



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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Phone: 0484 903 427 or 6543 1167

St James Primary School

Principal: Mr Aaron Moon

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PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

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Office Hours: Wed & Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

22 October 2023

First Reading **Isaiah 45:1.4-6**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:
It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the
setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7**

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. **(R.)**
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **(R.)**
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **(R.)**

Second Reading **1 Thessalonians 1:1-5**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel Acclamation **Philippians 2:15. 16**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;

you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 22:15-21**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Whose Image and Likeness?

Jesus first cleverly throws his questioners on the defensive. They are the ones carrying the coinage, not him. Then he poses the crucial question, 'Whose image is it and whose inscription?' They said to him, 'Caesar's'. Then he said to them: 'Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.'

The coin bore the image and inscription of Caesar. Genesis teaches us that human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. Our Lord is saying, 'Let the political and financial authorities have their coinage. It is their legal tender. But they cannot have human beings. Human beings belong to Another. They belong to God.'

We are fortunate to live in a wonderful democracy. But even a democracy can violate the dignity of a human being created in the image and likeness of God. As Pope John Paul II said: 'Authentic democracy is possible only in a state ruled by law, and on the basis of a correct conception of the human person.' (Italics added)

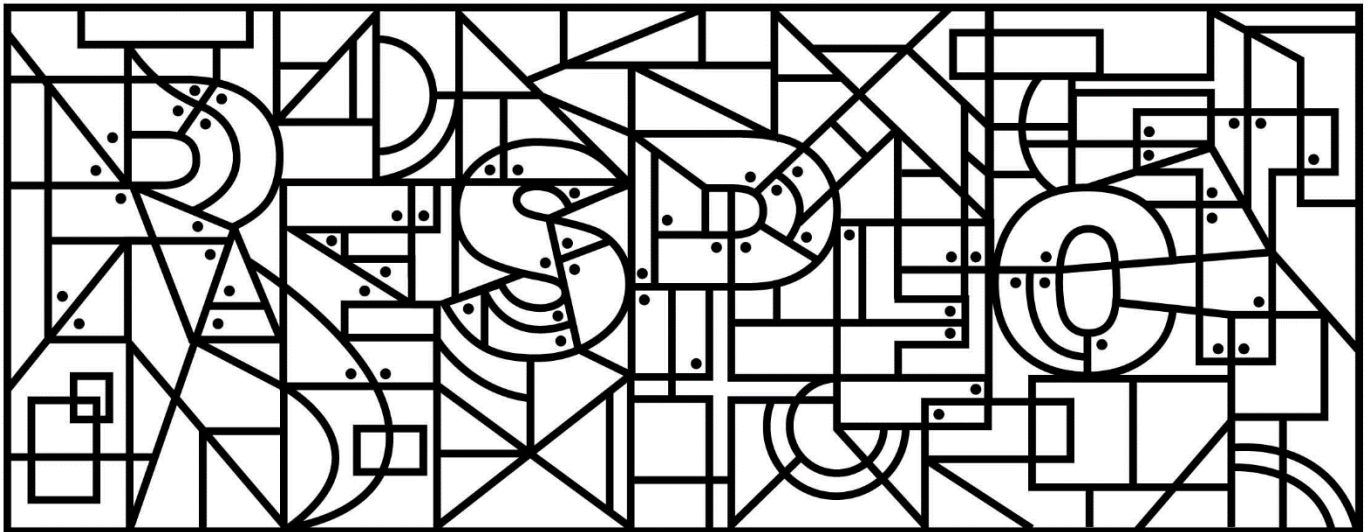
We could pause for a moment to thank God for the inscription, 'Child of God', effectively engraved on our hearts by baptism.

DIFFERENT VIEW

A simple question?

This gospel passage is sometimes interpreted as Jesus' endorsement of the Christian responsibility to state authorities. It has been interpreted as affirming the obligation to pay taxes and participate in the processes of government. In fact, Jesus neatly avoided the direct question put to him and never gave a response to the question of paying taxes. Rather, he made the question a much broader one and reminded people that their first obligation was to God, not the state. It is an excellent example of the need for critical interpretation of scripture. A simple, literal reading of this text leads us to drawing simple, literal conclusions about whether or not we should be paying taxes.

Color in the shapes that contain dots to reveal something that Jesus wants us to show others.



