



# 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**

**Email: [frvickybabu@gmail.com](mailto:frvickybabu@gmail.com)**

**Phone: 0484 903 427 or 6543 1167**

**St James Primary School**

**Principal: Mr Aaron Moon**

**Office: 6543 3094**

**Email: [admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au)**

**Acting Administration Assistant: Mr. Tony Warwarek**

**Email: [muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au)**

**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**

**THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A**

**5th November**

**First Reading**     [Malachi 1:14 – 2:2. 8-10](#)

### A reading from the prophet Malachi

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

**Responsorial Psalm**     [Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2](#)

**(R.) In you, Lord, I have found my peace.**

O Lord, my heart is not proud  
nor haughty my eyes.  
I have not gone after things too great.  
nor marvels beyond me. **(R.)**

Truly I have set my soul  
in silence and peace.  
A weaned child on its mother's breast,  
even so is my soul. **(R.)**

O Israel, hope in the Lord  
both now and for ever. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**     [1 Thessalonians 2:7-9. 13](#)

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

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

**Gospel Acclamation**     [Philippians 2:15. 16](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have one Father, your Father in heaven;  
you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel**     [Matthew 23:1 -12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*They do not practise what they preach.*

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being

greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

### **REFLECTION by Fr Victor**

Our gospel for this Sunday is about leaders. It is about what they say and what they do. It is about what sort of example they are for the people whom they are trying to lead and guide. At the time of Jesus, the religious leaders of the Jewish people were the Scribe and Pharisees. In front of the people gathered, Jesus makes a very public condemnation and criticism of these religious leaders. Jesus clearly says for everyone to hear: *'do not be guided by what they do, since they do not practice what they preach.'* Strong words indeed. Jesus continues his criticism when he says that they always want to take the place of honour at meals and the best front seat in the synagogues.

What have these words of Jesus to do with us or say to us today? Jesus is warning us not to think of ourselves as being better than other people. We must be careful not to say one thing and then do the very opposite. We are not to speak and act in ways so that people will notice us and tell us how wonderful we are. The Pharisees knew the Law very well; what they lacked was mercy, compassion, and tenderness of heart. Their actions did not match their words. They expected others to follow the law and to be perfect, but they themselves were far from perfect.

God does not expect us to be perfect. However, we are asked to be genuine, honest, and authentic with ourselves, others, and God. When asked by the Pharisees what the greatest commandment was, Jesus replied, 'Love God with all your heart, soul and mind, and love your neighbour as yourself.' This is the heart of the Jewish Law, and it is at the heart of Jesus' message to us today.

We are called to follow Jesus who came to serve and not to be served. This is the example we are asked to follow and live by. This gospel calls us to ask ourselves whether we do and say things so that people will notice us. The warning and challenge that Jesus puts to Pharisees is the one that he puts to each of us today. As I strive to follow Jesus, can I also follow his example of what it means to lead? Can I serve others and not just expect to be served?

### **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



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

**Caritas AUSTRALIA**

**GAZA CRISIS APPEAL**

Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the conflict.

**DONATE NOW**  
[www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza)  
1800 024 413

### **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

---

## **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

---

## **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)

---

## **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](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. Also, there are special envelopes to request a special votive mass for your loved one(s).

## **Holy Land/World Youth Day**

Hearing the Gospel for years and then watching it come to life, was an unforgettable experience. We ventured across the same land our *Messiah* did 2000 years ago. Our young group was filled with curiosity and awe. Whether it was gazing upon the humble fields of Bethlehem, the celebration of the Eucharist in a fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee, or kneeling before the rock on which our Lord was crucified; within those moments, the peace of Heaven brushed the earth.

Personal encounters with God were not the only aspect of a pilgrimage, but also how we connected with other pilgrims walking alongside us. We learned patience with one another when exhaustion, frustration or dehydration crept up. We came to rejoice in each other's triumphs on our different spiritual journeys – sharing laughter, stories, and the odd bottle of wine.

World Youth Day in Lisbon was the culmination of a journey that we, as thirty pilgrims, shared together. We experienced the importance of a *small* community pursuing Christ, but in Portugal's capital we embraced a *universal* community of young 'Jesus-lovers': an estimated 1.5 million of us. Language barriers and cultural differences could not hinder the overflowing joy we shared with other Catholics as we sang, danced and worshipped together. Despite feeling physically exhausted by bus trips, flight transfers and passport panics, we had gained a new spiritual strength – a steroid-like grace from Our Lord which spiritually nourished our souls. I am hope that this will sustain us as we return to our own *worlds*.

I cannot express enough how grateful I am to all who made this magnificent journey possible: my diocese, parish and family for their generous sacrifices in giving me this once-in-a-life-time experience.

**Ruby Brown**

**We welcome Rachel Cooper into our Church community of St. James. She will be received into our Catholic community on 12th November 2023.**

## **SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

***There will be a spiritual Retreat in preparation for Christmas.***

**Date:** 18th November, Saturday 2023.

**Venue:** St James Church.

**Time:** 2.30pm – 5.30pm.

**Preacher:** Fr. Roni George VC. from Divine Retreat Centre.

*For further information see flyer at back of the church.*

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 6 November	Tuesday 7 November	Wednesday 8 November	Thursday 9 November	Friday 10 November	Saturday 11 November	Sunday 12 November
			<i>Lateran Basilica</i>	<i>St. Leo the Great Pope/ Doctor</i>	<i>St. Martin of Tour. Bishop</i>	<b>31st Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
<u>9.00am</u> <b>Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration</b> St James Muswellbrook		<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>11.30am</u> <b>Adoration and Benediction</b>  <u>12.05pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James  <u>5.30pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St James	<u>10.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	<u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

## Minister Roster Sunday 12th November 2023

2nd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
<b>5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook</b>	J. O'Brien J. Paul	F. O'Brien	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
<b>8am Sunday Aberdeen</b>	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	K. Mason				M. Hamilton
<b>10am Sunday Muswellbrook</b>	G. Griffin B. Powell	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			K. Goodwin
<b>Counters</b>	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:**

### **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."**