



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: Wed & Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

1 October 2023

First Reading **Ezekiel 18:25-28**

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6**

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

Second Reading **Philippians 2:1-11**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's

interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 21:28-32**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you



solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

REFLECTION by Tony Warwarek

Matthew 21:28-32 (NIV): No, I won't! Yes, I will!

In this parable, Jesus uses the story of two sons to illustrate the concept of repentance and obedience. The first son initially refused to work in the vineyard but later changed his mind and obeyed his father's command. The second son, on the other hand, initially agreed to go but did not follow through with his promise.

The parable is a lesson to the religious leaders of the time, but also to us, highlighting that *outward appearances* and *professions of faith* are not enough. It emphasizes the importance of genuine repentance and obedience to God's will, even for those who may have initially rejected it. Jesus implies that tax collectors and prostitutes, often seen as sinners, were more receptive to God's message and were entering the kingdom of God because they repented and believed, while the religious leaders were not.

We can readily be judgmental about others at times when we are not aware. We can sometimes catch ourselves out as our sub-conscious mind breaks through. This can even surprise us when we realise that beneath the external appearance, we are not always as we seem or as we want to be. In short, we are hypocrites just like many of the Pharisees. We need to reflect on our actions and thoughts constantly.

Some examination of conscience at the end of each day can keep us close to our real selves. This reflection allows us to have a change of heart when our initial response may have been selfish, spiteful, or revengeful. There is usually time to review selfish decisions, but we also need to ask for the Lord's strength to 'put our pride in our pocket': review our decision, change it, and apologise, when it is appropriate. Let us be prepared to be forthright in our choices and decisions for the good of others and ourselves.

This parable challenges us to examine our own hearts and actions and to prioritize sincere repentance and obedience to God's commands.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Saying "Yes!"

In many ways, it is easy to say 'Yes' and not really mean it. Some people do it all the time in their lives. They say 'Yes' when they have no intention at all of following through on their commitment. It's easy to say 'Yes' and not mean it when it comes to faith as well. It's pretty easy to turn up at Church on a Sunday and be seen to be doing the 'right' thing. But if our faith doesn't change the way we live, then maybe we're really saying 'No' to God.



Make Good Choices

Jesus asks us to make good choices. Circle the good choices and cross out the poor choices.

When my bedroom needs tidying, I should...



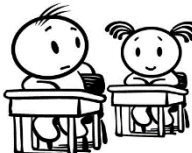
- ... go outside and play
- ... put some of my things away
- ... play with my computer
- ... sort out my rubbish

When I accidentally bump into someone, I should...



- ... tell them it was their fault
- ... say "I'm sorry"
- ... ask them if they are okay
- ... run away quickly

When someone new joins our class, I should...



- ... invite them to come and play
- ... look at them, but not talk to them
- ... ignore them completely
- ... welcome them to our class

Hearts on Fire
FEET ON THE MOVE

catholic MISSION Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/timor

In three weeks' time, Catholic Mission will share an opportunity for you to partner with the Sr Carolina and the Salesian Sisters in Timor-Leste as they continue to provide an essential community project that addresses the gaps in care and well-being in rural communities like Venilale.

This work simply will not be possible without your support. We hope you will accept this invitation to make a real and lasting impact for those in need.

CONTACTS WHILE FR VICTOR IS AWAY

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. Please take a nomination form with you after Mass this weekend.

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.

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**

CAN YOU HELP CHILDREN LIKE JAMES*?

*Introducing James**



A remarkable 13-year-old boy who's filled with kindness and joy. He loves musicals, playing with toy cars, building epic Lego creations, and dominating the game Connect Four.

But that's not all! James loves adventure – he adores the great outdoors and loves camping, swimming, bike riding, and exploring the world through bus, ferry, and train rides.

However, unlike most young people his age, James has some complex needs requiring a high level of support. He has a number of diagnoses including Autism Spectrum Disorder, a mild intellectual disability, and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

James has a strong multidisciplinary team that supports him but needs a dedicated foster carer to love and nurture him until he reaches adulthood.

Today, we're asking you to think about what you can do to help James.

CatholicCare Hunter-Manning is looking for foster carers who can support children and young people, including James. Your kindness could make a world of difference.

If you can help, please contact call 1300 590 898 or email fostercare@catholiccare.org.au

**Name changed to protect identity*

CARITAS AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

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

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

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS

Don't forget to turn your clocks forward 1 hour on Saturday night the **30th of September!**



ADVENT 2023: WITH ANTICIPATION AND JOY

We are called during this holy time to wait with anticipation knowing the joys of what is to come with the arrival of Christ. With Anticipation and Joy is a Diocesan resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of people – family, friends, colleagues, ministry teams to reflect mystagogically on the Advent Gospels and associated artworks. This is an opportunity to encounter Christ where we are, to pay attention to what Christ reveals in the scripture and the living tradition of our faith, to share this, to connect it to our life now, and to be changed by it.

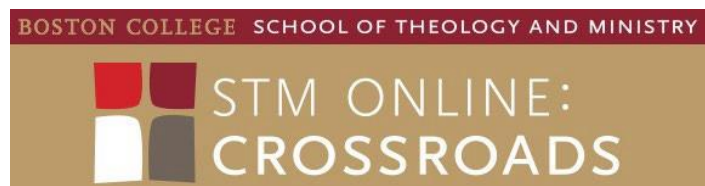
To access the resource, go to:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/>

THE PASTORAL PLACEMENT PROGRAM (PPP)

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 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.

Applications are now open for the 2024 Pastoral Placement Program. For more information and application form, go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/pastoral-placement-program/>



CROSSROADS

Boston College has new courses commencing October 4. Courses include:

- Old Testament Narrative
- Autumn Blessings: Spirituality for the second half of life
- Mission & Spirituality: A Xaverian Journey
- Ignatian Spirituality Cost: \$60 per course

For more information and registration, go to <https://bostoncollege-stm.catalog.instructure.com/>



Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 2 October	Tuesday 3 October	Wednesday 4 October	Thursday 5 October	Friday 6 October	Saturday 7 October	Sunday 8 October
						27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
<u>9.00am</u> Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration St James Muswellbrook	NO MASSES				<u>5.30pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>10.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook
						<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 8th October 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: Judy Chlebowicz, 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:

Recently Deceased: Anmol Massey

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."