



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

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

Office: 6543 3094

Email: admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au

Acting Administration Assistant: Mr. Tony Warwarek

Email: muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au

PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Tue, Wed & Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

10th December 2023



Second Candle

Isaiah 40: 1-11/Mark 1:1-8

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. A voice cries out: Prepare the way of the Lord...make paths straight. Valleys and mountains shall stand side by side. God's glory is about to be revealed to all humankind.

We light the 2nd Advent Candle as a sign of peace in a world broken by violence and injustice. God's Messiah is on his way. Repent...be forgiven of your sins...be washed in the waters of baptism...share in God's transforming grace.

Come, Lord Jesus.

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

First Reading

Is 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her

that her time of service is ended,

that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,

every mountain and hill be laid low,

let every cliff become a plain,

and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed

and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,

joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,

joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,

say to the towns of Judah,

'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast

and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

Second Reading

2 Pt 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

A MESSAGE FROM FR. VICTOR

The liturgy of the Second Sunday of Advent introduces the two great figures of the New Testament: John the Baptist and Jesus Christ the Lord. The angel Gabriel announced the coming of Jesus as a baby, the incarnation of God, but John introduced the adult Jesus as the *Lamb of God*.

John comes as a messenger in the wilderness not just with any news, but with 'good news' for all to hear. He comes to us with a message of hope. John tells us that

someone (Jesus) is coming and that he is far more powerful than John. The first reading from the Prophet Isaiah describes the arrival of this person; 'Here is you God.' Here is the Lord coming with power.' John reminds us today as he did in the desert that God has not forgotten us or the promise that was made to generations before us: Jesus the Messiah is coming. Jesus is coming not just into our world, but into our homes, lives, and deep within our hearts. This most definitely is 'good news.'

John came with a new message in a new place. Normally people went to the temple or the synagogue to hear the word of God. But John is in neither of these places. He appeared and spoke in the wilderness of the desert and, as the gospel tells us, many of the people from Judea and Jerusalem made their way to him. Through John, God is proclaiming a new message in a new way. As the Prophet Isaiah reminds us: Yahweh says, "Look I am doing something new; it is already happening. Can you not see it? I will make a path in the wilderness".

What is this new thing God is doing? Through the words and actions of Jesus, God breaks into our world and lives in a new, life-giving, and personal way. Our God is God of surprises and God's ways are not our ways.

John asks us to 'prepare a way for the Lord and make his paths straight.' What does it mean for us today? When the people heard John speak, 'they were baptised and confessed their sins.' An important aspect of our Advent journey and preparation is acknowledging that there are parts of our lives that need straightening!

Perhaps one way we could prepare away for the Lord during these weeks of Advent is to consider celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation. As we focus our attention on so many other things during the lead up to Christmas, let us not forget to prepare a place in our hearts to welcome Jesus.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

Despite Fr. Victor's best wishes for our health, his own brother is seriously ill back home in India. Please pray that his wishes and the Lord's blessings also fall upon him, his family, and especially upon his brother, through the mercy of our loving God.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Monday 9.30 – 2.30pm

Wednesday

Friday 9.30 - 2.30pm

BULLETIN

Please contact the Parish Office on 6543 1167 by 12.00pm Friday if you have any notices for the bulletin, or alternatively email:

muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au

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.



Where are you headed? Are you travelling toward the place and time of a new birth: a time for joy and renewed purpose?

If we know the WHY then the HOW will take care of itself.

Place one step in front of the other and take the first step to journey with expectation that you will find the Lord

whom you seek.



UPDATE ON PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

CHRISTMAS DINNER THIS WEDNESDAY, 13 December

Thank you Everyone for responding to our Invitation to the Parish Christmas Dinner.

Numbers have now been sent to the RSL Club.

WHEN: Wednesday, 13th December 2023

TIME: 6pm for 6.30pm

WHERE: Muswellbrook RSL Club

COST: \$29 per head

DRESS: Hope to see you all in your Christmas Shirts and hats etc.

Can you please bring the correct money to pay for your tickets to avoid us having to have a large cash float. Round it to \$30 per head and we can have \$1 coins available for change.

Two Course Dinner \$29 per head

Main Meal – Alternate drop of Roast Pork or Roast Lamb with Vegetables

Dessert – Sticky Date Pudding or Apple Pie (alternate drop)

Drinks are at your own expense.

Jugs of Water on the tables.

Tea and Coffee station Complimentary

Merry Christmas!

See You Wednesday Evening

Weekly Mass & Liturgy Diary

Monday 11th December	Tuesday 12th December	Wednesday 13th December	Thursday 14th December	Friday 15th December	Saturday 16th December	Sunday 17th December
		<i>St. Lucy Virgin & Martyr</i>	<i>St. John of the Cross</i>			THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	9.30am Graduation Mass St James School Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St. James Muswellbrook	11.30am Adoration and Benediction 12.05pm Mass St. James Muswellbrook	No 9am Mass All welcome to St. Joseph's End of Year school mass at St. Josephs School Hall in Aberdeen at 12pm midday.	9.00am Mass St. James Muswellbrook 5.30pm Mass St. James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	5.00pm Mass St. Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St. Thomas Aberdeen

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is available **30 mins before** weekend Masses and at **any time upon request**. Please call ahead to let Father 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 Chisolm, 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: (Please inform us if you would like an anniversary of death to be prayerfully remembered during Mass)

Recently Deceased: Leni Thompson, Errol Bates, and Kevin Thompson, who died recently. May they rest in peace.

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

2nd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	J. O'Brien J. Paul	F. O'Brien	Sr. Dorothy			R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	Can you help?	Can you help?			M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	G. Griffin O. Paynter	M. Kelly	C. Kelly				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."