



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

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St James Primary School

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Website: muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au

PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Wed & Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

15 October 2023

First Reading

Isaiah 25:6-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain,

the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.

On this mountain he will remove

the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away

the tears from every cheek;

he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,

for the Lord has said so.

That day, it will be said: See, this is our God

in whom we hoped for salvation;

the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.

We exult and we rejoice

that he has saved us;

for the hand of the Lord

rests on this mountain.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22. R. v.6

(R.) I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;

there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**

2. He guides me along the right path;

he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me

in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I
have been through my initiation and now I am ready for
anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach,
poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with
the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it
was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In
return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as
lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever
and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

See Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart

that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people:

'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who
gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to
call those who had been invited, but they would not come.

Next he sent some more servants.

"Tell those who have been
invited" he said "that I have my
banquet all prepared, my oxen
and fattened cattle have been
slaughtered, everything is ready.

Come to the wedding." But they
were not interested: one went off



to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

REFLECTION by Tony Warwarek

The Wedding Banquet (Matthew 22:1-14)

All of us, at some time, have been to a wedding. A wedding is a time of joy and completion after long preparation: a time of love and of shared joy. In Judaism at the time of Jesus, the coming of the Messiah was often compared to a wedding feast. Jews would welcome the Messiah and be consumed with like-joy as he would be the answer to their own past disappointments and sufferings under numerous foreign powers. Their agenda was set and his role would be clear. However, instead of having a simply parochial role, this Messiah would have a universal role and outreach. His initial mission, it is true, was directed to Judaism but, unlike their historic messiah-kings: David, Jesus would not simply advance political and nationalistic agendas. Instead, his mission was to broaden and focus on the spiritual, social, and ethical agenda of His Father. **It would be inclusive rather than exclusive.** The Letter to the Ephesians teaches that the love in a human wedding is only a pale shadow of Christ's love for his bride, the Church (Eph 5: 25).

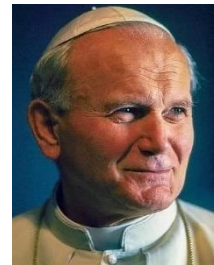
In today's gospel parable of the royal wedding, two things go drastically wrong. **First**, the original wedding guests (Judaism) refuse to come. Not only do they refuse, but they brutally maltreat the innocent messengers (the prophets), and so the king (who must stand for God) relentlessly burns down their city. This response appears 'un-God-like' but was probably a modification to Jesus' original story, made by Matthew, to remind his own readers (his Jewish audience) of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD by the Romans. This event was interpreted as God's punishment on Judaism for being deaf to hearing and lame in responding to God's call and message.

Second, the man who has no wedding garment is slung out. A wedding garment is a standard Jewish image for works of generosity expected of every faithful Jew. The man appeared to be consumed with his own self-importance and assumed that he had a right to be at the wedding (heavenly banquet) without any regard to his obligations to the Groom (Christ) and other guests (the

poor and unassuming; the weak and under-privileged) rewarded for their faithful response to God's call and message.

Matthew, in writing his gospel only a few years after the burning and destruction of Jerusalem, uses this parable to teach his audience a few things about being 'uppity' and exclusive. He also warns about being presumptuous about our standing before God. We need the appropriate humility and gratitude for being called by God to his heavenly banquet.

**A celebration for the Feast
Day of
ST JOHN PAUL II**



Sunday 22 October 2023

A celebration at the Shrine of St John Paul II
at St Patrick's Catholic Church Gosford.

*A day of Prayer, Praise, Rosary, Adoration, Mass,
Reflection, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Stations of
the Cross

*Veneration of relics of St John Paul II

*BBQ, live music, Market stalls and Prayer
Stations.

*Events all day.

Starting with Mass at 9.30am. Completion with
Youth Mass at 6pm.

*In this, the month of the Holy Rosary,
a wonderful opportunity
to go on a pilgrim visit to this
extraordinary day of prayer and
fellowship.*



CONTACTS WHILE FR VICTOR IS AWAY

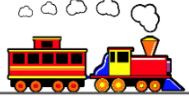
For emergencies, please call the Parish office or Fr Graham Fullick: 0477 720 270. Thank you, Fr Graham!

