



# 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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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH – YEAR B

31st December 2023

### First Reading

Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

*Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.*

The Lord honours the father in his children,  
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.  
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,  
he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a  
fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of  
his own,

he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father,  
he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to  
the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,  
do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,  
do not despise him in your health and strength;  
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten  
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R.vv.7.8

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his  
ways.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. (R.)

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;

your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. (R.)

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life! (R.)

### Second Reading

Col 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

*Concerning the Christian life in the world.*

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and  
you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness  
and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one  
another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins.  
The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same.

Over all these clothes, to keep them together and  
complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ  
reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were  
called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.  
Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home  
with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all  
wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and  
hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do  
anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving  
thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the  
Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with  
gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always,  
because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never  
drive your children to resentment or you will make them  
feel frustrated.

### Gospel Acclamation

Col 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

Lk 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with  
wisdom.*

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down  
by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to  
Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what  
stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born  
male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer

in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master,  
 you can let your servant go in peace,  
 just as you promised;  
 because my eyes have seen the salvation  
 which you have prepared for all the nations to see,  
 a light to enlighten the pagans  
 and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.



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

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. This Feast celebrates Jesus' birth into our world as a member of the human family of Mary and Joseph. It also reminds us that the Holy Family is a model for our own families.

The feast of the Holy Family is also a celebration of all families: not perfect families, not constantly serene families - but families just like ours. If we picture the family of Joseph of Nazareth as we have seen them depicted in works of art or statuary, it becomes very difficult to model our family lives around theirs.

They were, in fact, ordinary working people, called to an extraordinary mission. And they were subject to the ordinary failures of miscommunication, disappointments, worries, and disagreements of every family. Mary and Joseph faced the difficult discovery that Jesus was not

going along with them every step of the way. It is a real story of a family conflict and is symbolic of all kinds of relationships.

We know what it is like when family members do not go along with us on the journey. When Mary and Joseph confronted Jesus in the Temple, they confronted the fact that he would have to discover his own path in life. No matter what they might hope for him, he did not belong to them.

However, they put their entire future, their entire trust, in the Spirit of God, who not only led them through their lives, but travelled alongside with them on their journey. There was a family of love, respect and honesty, and not without turmoil.

Modern-day families face lots of struggles, problems, and difficulties. In rich countries, there's much talk of crisis in the institution of the family. And it is a serious crisis. The traditional form of the family is being threatened by a new way of seeing a family. In poorer countries, separation of family members has also become a threat. When parents migrate, the children are left behind. Often this has a negative effect on the relationship among family members. But there are also situations where a family is "complete," but the members do not connect or talk to each other.

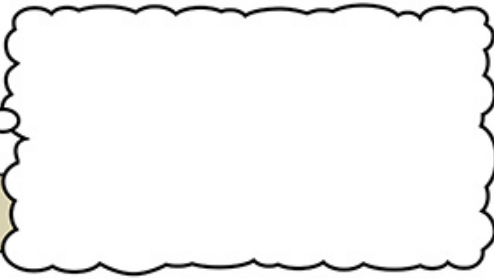
How shall we address this problem? We can learn something from the holy family. The holy family is characterized by love and respect for each other. Love is what sustained them. And what holds families together also in times of difficulty is love and forgiveness. However, a major threat facing families nowadays is simply that they don't spend enough time together. Some children, and parents too, are so busy working or socializing on smartphones and tablets, or busy watching TV that prevents them from talking about important things that have happened in their family.

The holy family survived all its crises through their love for each other and their faith in God. Let us pray that the 'struggling' families hold together through love for each other and faith in God.

Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!



An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Draw the angel speaking to Joseph in his dream.



