



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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B**

**18th February 2024**

### Entrance Antiphon Psalm 90:15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.

Gloria **is not said.**

### First Reading Genesis 9:8-15

A reading from the book of Genesis

*I will recall the covenant between myself and you...  
the waters shall never again become a flood to  
destroy all flesh.*

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth  
to those who keep your covenant.

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.)

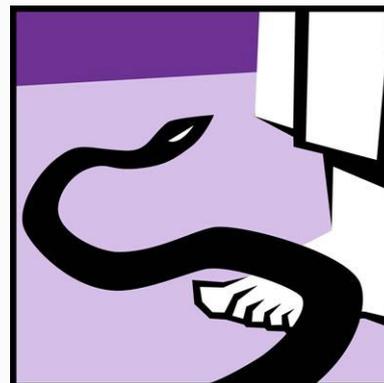
3. The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

### Second Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which  
saves you now.*

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.



### **Gospel Acclamation** *Matthew 4:4*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### **Gospel** *Mark 1:12-15*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.*

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

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.'

**The Creed is said.**

### **Communion Antiphon** *Matthew 4:4*

One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of  
God.

### **REFLECTION by Fr Victor**

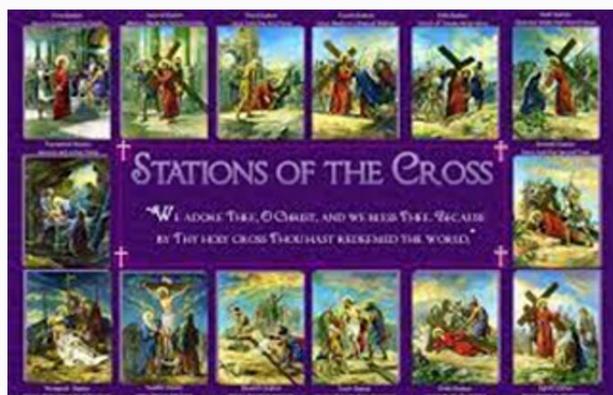
On Ash Wednesday, we began our Lenten Pilgrimage with Jesus as we prepare to celebrate Easter. This Sunday is the first Sunday of Lent. The opening sentence of the gospel of this Sunday is: The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness (desert) and remained with him for forty days. Why was Jesus led or driven into the desert?

The desert in Jewish history is very important. When God freed and saved the People of Israel from slavery in Egypt, they spent forty years in the desert. They wandered and sometimes got lost as they tried to find their way to the Promised Land. This was not an easy journey for them. At times they lost faith in each other and in God. They forgot the promise that God made with them; 'I will be your God and you will be my people.' As they made their way through the desert, many would have stopped travelling and settled near the closest oasis or watering hole. Some others would have joined other tribes and religions that they met along the way. Famously, when they were at their lowest, they made a statue of a golden calf and began to worship it. They had forgotten where they had come from, what God had done for them and lost sight of where God was leading them.

It is no surprise that we begin Lent with Jesus in the desert. Like his ancestors, he too is tried, tested, and tempted. However, Jesus refused to give up or give in so quickly or so easily. Although our gospel for this Sunday is written by St. Mark, the gospel of St. Matthew gives us more information about what might have happened to Jesus. He is tempted with the false gifts of power, prestige, and wealth. His power and identity come from

God. Jesus knows who he is, where he comes from and where he is going on his own journey. He leaves the desert with these powerful words which he offers us today; 'The time has come; the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.' What is this Good News that Jesus asks us to hear and believe? It is the good news that each of us is created, loved, and forgiven by God.

As we begin our own Lenten journey today, we need to recall and remember that we are not setting out on this journey on our own. God is with us walking by our side every step of the way. When we are tempted, we need to follow the example of Jesus. He did not rely on his own strength. He turned to God and asked for help which he received. We will not be able to walk the Lenten journey on our own. We need to realise that like Jesus, we too need God's help, support, guidance, and protection. Whenever we feel tired or ready to give up or give in, we need to turn to God for encouragement. We know that God will be with us during Lent as God was with Jesus when he was in the desert. God will never leave us alone. I wish everyone a Blessed and Fruitful Lenten journey.  
**Stay Healthy, Stay Safe, Stay Joyful and Stay Blessed!**



### **LENTE DEVOTIONS**

The Stations of the Cross

During Lent Praying the Stations of the Cross is a wonderful way to focus our mind on the Passion and Death of Jesus. Fr Victor is saying the Stations in Aberdeen or Muswellbrook every week in Lent.

