



# 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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

8 October 2023

### First Reading Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let me sing to my friend  
the song of his love for his vineyard.  
My friend had a vineyard  
on a fertile hillside.  
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,  
and planted choice vines in it.  
In the middle he built a tower,  
he dug a press there too.  
He expected it to yield grapes,  
but sour grapes were all that it gave.  
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and men of Judah,  
I ask you to judge  
between my vineyard and me.  
What could I have done for my vineyard  
that I have not done?  
I expected it to yield grapes.  
Why did it yield sour grapes instead?  
Very well, I will tell you  
what I am going to do to my vineyard:  
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,  
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.  
I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;  
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.  
I will command the clouds  
to rain no rain on it.  
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts  
is the House of Israel,  
and the men of Judah  
that chosen plant.  
He expected justice, but found bloodshed,  
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20. R. Is 5:7

(R.) The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
to plant it you drove out the nations.  
It stretched out its branches to the sea,

to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. (R.)

2. Then why have you broken down its walls?  
It is plucked by all who pass by.  
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,  
devoured by the beasts of the field. (R.)
3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
4. And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name.  
God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. (R.)

### Second Reading Philippians 4:6-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians  
There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my  
Father.  
Alleluia!



## Gospel

Matthew 21:33-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders  
that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing  
and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

### **REFLECTION by Tony Warwarek**

#### *The Parable of the Wicked Tenants*

(Mk 12.1–12; Lk 20.9–19)

This parable only occurs in the gospels of Mark and Luke. Luke uses Mark to emphasise his own gospel emphasis of the universality of God's salvation. The parable builds the case for fidelity to God at all costs. God had given humanity, (Jews and gentiles) a vineyard (the world) and He gave the Law to protect and guide it. He had also provided the formal structures (Judaism and its leadership) to support, manage and care for this vineyard. Christianity and Catholicism, in particular, also share these formal structures and role now.

In both cases there is a solemn responsibility to manage this vineyard with the means that God has provided. Unfortunately, the desire and exercise of power can corrupt. It is important to realise that while many of the Jewish elite (Pharisees, Sadducees, and Scribes) were condemned directly by Jesus. His words fall upon and challenge all those in leadership, including Christian church leadership today. Some recent structures within Christian churches echo similar abuses and hypocrisy as the Jewish leadership in Jesus' time. The common denominator in all this is human beings, some of whom are given and accept the responsibilities that come with leadership and solemn governance. The threat of a mill-stone awaits those who flaunt and fail their positions through the abuse of the innocent and vulnerable: (Mt 18: 6). Jesus does not 'pull any punches' here.

Parents and adults also have a serious role in God's plan as well. They should set clear and responsible boundaries for their children, along with Christian

principles for faithful living in God's world. For selfish reasons, such as lust for power, we all can fall from grace and fail by infidelity and sin. Despite this failure to be faithful to God and his Law, He continues to call us with a sense of urgency to turn to Him as the source of true governance, able provision, and careful guidelines for living faithfully.

The Church is His instrument to do this in today's world. Pharisaism (a law unto itself) and Sadduceism (a denial of no future punishment and reward after this life), is still alive today and will eventually be confronted with the justice and mercy of our God. May we not assume, with complacency, our escape from eternal alienation from God after death, but also hope in His mercy and compassion, for 'in (Original) *sin were we conceived*' (Ps 51:5). Let us present our lives as moral to others as an example, and our faith as crucial, not simply optional, in our life-journey toward the fullness of life with our God forever *in heaven*.

## Living gospel

### **Different View – Using scripture to justify hatred**

*This text is one that has been used by some Christians to justify their hatred and persecution of Jews. They point to the parable Jesus told as evidence that Jesus blamed the Jewish people for his death. It is a strange fact that some people believe that the only way to justify their own beliefs is to try to destroy the beliefs (and believers) of other faiths. For hundreds of years Christians abused and tormented Jews, driving them out of cities and even countries. The terrible treatment of Jews in World War II was drawing on a long history of Christians persecuting Jews.*



### **Working for God**

Jesus says that we shall be given God's kingdom if we work hard to do right. How can we be good workers for God?

I can be a good worker for God by...

I can be a good worker for God by...

I can be a good worker for God by...

I can be a good worker for God by...

## **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**

Don't forget to put your nomination forms into the boxes!! Nominations close Sunday, 15 October.