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

At the PPC Meeting last evening it was decided to extend the voting a further week. Late nominations can be received in the boxes on the Altar up to, and including, 21/22 October. So far we have a very minimal response to the Nominations for the Pastoral Council.

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.



PLEASE PRAY FOR HSC STUDENTS

Please keep all HSC students who are preparing for their final exams over the coming weeks in your prayers.



May God continue to guide, give strength, and wisdom to every student during this final part of their school journey

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Teachers of Special Religious Education in our Diocese undertake a vital evangelising role, educating children and young people and forming them in the Catholic faith. Fortunately, there are amazing, generous people who play an important role in contributing to the formation of children. Unfortunately, there are not enough teachers to meet the demands of all the classes needed. Many children are missing out.

All training and support is provided.

If you or someone you know is interested in teaching please contact us at formed@mn.catholic.org.au or:

Manager of Formation and Education

Rose McAllister

P: 4979 1346 M: 0414 962 922

Officer Formation and Education

Nicki Graham M: 0417 773 444

VOLUNTEER MEMBERS NEEDED!

Can you give a couple of hours per week or fortnight to help support those in need in our community? Are you compassionate, empathetic and looking to deepen your faith and spirituality through service to those doing it tough? Our Vounteer Members are the backbone of what we do at St Vincent de Paul and we urgently need people to continue our Good works. If you are interested to learn more please call Sarah Kemp on 0490 255 100 or E:

sarah.kemp@vinnies.org.au



St Vincent de Paul Society
NSW
good works

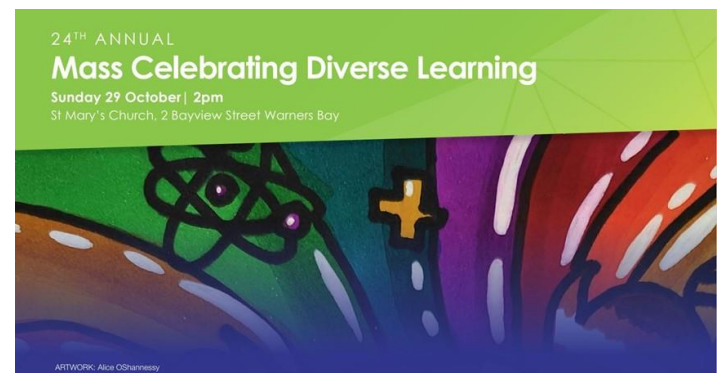


APPEAL WEEKEND 22/23 OCTOBER

With Timor-Leste's fragile infrastructure, reliance on local health practices, and limited access to medical care, many health conditions only worsen, and sadly can result in death.

Next week Catholic Mission will offer you the opportunity to partner with the Sr Carolina and the Salesian Sisters in Venilale, Timor-Leste, where your gift can help continue a life-saving program to help address this reality.

We hope you will take next week's opportunity to make an incredible impact for those in need.



Please join us for the 24th Annual Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning, where everyone's unique and God-given gifts will be acknowledged in a celebration of inclusion and diversity.

Date: Sunday 29 October

Mass: 2.00pm- 2.45pm

Afternoon tea: 2.45pm- 3.30pm

Location: St Mary's Church, 2 Bayview Street, Warners Bay

RSVP: Not required, however for more information or specific requirements contact Lizzie Watkin (lizzie.watkin@mn.catholic.edu.au or ph 0404 005 036) to discuss your needs.

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.

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 16 October	Tuesday 17 October	Wednesday 18 October	Thursday 19 October	Friday 20 October	Saturday 21 October	Sunday 22 October
	<i>St Luke, evangelist</i>					29th Sunday in Ordinary Time World Mission Sunday
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration St James Muswellbrook		9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	11.30am Adoration and Benediction 12.05pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook 5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	5.00pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 22nd October 2023

4th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	M. Flanagan Can you fill this position?	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	S. Milton	K. Mason	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	B. Powell T. Furlong	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: Barrie Blayden

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."