



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

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

Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Wed & Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

12th November

First Reading [Wisdom 6:12-16](#)

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

Wisdom is bright and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes
herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble.
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown.
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are
worthy of her,
and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The Word of the Lord: **ALL:** Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2](#)

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. (R.)

Second Reading [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)

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

*Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with
Jesus.*

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those
who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about
them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe
that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same
for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with
him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that
any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not
have any advantage over those who have died. At the
trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the
command and the Lord himself will come down from
heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to
rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up
in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the
air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such
thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

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

Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon [Cf Psalm 22:1-2](#)

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.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So, stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

The famous saying of Boy Scouts is: Be Prepared! As we approach the end of this Church year and start a new one when Advent begins, the gospel today and next Sunday speak to us of being ready and prepared.

The gospel this Sunday reminds and asks us to get ready and prepare at a much deeper level. We are not simply waiting for the bus to come or the kettle to boil; we are asked to prepare for Jesus. What does it mean for us to be watching and waiting for Jesus?

The question that is implied in the parable of the wise and foolish wedding guests, is what are we doing while we are waiting for Jesus? Are we sitting around with no thought or concern for ourselves and others, or are we actively living our daily lives with meaning and purpose?

How I live my daily life really matters; it is not just about getting up every morning and doing my best to get through the day. What small but important things am I doing each day that brings joy and hope to others and not just to myself? The challenge and invitation of waiting and being prepared is that I am trying my very best to live my daily life as a follower of Jesus. This will be seen in how I speak, how I act and in how I treat others. Waiting then, is not about some vague and unknown future. Being a Christian and waiting for Jesus is about how I live my daily life, right here and right now.

Being ready and being prepared for Jesus is not about sitting around in silence waiting for something to happen. Waiting is never passive. Being ready and prepared means

living out the present moment to the fullest. As St. Paul reminds us (Phil 1:27) when he says, we are to avoid everything in our daily lives that is not worthy of the gospel of Jesus. We are to live a life worthy of the calling and vocation that God has given to each and every one of us. Let us get ready and be prepared with all our heart, strength, and mind!

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

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'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."

Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal.

You can donate online 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. 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

We congratulate and celebrate with Rachel Cooper as she enters our Catholic community at St. James. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continually enrich her faith. We also pray that we can nurture her growth in Christ.



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

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

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).



REST
 IN
 PEACE

ROSE MCALLISTER

MANAGER FORMATION AND EDUCATION, DIOCESE OF MAITLAND – NEWCASTLE

Dear Father Victor,

It was lovely seeing you last week, thank you again for your kind hospitality.

I am emailing as next Wednesday 15 November we have Dr Debra Snoddy visiting and providing a formation day on the **Gospel of Mark**.

Given the distance between some parishes and Newcastle, I have requested that day be accessed online to which Debra was happy to accommodate.

Please see below the link to the Zoom. There is information in the flyer about the time, no need to register (this was mainly for catering purposes).

<https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/69144450256>

Password: 176512

SPIRITUAL RETREAT

There will be a spiritual Retreat in preparation for Christmas.

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

NOVEMBER 18TH (SATURDAY) 2023
SPIRITUAL RETREAT
 at St James Catholic Church,
 65 Brook Street,
Muswellbrook
 2.30pm to 5.30pm

Please Contact: Monica Brown: jeffmonica.brown@bigpond.com, Tel: 0409 913 453
 or **Colleen Kelly:** kellymbrook@westnet.com.au, Tel: 0402 242 273

There is no charge for the retreat but a donation on the day to help pay the costs of transport for the team from Sydney on the day would be appreciated.

DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE
 160 Hensons Road, Somersby, SYDNEY-NSW 2250,
 Tel: 02 4372 1598, email: dircsydney@gmail.com
 • www.divineretreatcentre.org • www.facebook.com/divineretreatcentersomersby

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 13 November	Tuesday 14 November	Wednesday 15 November	Thursday 16 November	Friday 17 November	Saturday 18 November	Sunday 19 November
			<i>St. Elizabeth of Hungary</i>			33rd 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	9.30am Mass <i>Students from St. Joseph's will join us.</i> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James 5.30pm Mass St James	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	5.00pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 19th November 2023

3rd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	Can you fill this position?		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	K. Mason	M. Edwards	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	C O'Brien	M. Kelly	C. Kelly	Can you fill this position?			K. Goodwin
Counters	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, Michael Dolahenty, Jenny Paul, George Henriques, Danielle Camilleri, and Sebastiammal.

(Baptism) Adult entry into Church and Confirmation: Rachel Cooper

Anniversaries:

Recently Deceased: Margaret Delforce

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.

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

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); on our website: (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."