## **FINAL WEEKEND FOR CALENDAR, ADVENT, AND DAILY MASS BOOK ORDERS**

This weekend is your final opportunity to place your order.

The Parish order will be placed this week.

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

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

Daily Mass Book 2024 **\$26.00**

## **KEEGAN/WOOD FAMILY GROUP**

16 October 2023: Train trip to Wickham Interchange leaving Muswellbrook at 10.09am, arriving Wickham at 11.46am. Please ensure you have your OPAL card organised, activated, and cashed up. Pensioners' Excursion Fare \$2.50 covers all public transport. The train departs Wickham at 4.29 pm, arriving in Muswellbrook at 6.05pm. Perhaps you have a 'rellie' or friend in Newcastle who'd like to meet up with you. We'll travel by Light Rail to Great Northern Hotel for lunch. Phone 4077 3910. Lunch specials \$15. Confirm details of times of trains nearer the date of the excursion. NB: Names to Robyn or Margaret by Friday 13 October for Restaurant booking.



## **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.

## **ACU PUBLIC LECTURES ON LITURGY**

In the lead-up to the 60th anniversary of Sacrosanctum Concilium (the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of Vatican II, 4 Dec 1963), the ACU Centre for Liturgy is proud to present two exciting public lectures by international liturgical scholars:

Renowned liturgical scholar **Professor Teresa Berger** (Yale University Institute of Sacred Music and Yale Divinity School) will deliver a public lecture live via Zoom on **Monday 6 November 2023, 10am AEDT** on the topic of: "Liturgy's Imagined Futures: Beyond Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy."

**AND**

Acclaimed liturgical historian and theologian **Rev Professor John F. Baldwin SJ** (Boston College) who will deliver a FREE public lecture live in person on ACU's Melbourne Campus on **Sunday December 3, 2023, 5pm-6.30pm AEDT** on the topic of "A Liturgical Reform in Peril? Sacrosanctum Concilium sixty years on." Fr Baldwin's public lecture will also be livestreamed for those unable to attend in person. Further information and registration details for both of these unique and valuable events can be found at the following link:

[News events, and resources - ACU Centre for Liturgy](#)

We look forward to welcoming you to these very special events marking this important milestone anniversary.

For more information please contact:

[CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au](mailto:CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au).

## **CHRISTIAN MEDITATION**

### **The Contemplative Pathway: Where is Meditation Leading Us?**

Meditators are always trying to go into greater silence. John Carroll will explore the benefits of this. There will also be a session on practical ideas for incorporating meditation into a busy life. At St James School Hall, Vista Parade, Kotara

On Saturday November 11th, 9.00am to 12 noon. Cost: \$10.00

Morning Tea Provided

RSVP: [mannecuskelly@hotmail.com](mailto:mannecuskelly@hotmail.com) or 0407 436 808

### **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/>



Hearts on Fire  
**FEET ON THE MOVE**

**catholic mission** Freecall: 1800 257 296  
[catholicmission.org.au/timor](http://catholicmission.org.au/timor)

Tuberculosis, malnutrition and maternal mortality are conditions all too familiar for the people of Timor-Leste. In two weeks' time you will learn about the work of the Salesian Sisters, including nurse, Sister Carolina, who desires to see better outcomes for her community. We will also share the story of Petrolina and her daughter's desperate need for medical attention.

**You have the opportunity to partner with this life-giving work, and your prayers and generosity are crucial in ensuring this program can continue.**

This opportunity is a great way to commit to the missionary movement, as He reminds us in Luke 24:13-35, the fire of Christ burns within us and encourages us to take action for those in most need.

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 9 October	Tuesday 10 October	Wednesday 11 October	Thursday 12 October	Friday 13 October	Saturday 14 October	Sunday 15 October
						<b>28th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
<b>9.00am</b> <b>Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration</b> St James Muswellbrook	<b>NO MASSES</b>				<b>5.30pm</b> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<b>10.00am</b> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
						<b>8.00am</b> <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

### Minister Roster Sunday 15th October 2023

3rd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
<b>5.30pm</b> <b>Saturday</b> <b>Muswellbrook</b>	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
<b>8am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Aberdeen</b>	K. Mason	M. Edwards	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
<b>10am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Muswellbrook</b>	C. O'Brien Can you fill this position?	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			K. Goodwin
<b>Counters</b>	Therese and Joel 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, 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:** Marie Clifford

**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."**