



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.

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THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

20 January 2024

Entrance Antiphon Cf **Psalm 95:1,6**

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

First Reading **Jonah 3:1-5. 10**

A reading from the prophet Jonah

The Ninevites renounced their evil ways.

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 24:4-9. R. v.4**

(R.) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,

because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**

3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

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

The world as we know it is passing away.

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

The word of the Lord



Gospel Acclamation [Mark 1:15](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is near:
believe the Good News!
Alleluia!

Gospel [Mark 1:14-20](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Repent, and believe the Good News.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon Cf [Psalm 33:6](#)

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

or

[John 8:12](#)

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

On the third Sunday of ordinary time, we hear Jesus, beginning his public ministry and so he starts to call people to follow him. Jesus always made a point of meeting and calling people wherever he found them. He met and called Matthew the tax collector when he was counting his money. He met and called the woman when she came to the well for water.

In the gospel this Sunday Jesus meets people while they are doing their ordinary daily work of fishing and mending their nets on the seashore. They weren't on their knees praying in the temple or the synagogue. Jesus called these men by their own names, so he must have seen them before and known them. Today in the same way, Jesus continues to call us by our

name. In the Old Testament, there are two beautiful pieces of scripture through which God says, I have called you by your name, you are mine and that I have written your name on the palms of my hands (Is 43:1, 49:16). This is how personally and intimately God knows and loves each of us.

Jesus calls us wherever we are, regardless of who we are. Each of us is called by Jesus. He breaks into our world through our ordinary daily lives and activities. Jesus has not stopped calling people to follow him. Today we are the ones he looks at, calls by name, and says, 'Come follow me.' Those in the gospel dropped everything they were doing and followed Jesus when he called them. This was all very sudden and dramatic. Our response may not be as quick and decisive. But it doesn't need to be. We all follow Jesus at our own pace, in our time and in our own way.

The important thing to remember and realise is that Jesus never stops calling us by our name. He is still inviting us to follow him with these words, if you want to be a disciple, come, take up your cross and follow me (Mt 16:24).

After Jesus called these men and women to follow, he sent them out in his name to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God. He sent them out in his name, not their own. Today we are the ones who are not only called, but we are also sent out to proclaim the gospel through how we live; through what we say and what we do.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe, Stay Joyful and Stay Blessed!



Cast Out Your Nets

A major theme of the Scripture readings is 'The call to discipleship'.

The passage from the Book of Jonah gives a perspective on the mercy of God. It shows that God will forgive anyone who takes the call to conversion seriously. The Ninevites change their behaviour and ways of living that led to evil and show by their actions that they are willing to embrace a new way of life. And God, to the dismay of Jonah, does not destroy them.

The psalm recognises God as teacher and implores us to call upon the Lord to teach us the ways of the Lord. God is good and merciful. We are all welcome to walk in God's ways – even those who have taken the wrong path before – proud people and sinners.

Paul's letter is a wake-up call for all those who may become too worried about life in this world. The world as we know it is not the Kingdom God promises. We need to live in this world with one eye on the next. Paul has a sense of urgency about this because at the time of this letter, he believed the Second Coming of Christ would occur in his lifetime.

Mark tells us how Jesus began his mission and called the first disciples. Jesus calls on all who will listen, saying, 'Reform your lives and believe in the good news.' Jesus finds his first disciples in ordinary places doing ordinary things. He asks them to give up all they know and follow him. They are to become members of the Kingdom of God and to play an active role in establishing the Kingdom – to proclaim the Good News and be the Good News.

Friday Funny Read - No Excuse Sunday

In order to make it possible for everyone to attend church next week, we are planning a special no-excuse Sunday.

1. Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say, "Sunday is my only day for sleeping in."
2. Eye drops will be available for those whose eyes are tired from watching television too late on Saturday night.
3. We will have steel helmets for those who believe the roof will cave in if they show up at church.
4. Blankets will be furnished for those who complain that the church is too cold. Fans will be on hand for those who say the church is too hot.
5. There will be hearing aids for those who say, "the speakers don't talk loud enough and cotton for those who say, "the speakers talk too loud."
6. Score cards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present.
7. We guarantee that some relatives will be present for those who like to go visiting on Sunday.
8. TV dinners available for those who claim they can't go to church and cook dinner, too.
9. One section of the church will have some trees and grass for those who see God in nature, especially on the golf course.
10. The sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who have never seen the church without them.

by Author

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Believe the good news

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N A F I S H E R M E N O R N
F A T H E R Q S S T W U M X
N A N D R E W Q G X Y M R K
H W E Z T D V Z L T F T R K
Y Y L L B N E T D J L F W Z
H L F L D C O Z M K W E N T
L A U A M H T E M M I R N S
K K G A L I L E E W G N U W
Q E U U E N W T C J F N Y H
G K I M H N E W S A T I M E
P G T J S X C Y O M F T H Z
P O C D L K T S J E W F S V
X J L N S D P N E S S Z X X
V C F T Y P T B E L I E V E
G N F K C A B O A T E O Q I
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Try to find these words:

Andrew
believe
boat
father
fishermen
Galilee
James
lake
net
news
time
went

Parish Office Hours

The office hours will be a little different this week. Sorry for any inconvenience.

The office will be open 9am-3pm Wednesday and Thursday. The bulletin will be distributed Thursday afternoon due to the Australia Day public holiday on Friday 26/1/24.

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 22 January	Tuesday 23 January	Wednesday 24 January	Thursday 25 January	Friday 26 January	Saturday 27 January	Sunday 28 January
			The Conversion of St. Paul, apostle			4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
<u>9.00am</u> Personal Prayer and Adoration St James Muswellbrook	No Mass	No Mass	No Mass	<u>5.30pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>5.30pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>10.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook
						<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 28th January 2024

4th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Counters this week	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	M. Flanagan	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy				C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	S. Milton	K. Mason	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	B. Powell M. Carter	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		Jane & Stephen Thatcher		K. Goodwin

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, Danielle Camilleri and Sebastiammal

Baptism:

Recently Deceased: George Henriques. May he rest in peace.

Anniversary: Marie Lonergan and Joan Bowen

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

BULLETIN

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

muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au

The Parish bulletin can be accessed on our website: muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au.

or on our Facebook page: **Catholic Parish of St James Muswellbrook**

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

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/

"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."