



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

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

Parish Administration: Mrs Tracey Marsden

Email: muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au

PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Tue, Wed & Fri 9.00am – 3.00pm

Website:

www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

28th January 2024

Entrance Antiphon [Psalm 105:47](#)

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading [Deuteronomy 18:15-20](#)

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9](#)

(R.) If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we

the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

Second Reading [1 Corinthians 7:32-35](#)

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

The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The Word of the Lord



Gospel Acclamation [Matthew 4:16](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light:

a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Mark 1:21-28](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

Communion Antiphon Cf [Psalm 30:17-18](#)

Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your merciful love.

O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

or

[Matthew 5:3-4](#)

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Evil Spirits versus the Holy One of God

The word 'diabolical' comes from a Greek word referring to something broken in two, shattered. Looking at persons and societies torn apart, it is obvious that the diabolical spirit is powerful. However, it harbours a fear that a more powerful Holy Spirit could reintegrate a personality, could make a community out of divided groups.

'Have you come to destroy us?' indicates that this fear was realised in the coming on to the scene of Jesus Christ. Jesus' answer was a resounding 'Yes', not in words but in action, healing a man torn apart by a diabolical spirit.

Jesus Christ invites and empowers us to join in his healing mission to overcome whatever it is which tears people apart, whether at the individual, community, or global levels. We do so in the confidence of His Resurrection which overcame the diabolical tearing apart of His body and soul.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to joining Jesus' mission, so putting the fear of God into the devil!

LECTIONARY BASED YOUTH ACTIVITIES

by [Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart](#)

God's Word

Profiting from Prophets

A major theme of the Scripture readings is 'Listen to the prophets'.

The passage from Deuteronomy is the basis of the Jewish belief that the Messiah, a saviour, would be a prophet like Moses. Christians see this belief fulfilled in Jesus.

The psalm calls us to greet the voice of the Lord and to listen with an open heart.

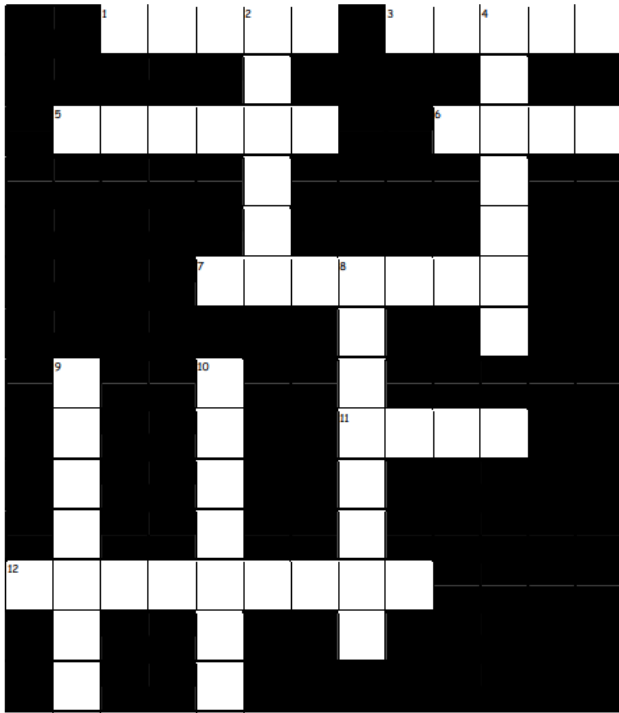
Paul serves as a pastor to the Christian community at Corinth. He calls them to look at their lives and at those things that get in the way of their relationship with Jesus. In effect, Paul is a prophet to that community and likewise serves as a prophet to us. The reading challenges us to promote good in our community and to promote that which will help us devote ourselves to the Lord.

In the passage from Mark's Gospel, Jesus expels a demon from a man. Jesus shows he has the authority to speak and act as a prophet sent by God. His exorcism of the demon demonstrates that good triumphs over evil. This miracle is the first of many Mark records to show both the authority and the compassion of Jesus. This passage also reveals the main work of Jesus – the work of forgiving, healing, and teaching in the name of God.



CROSSWORD

The prophet will speak in God's name



Across

- 1: talk
- 3: Jews taught the law of this man
- 5: make a choice
- 6: to do what you are told to do
- 7: someone who speaks on behalf of God
- 11: a man with an _ _ _ _ spirit yelled at Jesus
- 12: Jesus was teaching in this town

Down

- 2: a reply to a question
- 4: the day of rest
- 8: strong
- 9: information that is passed on to someone else
- 10: ruin, break apart, wreck

Parish Office Hours

The office is open 9am-3pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. The bulletin is distributed Friday afternoons.

Keegan/Wood Family Group

Events have been set for February to July 2024. Be sure to check the bulletin for upcoming events. If you would like more information about this group please contact Margaret on 6543 1238 or Robyn on 6542 5426.

UPCOMING MEETINGS NEXT WEEK:

LITURGY MEETING:

Wednesday 31st, 10.30 am, in the Presbytery

We will be planning for Liturgies from Ash Wednesday, 14th February thru Lent and Easter and up to Anzac Day, Thursday 25th April. New Members welcome to attend. Call Colleen 0402 242 273.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Wednesday 31st January, 5.30pm in the Convent

Interested Parishioners welcome to attend. We will be discussing ways of growing the Faith and attending to the pastoral needs of the Faithful in our Parish.

Call 0402 242 273 for further information



Lenten Program 2024

Interested Parishioners are invited register for the Pieta Lenten Program this year.

There will be at least two group sessions this year (more if needed) If you have a group who would like to do the Program on another day please call Colleen 0402 242 273 to arrange for Lenten Books for your members.

Both groups to be held in the Convent this year as it affords ease of access and ease of Parking.

Tuesday Morning Group -10am and

Tuesday Evening Group at 7pm

First session 13th February

Please call the people below to register to attend the weekly sessions From Ash Wednesday to Good Friday.

Kay Goodwin - Tuesday 10am session

- 0404 212 686

Colleen Kelly - Tuesday 7pm session

- 0402 242 273

In order to assist us on our Lenten journey and to provide an opportunity for fellowship, the Wollongong diocese publishes a Lenten Program book each year that includes daily reflections from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday for personal reflection in addition to longer-form Sunday Scripture reflections, readings, responsorial psalms, prayers and reflection questions that are traditionally part of group Lenten programs. The book also includes beautiful artwork from the Masters with accompanying artwork reflections.

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 29 January	Tuesday 30 January	Wednesday 31 January	Thursday 1 February	Friday 2 February	Saturday 3 February	Sunday 4 February
		Memorial St. John Bosco, priest		The Presentation of the Lord		5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Personal Prayer and Adoration St James Muswellbrook		9.00am Mass St. James Muswellbrook	11.30am Adoration and Benediction 12.05pm Mass St, James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	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

Minister Roster Sunday 4th February 2024

1st Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Counters this week	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	M. Flanagan	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	J. Toohey R. Wood			C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	T. Hobbs	J. Lonergan	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	M. Kempis		K. Mason		Kay & Brian Mason		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: Fay Biddle and Alma Dolahenty

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."