## DECODE THE PROPHECY

Use the code below to decipher the prophet's message

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

🍷 👉 🐎 🍷 🍷 🍷 👉 🍷  
 🍷 👉 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷  
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## CASH COUNTERS THIS WEEKEND

31st December 2023

Jane and Steve Thatcher



## BULLETIN

Please contact the Parish Office on 6543 1167 by 4.30pm 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:

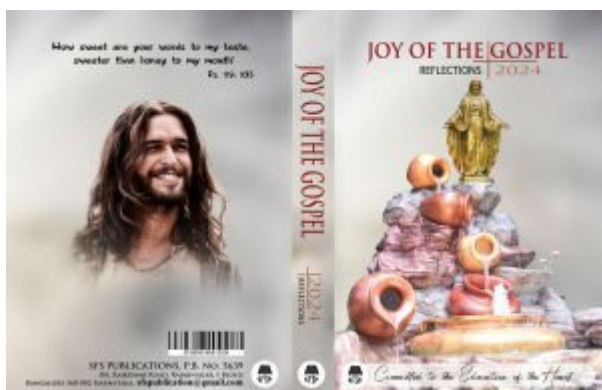
[www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/parishes/muswellbrook](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/parishes/muswellbrook)

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.

## JOY OF THE GOSPEL – Reflections 2024 Committed to the Education of the Heart.

This book available to purchase \$15.00 – limited copies available – see Fr. Victor



## PARISH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Welcome to Tracey Marsden, our new Parish Admin Assistant. Tracey will commence her role this week on Tuesday 2nd January and will be in the office Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am – 3pm



Fr. Graham Fullick Parish Priest of Scone who assisted at the Advent Reconciliation Service and also for all the Timely Helps during the year.

## CHOIR

We are very grateful to all the Choir members for their wonderful contribution to making the Liturgy livelier and more meaningful throughout the year.

And many Thanks to Colleen Kelly, Sr. Dorothy Dolahenty, Carol Bowen and Kay Mason who led the Choir.

Many thanks to Jim Gleeson for clearing the Church grounds. Your work is greatly appreciated.

To all the members of the Parish Pastoral Council, the Financial Committee, and the Liturgy Group, I whole heartedly Thank You for all your generous contributions and continued support towards the development of the Parish.

I am very grateful to all the Sacristans who come early and ensure that everything is ready for Mass and also to MaryAnne Pyke who decorates our Altar and Church during the year with flowers.

My appreciation and gratefulness go to all our wonderful, Young Angels who serve the Altar during the Mass with great devotion.

Very many Thanks to all the Counters of the Mass collections every Sunday. I also Thank all the Volunteers who go around with the plate taking the collections.

I would like to Thank Tony Warwarek who generously attended all the needs of the Parish Office, when no Parish Admin was there.

I would like to specially thank Jane Thatcher and Steve Thatcher for setting up the Parish Library and helping the Parish in many other ways.

I would also like to Thank all other Volunteers who helped in one way or the other during the year.

May God Bless You All - Fr. Victor

## Weekly Mass & Liturgy Diary

Monday 1 January	Tuesday 2 January	Wednesday 3 January	Thursday 4 January	Friday 5 January	Saturday 6 January	Sunday 7 January
<b>Mary, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD</b>	<b>Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen</b>					<b>The EPIPHANY of the LORD</b>
<u>9.00am</u> New Years Day Mass St James Muswellbrook		<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St. James Muswellbrook	<u>11.30am</u> <b>Adoration and Benediction</b>  <u>12.05pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>10.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	<u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St. Thomas Aberdeen				<u>5.30pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St. James Muswellbrook	<u>8.00am</u> <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:** Rita Lorraine Oakes, Agnes Arasanilai

**Recently Deceased:** Martin Mutthu, 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 7th January 2024

1st Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
<b>5.30pm</b> <b>Saturday</b> <b>Muswellbrook</b>	Can you fill this position	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	J. Toohey R. Wood		R. Panis	C. Hayes
<b>8am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Aberdeen</b>	T.Hobbs	J. Lonergan	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
<b>10am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Muswellbrook</b>	1. M. Kempis 2. No reader?	???	K. Mason				K Goodwin
<b>Counters</b>	Kay and Brian Mason			<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."**