, engaging with and listening to the Parish community and enjoining the community in the Parish mission and ministries
- ❖ Be a representative and accountable to the entire Parish community
- ❖ Be able to attend monthly meetings of the Parish Council, sub committees and other Council activities
- ❖ Be willing to lead the Parish on issues by speaking at masses, and other events
- ❖ Be capable of leading or assisting in the preparation of Parish strategies and policies including research and preparation of reports for the Parish Council and Parish community
- ❖ Be willing to represent the Parish at Diocesan events
- ❖ Be willing and able to work constructively and respectfully with the Parish priest, other members of the Parish Council and the Parish staff
- ❖ Be willing to abide by the principle of solidarity including maintaining confidentiality and refraining from criticism except in Parish Council meetings or in discussions with the Parish priest.

Desired Attributes of Parish Councillor

- ❖ Commitment to the words and example of Jesus Christ
- ❖ An understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church and the challenges the contemporary Church faces.
- ❖ A genuine understanding & acceptance of the role requirements
- ❖ Achievement of a Parish Council which exhibits diversity including ethnicity, gender, age, mass community and ministries.
- ❖ Achievement of a Parish Council which has the skills and competencies needed to assist the Parish priests and staff in the work of the Parish.

**St James Parish
St James Muswellbrook
&
St Thomas Aberdeen**

**Parish Council Election 2023
NOMINATION FORM**

- ❖ You are invited and encouraged to nominate as many parishioners as you wish.
- ❖ It is at your discretion that you have spoken with the nominee prior to nominating them
- ❖ Each nominee will be contacted directly by the steering committee and invited to attend an information meeting on 25th October 5.30pm in the Convent regarding the role of the Parish Council, the responsibility of its members and the election process
- ❖ The number of times that any person is nominated will have no influence on the final membership of the Parish Council.
- ❖ Nomination forms will only be disclosed to members of the steering committee and the Parish priest and will otherwise remain confidential

Nominations close weekend of 14/15 October 2023

Nomination forms can be returned in the following ways:

- Place the nomination form in the White box on the Altar at Sunday Masses over the next three weeks.
- Email a scanned nomination form to muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Nomination 1

Name: _____

Phone (if known):

Email (if known):

I consider this person would bring to the Parish Pastoral Council the following qualities, talents and experience:

Nomination 2

Name: _____

Phone (if known):

Email (if known):

I consider this person would bring to the Parish Pastoral Council the following qualities, talents and experience:

Nominated by: _____

(please include if you have not provided contact details for the nominees):

Phone _____

Email: _____