



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

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Office Hours: Wed & Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

34th SUNDAY - SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING – YR A

26th November 2023

Entrance Antiphon Revelation 5:12; 1:6

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and divinity,
and wisdom and strength and honour.
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

First Reading Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

You, my flock, I judge between sheep and sheep.

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

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

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22:1-3, 5-6, R. see v.1

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose. **(R.)**

2. Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name. **(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 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

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

He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

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

Gospel Acclamation Philippians 2:15, 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

Before we begin the Season of Advent, we are asked to reflect upon Christ our King. When Jesus was asked by Pilate if he was a king, Jesus said that he was a king. So, what sort of king was Jesus?

The first reading gives us the answer. The shepherd that is described in the first reading is the king we are asked to follow. This shepherd is one who is caring and compassionate towards us. This shepherd looks for the lost, bandages the wounded and makes the weak strong. This is the shepherd and king we are asked not only to follow, but whose life and example we are asked to live by. Just as he looks after and cares for each of us, so we in turn are to care for each other.

Where are we to look to find Jesus our king today? Jesus is to be found in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the

homeless, the poor, the rejected and those in prison. We are to turn our attention to each other if we are to find Jesus. This gospel and today's great feast ask us to draw on the presence of Christ who dwells within each of us so we can reach out to Christ in others, especially those who are poor and those who are in any kind of need.

This gospel is not about some unknown time in the future. This gospel is about each of us and how we follow Jesus here and now. The amazing thing is that on this Feast of Christ our King, both the first reading and the gospel speak about others who need our help and support. Whatever we do to and for each other, we do to and for Jesus. So, if we open our hearts as well our eyes we will see Christ the King in everyone we meet.

Jesus is a King, and we are his brothers and sisters. Therefore, we belong to a royal household. May we treat each other with the dignity and respect they deserve; as princes and princesses of a royal family. As one of the early popes said, Christian, be aware of your dignity and nobility, it is God's own life that you share.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

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.

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



The banner features the Caritas Australia logo on the left, followed by the text 'GAZA CRISIS APPEAL'. Below this, it says 'Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the conflict.' On the right, there is a photograph of a destroyed building in Gaza with smoke rising from the rubble. At the bottom right, a red box contains the text 'DONATE NOW', the website 'www.caritas.org.au/gaza', and the phone number '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."

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

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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 during 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 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

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).



INDUCTION OF NEW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The new members of the Parish Pastoral Council will be inducted TODAY during mass on the Feast of Christ the King.

THERE WILL BE A CUPPA AFTERWARDS!

PARISH LIBRARY in the Convent, is open for browsing & borrowing on THURSDAYS 9.30AM – 11.30am

Jane Thatcher is offering her time and expertise as a former librarian, to oversee the use of the new Parish Library. She can assist you in browsing or facilitate book borrowing. There is space to stop and read a little as well. Any books that you can donate to the library will be much appreciated.

ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year's Parish Christmas Party will be held on December 13th at 6pm in the Muswellbrook RSL Club.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

Please book by Monday 4th December!

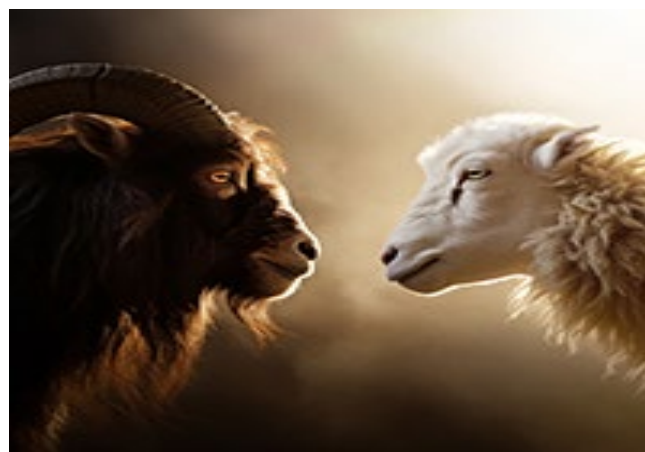
Main Course: \$29 per head

Roast Dinner: Pork OR Lamb

Dessert: Two choices (not finalised)

Buy own drinks.

Tea/Coffee are complimentary.



The Lambs will be recognised by the Shepherd

He will separate sheep from the goats.

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 27 November	Tuesday 28 November	Wednesday 29 November	Thursday 30 November	Friday 01 December	Saturday 02 December	Sunday 03 December
			<i>St. Andrew Apostle</i>			1st Sunday of ADVENT
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration St James Muswellbrook		9.30am Mass St Joseph's YR7 Aberdeen Will join us. St James	11.30am Adoration and Benediction St. James 12.05pm Mass St James	9.00am Mass St James	9.00am Mass St James 5.30pm Mass St James	NEW LITURGICAL YEAR <u>10.00am</u> Mass St James
	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Ministry Roles for Sunday 3rd December

1st Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	Can you fill this position? Or this one?	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: Arden Howard

Anniversaries: Bishop Bill Wright

Recently Deceased: Colleen Hofman and David Aloga

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."