



# 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 9.00m – 3.00pm

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD YEAR B

7th January 2024

### ***Entrance Antiphon***

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;  
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

### ***First Reading***

[Isaiah 60:1-6](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The glory of the Lord shines upon you.*

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,  
though night still covers the earth  
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises  
and above you his glory appears.  
The nations come to your light  
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:  
all are assembling and coming towards you,  
your sons from far away  
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,  
your heart throbbing and full;  
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;  
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,  
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;  
everyone in Sheba will come,  
bringing gold and incense  
and singing the praise of the Lord.

**The Word of the Lord.**

### ***Responsorial Psalm***

[Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11](#)

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

2. In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)

3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts  
shall pay him tribute.  
The kings of Sheba and Seba  
shall bring him gifts.  
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,  
all nations shall serve him. (R.)

4. For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)



### ***Second Reading***

[Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance,  
that they are parts of the same body.*

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

### **The Word of the Lord.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

[Matthew 2:2](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord.  
Alleluia!

### **Gospel**

[Matthew 2:1-12](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*We have come from the East to worship the king.*

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
you are by no means least among the leaders  
of Judah,  
for out of you will come a leader  
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

### **The Gospel of the Lord.**

### **A MESSAGE FROM FR. VICTOR**

This Sunday, we celebrate the great festival of light, the Epiphany of the Lord. As the church, we remember and celebrate that Jesus who was born in the darkness of night in an animal shed is the light of and for the world. The word 'epiphany' means to make known or to reveal. The angels made known and revealed to the shepherds the joy of the birth of Jesus. In the same way, the star led these strangers from the East and revealed the same Jesus to them.

Our first reading from the Prophet Isaiah calls us to 'Arise, shine out because our light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising in us, though night still covers the earth and darkness the people. Through the birth of Jesus and today's wonderful feast, we are the people on whom a great light has shone.

Traditionally, we believe that the shepherds did not stay at the stable after seeing Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; they left glorifying and praising God. They left filled with the good news of this wondrous child. Just as the angels had proclaimed the good news to them, the shepherd in their turn shared their good news with others. In the same way, the visitors from the east, after they had given Jesus, their gifts also left the stable. They didn't stay there either. We are only told that they did not go back to Herod but went home another way. We can only assume that they too told everyone what they had seen and heard in that small stable in Bethlehem.

As we look upon the crib, we cannot stay there. Like the shepherds and the magi, we too are called to move away and take the light of Jesus with us. We are asked not only to admire the light, but to be people of light. As Jesus himself tells us, you are the light of the world, and your light must shine.' The light of the Epiphany is given to us as a gift, but we cannot keep it to or for ourselves. Through the quality of our daily lives and how we treat each other, we are called to make our families, homes, parish communities and the wider world a better and brighter place for all people, especially the poor and the marginalised.

May Christ the Light and the Light of Christ fill all our homes, families, and our parish communities this day and always.

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



# GOSPEL FOCUS

## Going home

*The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.*

### Parish Office Hours

The regular parish office hours are now Tuesday Wednesday and Friday 9.00am to 3.00pm.

### 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:

[muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au) if you would like the bulletin emailed to you each week.

### CASH COUNTERS THIS WEEKEND

7th January 2024

Kay and Brian Mason.



### *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**



### REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

The astrologers in the Magi story went through quite a journey in search of the baby Jesus. They obviously believed in him and had faith in the star.

Have you ever 'followed a star'? Have you ever gone after a dream or an ideal you believed in? Are you still going after it? What gives you the energy to keep going? How do you know it is worth it?

The gifts brought by the Magi have significance.

Gold is a symbol of wealth and fidelity.

Frankincense is burned to purify the atmosphere by releasing an aromatic and pleasing smell. For centuries, indigenous people in many countries have burned smoke in order to bless and purify themselves, and monks have watched incense rise to the sky as a symbol of their prayers ascending to God.

Myrrh is a kind of resin or oil used for anointing and embalming. It is a symbol of comfort and soothing (who doesn't enjoy a rubdown?) but it is also a foreshadowing of death.

How were these gifts symbolic for Jesus?

What three gifts would be symbolic of you and your life so far? Explain the symbolism.

### I like a list of resolutions.

#### Prepared by the Rev. Walter Schoedel.

He calls them '7-UPS for the New Year.' No, this has nothing to do with the soft drink. These 7-UPS fall under the heading of attitudes and actions.

The first is WAKE UP--Begin the day with the Lord. It is His day. Rejoice in it.

The second is DRESS-UP--Put on a smile. It improves your looks. It says something about your attitude.

The third is SHUT-UP--Watch your tongue. Don't gossip. Say nice things. Learn to listen.

The fourth is STAND-UP--Take a stand for what you believe. Resist evil. Do good.

Five, LOOK-UP--Open your eyes to the Lord. After all, He is your only Savior.

Six, REACH-UP--Spend time in prayer with your adorations, confessions, thanksgivings, and supplications to the Lord.

And finally, LIFT-UP--Be available to help those in need--serving, supporting, and sharing.

If you're going to make New Year's resolutions this year, let me suggest Rev. Schoedel's list.

#### JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

We come to worship the king

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

Try to find these words:

east  
frankincense  
gold  
house  
important  
kneled  
myrrh  
search  
secretly  
star  
warned  
wise

## Weekly Mass & Liturgy Diary

Monday 8 January	Tuesday 9 January	Wednesday 10 January	Thursday 11 January	Friday 12 January	Saturday 13 January	Sunday 14 January
<i><b>The Baptism of the Lord</b></i>						
9.00am <b>Mass</b> St. James Muswellbrook		9.00am <b>Mass</b> St. James Muswellbrook	11.30am <b>Adoration and Benediction</b>  12.05pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	10.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St. Thomas Aberdeen				5.30pm <b>Mass</b> St. James Muswellbrook	8.00am <b>Mass</b> St. Thomas Aberdeen

### RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is available 1/2 hr. 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 Request

**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:

**Recently Deceased:** Hazel Davis who died recently. May she 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 14th January 2024

2nd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	1. J. O'Brien 2. J. Paul	F. O'Brien	Sr. Dorothy			R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs					
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	1. G. Griffin 2. B. Powell	M. Kelly	C. Kelly				K Goodwin
<b>Counters</b>	Jane and Stephen Thatcher			<i>The collections can be counted any time after 10am Mass on Sunday till the Wednesday of that week.</i>			

### **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/) or phone: 02 4979 1390

**"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."**