



# 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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SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

14 January 2024

### **Entrance Antiphon** *Psalm 65:4*

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,  
and shall sing to you,  
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

### **First Reading** *1 Samuel 3:3-10.19*

A reading from the first book of Samuel

*Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening.*

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am'. Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

### **The word of the Lord**

#### **Responsorial Psalm** *Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10. R. vv. 8,9*

(R.) Here am I, Lord;  
I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord.  
and he stooped down to me;  
he heard my cry.  
He put a new song into my mouth,

praise of our God. (R.)

2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,  
but an open ear.  
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.  
Instead, here am I. (R.)
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written  
that I should do your will.  
My God, I delight in your law  
in the depth of my heart. (R.)
4. Your justice I have proclaimed  
in the great assembly.  
My lips I have not sealed;  
you know it, O Lord. (R.)

#### **Second Reading** *1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians *Your bodies are members of the body of Christ.*

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

### **The word of the Lord**



## **Gospel Acclamation** [John 1:41. 17](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have found the Messiah:

Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

Alleluia!

## **Gospel**

[John 1:35-42](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*They saw where Jesus lived and they stayed with him.*

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

## **The Gospel of the Lord**

### **Communion Antiphon**

[Cf Psalm 22:5](#)

You have prepared a table before me,  
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my  
thirst.

or

[1 John 4:16](#)

We have come to know and to believe  
in the love that God has for us.

Important Notice

## **REFLECTION by Fr Victor**

We are starting the ordinary time of the Liturgical year. At the beginning of the ordinary time the church invites us to come to the Lord and experience him.

In the Gospel of 2nd Sunday of ordinary time, John points at Jesus and says to those who are with him, 'Look there is the Lamb of God.' Immediately, they drop everything they were doing, leave John and go after Jesus. Before they can speak or say anything, Jesus turns, looks at them and asks a very direct and personal question; 'What are you looking for?' And they respond with a question of their own, 'Master, where do you live? This question is not about directions or an address. They really want to know who Jesus is and where he comes from. In response, Jesus does not give them directions or an address. He offers them an invitation, 'Come and see.' This is a very open and a very challenging invitation. It was then and still is today.

Jesus does not force them to follow him. He does not insist that they go with him. He simply says to them that if they want to know who he is, then they are welcome to go with him and spend some time with him. The best way to get to know a person is to spend time with them. And so, we are told that they went with him, saw where he lived and stayed with him the rest of the day. We can only guess that they ate with Jesus, they spoke to him and that they listened to him. After their time with Jesus, we are told that one of them, Andrew, went and told his brother Peter about Jesus and brought him to meet Jesus. Andrew has become a missionary disciple. He shared with Peter what he himself experienced from being with Jesus. Are we so different from these people in the gospel? Every day Jesus offers us the same open invitation, 'Come and see.' Jesus wants to be with us so we too can spend some time with him. The choice is ours to accept this invitation or not. He will not force us or make us follow him. If we do follow Jesus, then we are going to be changed, just as Andrew was. You can't experience Jesus and stay the same. Andrew didn't keep to himself the experience of being with Jesus and neither can we. We are called by Jesus to share our good news about him with others. That's what being a disciple means. Today each of us is being called by Jesus to become missionary disciples. The best way we can talk to Jesus and listen to him is through prayer. We can read the gospels, pray the rosary, go to mass or we can simply light a candle in our kitchen and sit in silence. Through our prayer, we hear the invitation of Jesus. When he says, 'Come and see,' what is your response?

## **Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!**

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## God's Word

### Body Language

A major theme of the Scripture readings is 'God's call and our response'.

The story of Samuel's call in the first reading indicates that the call of the Lord can be confused with the call of other people and the attraction of things. Help may be needed to recognise God's voice. When one recognises God's voice, it takes courage to reply, 'Speak Lord, for your servant is listening,' and to say as the psalmist, 'Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.'

Paul focuses God's call on challenges that continue in our world today. One challenge is to respect our body and the bodies of others when tempted by drugs, alcohol, premarital sex, and even junk food. Paul holds up the body as a gift from God to be treated as such. We are members of Christ's Body; we must respect others as part of that Body.

Like the first reading and the psalm, John's Gospel features God's call and our response. Jesus invites us to ponder the question, 'What are you looking for?' We need to be open to the Lord working in our life, to recognise that he is calling us and to be ready to respond to the call.

### Important Message

Fr. Victor will be away from 15th January 2024 for 10 days to celebrate the 40th Day Memorial Mass for his brother who passed away recently.