Hearts on Fire
FEET ON THE MOVE



catholic
MISSION

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

This week Catholic Mission will offer the opportunity to be part of a life-changing program which aims to address gaps in medical care, and provide families with essential health care and knowledge, equipping them with the confidence to act and autonomy over their health and well-being.

The Maria Auxiliadora Clinic is a vital project for the Salesian Sisters and the Church in Venilale. Since its establishment, the clinic has provided life-saving treatment for families in need, like Petrolina's, whose daughter Vitoria was found to have tuberculosis. But, with an increase in the demand for treatment, the Sisters resources can only carry them so far.

Please give generously today to help continue this life-giving program by using the appeal envelope, going online at catholicmission.org.au/timor, or scanning the QR code. Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.

Goodbye!

It is with sadness that I announce that I am leaving my role as Parish Administration Assistant. My new venture leads me closer to home and my family. I have felt so blessed to be a part of this wonderful community over the past 3 ½ years. I have enjoyed getting to know many of you and working alongside those in various ministries. I will always have fond memories of the Muswellbrook Parish and will continue to keep you in my thoughts and prayers. Enjoy your last bulletin from me. Blessings always. ~ Adele

ST THOMAS' CUPPA ROSTER

Please join us for a cuppa after Mass at St Thomas' **Sunday 29 October**. Rostered volunteers are Marianne and Cathy



THANK YOU FROM FR VICTOR

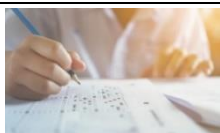
I would like to thank Fr Joseph, Fr Anthony and Fr Graham for taking care of the needs of the Parish in my absence.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

You still have time to get your nominations in. Nominations close this weekend!!

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

POSITION VACANT – HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN – JOHN HUNTER HOSPITAL

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is looking to appoint a Catholic Hospital Chaplain to John Hunter Hospital. The purpose of this position is to provide Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care services to the patients, their families and staff at the John Hunter Hospital and other health facilities that exist on that site. The Catholic Chaplain provides spiritual and pastoral care and emotional support on behalf of the faith community.

For more information about this position please go to the Careers section on the diocesan website:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/office/pastoral-ministries/ or contact Teresa Brierley on 4979 1157.

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

24TH ANNUAL MASS CELEBRATING DIVERSE LEARNING

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 on lizzie.watkin@mn.catholic.edu.au to discuss your needs.

SACRED@SEVEN

Do you want to take some time out of your busy day to sit in quiet and reflect? Would you like to meet some new friends and share some delicious food together?

Sacred@Seven returns on Wednesday 18 October at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton from 7.00pm. All are welcome! The night will include adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer, beautiful music, and listening to the word of God. We will also share in some lovely food and friendship afterwards. We hope to see you there!

SUMMER SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION (SYDNEY): 7-14TH JANUARY 2024, MT CARMEL RETREAT

CENTRE, VARROVILLE NSW

Summer School is a week-long, live-in, life-changing retreat featuring praise and worship, inspiring talks, engaging liturgy, time to chill & learn and more in the midst of a community of 150+ young people aged 16-35. Registrations open 31 October. Register by 30 November to receive early bird rates (concession \$525/adult \$625). More info: contact@summerschool.org.au. Bookings: summerschool.org.au

EL ROI: THE GOD WHO SEES ME (WOMEN'S RETREAT), 17-19 NOVEMBER 2023

Prepare for Advent through this women's retreat with the MGL Sisters, as we spend time together listening to God's unique heart of love for each one of us. This retreat is supported by the Catholic Women's Network in the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Venue: Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW
Bookings:

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1002954>
(by 3 November)

Contact: Berna - mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

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 Volunteer 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

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 23 October	Tuesday 24 October	Wednesday 25 October	Thursday 26 October	Friday 27 October	Saturday 28 October	Sunday 29 October
					<i>Sts Simon and Jude, apostles</i>	30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
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 29th October 2023

5th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	C. Panis Can you fill this position?	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?			C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	M. Brown	M. Harris	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, Michael Dolahenty, Jenny Paul, George Henriques, Danielle Camilleri, and Sebastiammal.

Baptism: Alice McTaggart, Rosie McTaggart, Harvey Ebzery

Anniversaries:

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."