



ST. JAMES' PARISH

Diocese of Maitland - Newcastle

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: Tue, Wed & Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

3rd December 2023



First Candle

Isaiah 64: 1-9/Mark 13:24-37

God of Salvation, break into our world with your great power and glory. Break the chains that bind us to sin. Shatter the systems of our world that promote injustice and oppression. We light the 1st Advent Candle as a sign of our hope that God's Messiah is coming. May we stay alert for his coming that we might hear with all of creation, the redemption song of our God.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Is 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come
down; at your presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.

For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4*

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Cor 1:3-9

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

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So, stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Advent Reflection from Fr. Victor

This Sunday, we begin the great Season of Advent, a new Liturgical year. There are two messages that we will hear over the next four weeks. One message and set of values will come to us from the media and the shops. We will be told and sold the idea that unless we buy more and more and surround ourselves with all the trappings of Christmas, we won't be happy. This most definitely is 'fake news.'

However, there is a very different message and set of values that will be offered to us through the gospels, the prayers, and the liturgy of Advent. We are being asked to prepare a way for the Lord, to stay awake, to make a straight path for the Lord and to get ourselves ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This is most definitely 'Good News!'

The message of Advent is an invitation and it is also a challenge to us. We are called to be looking forward, to be ready, to be prepared and we are asked to wait in joyful hope.

Waiting is not something that we are usually good at these days. Our modern world tells us to move faster in so many ways. We have smartphones, emails, and microwave ovens that all 'help' us to get through our busy days. However, Advent asks each of us to do the very opposite. During these sacred days of preparation, we are being asked to take some time to be still and silent as we prepare ourselves deeply for Christmas.

While we can't simply ignore the shops, the media, and the advertisements over the next few weeks, neither can we ignore the words and message of Jesus in today's gospel; 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come... what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

If we get too caught up in the shopping and spending, there is the danger that we will miss what Advent is really about. This is what the call to 'stay awake' means. We are asked not to miss the next four weeks of Advent. We are asked to prepare and get ready as best we can as followers of Jesus. It would be so sad, if after shopping and all the other preparations we missed Advent and its joyful and hopeful message. Therefore, our constant prayer during this season should be: "Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!" I wish you a fruitful and spirit-filled Advent season.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!



WEEKLY NOTICES

ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

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

Please book by Monday 4th December!

Main Course: \$29 per head

Roast Dinner: Pork OR Lamb

(Alternate plate drop)

Dessert: Two choices (not finalised)

(Alternate plate drop)

Buy own drinks.

Tea/Coffee are complimentary.

Young families and children are welcome to join us.

Childrens meals are at a reduced price!

Please RSVP by email by 4th

DECEMBER TO:

Monica Brown:

jeffmonica.brown@bigpond.com

Colleen Kelly: kellymbrook@westnet.com.au

CASH COUNTERS THIS WEEKEND

December 2023

Jane and Stephen Thatcher



PARISH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Mon 9.00am – 4pm, Wed 9am-2pm, Thu 9.00 – 4pm

BULLETIN

Please ring the Parish Office on 6543 1167 by 12.00pm Friday, if you have any notices for the bulletin.

The Parish bulletin can be accessed online:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/parishes/muswellbrook

Or alternatively please email:

muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au if you would like the bulletin emailed to you each week.



NOVENA: SIMBANG GABI is a Novena celebrated from 16th December to 24th December in many countries, particularly in the Phillipines.

The Parish is invited to Celebrate this Novena of nine days Mass at 6pm in St. James Church, from Friday 15th December to Friday 23rd December.

A light meal is taken after the Mass and attendees are asked to bring a plate to share food after Mass at the Convent each evening.

Note: Tuesday Mass at St Thomas Church will be cancelled during this time to allow all to gather at St James Church for the Novena.

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION

There will be Christmas Reconciliation (Second Rite) on Friday 15th December at 7pm at St. James church



Weekly Mass & Liturgy Diary

| Monday 4 December | Tuesday 5 December | Wednesday 6 December | Thursday 7 December | Friday 8 December | Saturday 9 December | Sunday 10 December |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | | <i>St Ambrose Bishop & Doctor</i> | IMMACULATE CONCEPTION | | 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT |
| 9.00am Private, personal prayer and Adoration. St. James Mus'brook. | | 9.30am Mass St. James Primary School Muswellbrook. END OF YEAR Mass. All parishioners are welcome to attend. No Parish Mass. | <u>11.30am</u> Adoration and Benediction St. James <u>12.05pm</u> Mass St. James Muswellbrook | 9.30am Mass St. James Muswellbrook St. Josephs Year 10 students to join us. | 9.00am Mass St. James Muswellbrook <u>5.30pm</u> Mass St. James Muswellbrook | <u>10.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook |
| | <u>4.30pm</u> Adoration and Benediction <u>5.00pm</u> Mass St. Thomas Aberdeen | | | | | <u>8.00am</u> Mass St. Thomas Aberdeen |

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is available 30 mins before weekend Masses and at any time upon request. Please call ahead to let Fr. Victor know **when and where** you would like to meet with him.

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: We pray especially for 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.

Anniversary: Colin Carter

Recently Deceased: Colleen Hofman, Leni Thompson, Errol Bates, and Kevin Thompson who died recently

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.

Ministers Roster Sunday 10th December 2023

| 1st Sunday of the Month | Readers | Cantors | Musicians | Gifts | Extraordinary Ministers | Altar Servers | Sacristan |
|---|---------------------------|------------|-------------|---|----------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 5.30pm Saturday Vigil Muswellbrook | J. O'Brien J. Paul | F. O'Brien | Sr. Dorothy | Can you fill this role? | | R. Panis | C. Hayes |
| 8am Sunday Aberdeen | J. Dallah | T. Hobbs | K. Mason | | | | M. Hamilton |
| 10am Sunday Muswellbrook | G. Griffin B. Powell | M. Kelly | C.Kelly | Can you fill this role? | | | K. Goodwin |
| Counters | Jane and Stephen Thatcher | | | <i>The collections can be counted any time after 10am Mass on Sunday till the Wednesday of that week.</i> | | | |

"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."