There will be no Mass held on weekdays while he is away however, weekend Mass will go ahead as usual.

### Parish Office Hours

The regular parish office hours are now Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9.00am to 3.00pm. To help keep our costs down and save paper, please consider having the bulletin emailed straight to you each week.

### CASH COUNTERS THIS WEEKEND

7th January 2024

Jane and Stephen Thatcher.



### BULLETIN

Please contact the Parish Office on 6543 1167 by 3.00pm Wednesday if you have any notices for the bulletin, or alternatively email:

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

The Parish bulletin can be accessed online:

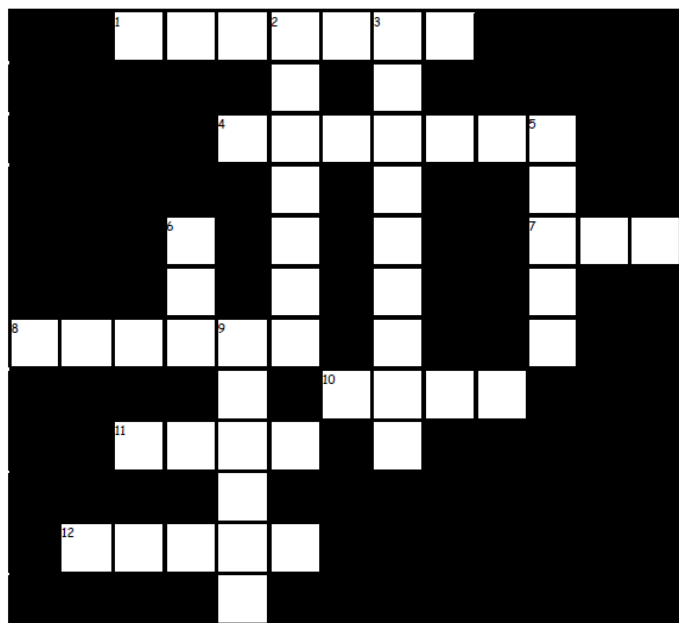
[www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/parishes/muswellbrook](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/parishes/muswellbrook)

Or alternatively please email:

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## CROSSWORD

### Here I am Lord



1 Sm 3:4-10, 19  
Ps 40:1 & 3ab, 8 & 11, R. 8a & 9a  
Jn 1:35-42

#### Across

- 1: the Saviour, God's chosen one
- 4: Andrew was Simon Peter's \_\_\_\_\_
- 7: where you sleep
- 8: this word means 'Messiah'
- 10: Samuel did not realise that the \_\_\_\_\_ was speaking to him
- 11: what we are called or known by
- 12: Jesus told Simon he would be known by this name

#### Down

- 2: one who serves
- 3: the time of day between noon and evening
- 5: this Hebrew word means 'teacher'
- 6: Samuel thought that this person was calling him
- 9: the Lord spoke to this person

### Emergency Contact

For any urgent matters while Fr. Victor is away, please contact Fr. Graham Fullick who is from Scone on 0477 720 270.

**"Seeking is done with the heart, and God alone knows the secrets of every heart".**

**FR TONYN PERCY**

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 15 January	Tuesday 16 January	Wednesday 17 January	Thursday 18 January	Friday 19 January	Saturday 20 January	Sunday 21 January
		<b>St. Athony abbot</b>				
<b>9.00am</b> Personal Prayers and Adoration	<b>No Mass</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	<b>5.30pm</b> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<b>10.00am</b> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
						<b>8.00am</b> <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

## Minister Roster Sunday 21st January 2024

3rd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
<b>5.30pm</b> <b>Saturday</b> <b>Muswellbrook</b>	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy				C. Hayes
<b>8am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Aberdeen</b>	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs					M. Hamilton
<b>10am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Muswellbrook</b>	C. O'Brien Can you fill this position?	M. Kelly	C. Kelly				K. Goodwin
<b>Counters</b>	Therese and Joel Bristow		<i>The collections can be counted any time after 10am Mass on Sunday till the Wednesday of that week.</i>				

### 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

#### **Baptism:**

#### **Recently Deceased:**

**Anniversary:** John Presland

**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*



### *Keegan/Wood Family Group*

**15 January 2024 : Planning Meeting at Everest Restaurant RSL Club.**

Meet at **12 noon** to enjoy lunch and share ideas for the next 6 months (Feb 2024 – July 2024). Come along brimming with ideas. Names to Robyn or Margaret by **Friday 13 Jan 2024**



### **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/)

**"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."**