Aberdeen: St Thomas Tuesday  
Stations of the Cross 4.30pm  
Mass at 5pm

Muswellbrook: St James Friday  
Mass 5.30pm  
Stations of the Cross 6pm

### **Lenten Books Available**

We still have a few Lenten books available from the office if anyone would like a copy. These are \$7.00 each.

It's not too late to join the Lenten Program. Details in notice on the next page.



## Lenten Program 2024

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

There will be at least three 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. There are six weekly sessions in the Lenten Program. Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday.

**St Thomas Group** held Monday evening at the Church at 6pm new members very welcome. Call Carol Bowen 0438 812 898 or Marg Hamilton 0408 668 251.

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

**Tuesday Morning Group 10am**

- call Kay Goodwin 0404 212 686 to register  
or

**Tuesday Evening Group at 7pm**

- call Colleen Kelly 0402 242 273 to register

**First session 13<sup>th</sup> February**

In order to assist us on our Lenten journey the Wollongong diocese publishes a Lenten Program book each year that includes private 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.

### Sisters of Faith Dinner

There is a Sisters of Faith dinner on 5th March to mark International Women's Day. The dinner will be held in Newcastle. If you are interested, please contact the office for more details.

### DIVINE MERCY GROUP

The Divine Mercy group will be meeting on Sunday 18th February 2024 at 2.30pm in the old Convent Muswellbrook. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Keegan/Wood Family Group - EVENT

19 February: Lunch at the Denman Hotel 1-5 Ogilvie St. 6547 2207. Meet at 12 noon. Meet at railway to share transport at 11.30am. Perhaps an opportunity for some 'window-shopping' Please give names to Please give names to Margaret (6543 1238) or Robyn (6542 5426) by Friday 16 April 2024.

## LECTIONARY BASED YOUTH ACTIVITIES – by Lisa-Marie

### Calderone-Stewart

#### **God's Word**

#### God's Good News

A major theme of the Scripture readings is 'God's promise fulfilled'.

In chapter 9 of Genesis, we find a story about Noah, his family and the animals getting off the ark to view a wonderful rainbow in the sky. God promises to never again destroy the earth with a great flood. As a sign of a pledge to keep this promise, God places a rainbow in the sky for all to see.

The responsorial psalm says that following the ways of the Lord is the people's part of the terms of the covenant. However, the people need help in carrying out this commitment. The psalmist asks God to be a teacher and a guide, and to be compassionate and kind when we stumble on our way along the right path.

The second reading, from First Peter, links the story about the covenant made with Noah in the first reading with the covenant fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Water is a key image here. In the Noah story, water was both a means of destruction as well as a means of escape. This reading speaks of the waters of baptism, which were prefigured in the flood, as the means of salvation for those who believe.

This short Gospel reading does not give much detail about Jesus' forty-day stay in the desert. The important point is that it marked the beginning of Jesus' mission to fulfill the promise made by God to save humankind. Jesus comes back from the desert with a sense of urgency; he is renewed and eager to get his message across – repent and believe!

We have begun the season of Lent, a time to repent and renew our belief in God's promise.

#### **SENIOR WORDSEARCH**

### **I will remember my promise**

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

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Try to find these words:

angels  
animals  
bird  
boat  
desert  
flood  
forty  
Galilee  
kingdom  
Noah  
promise  
rainbow



### **First Sunday of Lent 17 & 18 February**



This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world for all future generations.

**Please donate to Project Compassion.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 19 February	Tuesday 20 February	Wednesday 21 February	Thursday 22 February	Friday 23 February	Saturday 24 February	Sunday 25 February
			<b>The Chair of St Peter, apostle</b>			<b>2nd Sunday Lent</b>
9.00am <b>Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration</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	5.30pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  6.00pm <b>Stations of the Cross</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  5.30pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	10.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	4.30pm <b>Stations of the Cross</b>  5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

### Minister Roster Sunday 25th February 2024

4th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Counters	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	M. Flanagan	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	S. Milton	K. Mason	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	M. Carter B. Powell	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		Jane and 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:** 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

**Recently Deceased:** Kevin Doherty, Jared Jones, and Tim Pike.

**Anniversary:** Myra and Joe Jeans, John Shanahan

**Baptisms:**

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

The Parish bulletin can be accessed on our website: [muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au](http://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au).

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

Please email [muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto: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](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."**