



# 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](http://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au)

PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Wed & Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

**THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A**

**29th October 2023**

### **First Reading**

Exodus 22:20-26

*A reading from the book of Exodus*

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

### **Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

**(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.**

I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.  
The Lord is worthy of all praise:  
when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**

Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
Praised be the God who saves me.  
He has given great victories to his king  
and shown his love for his anointed. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading**

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-5**

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

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Philippians 2:15. 16**

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.  
Alleluia!

### **Gospel**

**Matthew 22:15-21**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

Being a Christian and a follower of Jesus is about relationships. Being a disciple of Jesus is about how I live my daily life in relation to others and God. It is not a private thing between God and me. If I say I love God but do not take the time to be aware of and concerned about those around me, then something very important is missing. If I pray, but then ignore those around me at home or in work that need my help, what is the point of me praying? Praying is not about pleasing God or making myself feel better. Prayer is about nurturing and nourishing my friendship with God. Then, having prayed and precisely because I have prayed, I am asked and called to turn my attention to those around me who need my help, support, and love.

In Matthew's gospel (25:40), Jesus reminds that whatever we do for each other, we do for and to Jesus himself. Whatever we fail to do for each other, we fail to do for Jesus. The smallest gesture of love can often have the greatest of impacts.

It is often through very small seemingly unimportant deeds, actions, and gestures of love that our love for others and our faith can be seen and made visible. One poet wrote that God is the bits and pieces of every day. We should never underestimate the power of a small gesture such as a smile, a hand on a shoulder or a kind word. These small acts of kindness in our daily lives are how we love God and our brothers and sisters and ourselves with all our heart, mind, and soul.

This week, may we be more aware that God is in the bits and pieces of our ordinary daily lives. May we love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. May we love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

### **Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!**



Dear Adele, your hard work, dedication, positive attitude, and attention to every detail are truly appreciated, and I am very grateful for your selfless and cheerful service to the parish of St. James. Thank you for all that you have done to run the Parish smoothly. Parishioners of St. James will already miss you. I wish you all the best in your new journey. May God Bless you.

I am also grateful to Tony Warwarek for having kindly accepted to work in the parish Office while we advertise for Adele's replacement. Thank you very much Tony and may God Bless you.

Fr. Victor

**Eucharistic Adoration on *this first Saturday of the month* (4<sup>th</sup> Nov.) will be at 3.00 pm.....Please Note.**

An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health, and psycho-social needs.

### **Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal**

*"This is a period of incredible turmoil and sadness. The escalation of violence has only exacerbated needs for the people in Gaza and West Bank, who already live in dire conditions. We are working with our partners on the ground to provide comprehensive and critical support to over 17,000 families affected by this devastating conflict."*

*Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Lead, Caritas Australia*

With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict.

### **Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal.**

You can donate online [www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza) or phone 1800 024 413

### **An Urgent Prayer for Peace**

God of compassion,  
 We turn to you with heavy hearts  
 As we consider the needs of your family.  
 Israelis and Palestinians, we are all your people,  
 Each of us loved by You  
 And called to live in peace and justice.  
 We lament the dreadful loss of life,  
 Destruction of property and loss of human dignity.  
 We are pained by so much suffering.  
 We beg you to bring healing to this ancient place.  
 Help your people find a way forward.  
 Enable everyone to look each other in the eye,  
 And embrace each other as sisters and brothers,  
 As they find your image in every face.  
 We ask that courage and grace  
 Will help create a wiser and more gentle future,  
 Where everyone has a home.  
 God of wisdom, come to our aid.  
 Amen.

By Michael McGirr / Caritas Australia

## **ST THOMAS' CUPPA ROSTER**

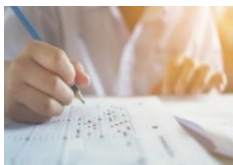
Please join us for a cuppa after Mass at St Thomas' **Sunday 29 October**. Rostered volunteers are Marianne and Cathy



## **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/](http://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](mailto: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. (today)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:contact@summerschool.org.au). Bookings: [summerschool.org.au](http://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](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
NSW  
*good works*

## **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](mailto:sarah.kemp@vinnies.org.au)

## **CEMETERY GRAVE BLESSINGS**

Please contact Fr. Victor for the blessing of your loved-one's grave during the month of November.

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 30 October	Tuesday 31 October	Wednesday 01 November	Thursday 02 November	Friday 03 November	Saturday 04 November	Sunday 05 November
		<i>All Saints Day</i>	<i>All Souls Day</i>		<i>St. Charles Borromeo</i>	<b>31st Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
9.00am <b>Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration</b> St James Muswellbrook		9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	11.30am <b>Adoration and Benediction</b>  12.05pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James  <b>Eucharistic Adoration at 3pm.</b>  5.30pm <b>Mass</b> St James	10.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen	5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St. Thomas Aberdeen	5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St. Thomas Aberdeen.			8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

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

**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*

### **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)

### **BULLETIN NOTICES AND DEAD-LINE**

Please **call** the Parish Office by **12 pm Friday** on 6543 1167 if you have any *last-minute notices for the bulletin*. If you email only at this late stage, it may be missed due to the commencement of the printing process.

The Parish bulletin can be accessed any time by email: ([muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au)); on our website: ([muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au](http://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au).) or on our Facebook page: ( **Catholic Parish of St James Muswellbrook** ).

**"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."**