



# 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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**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B**

**11th FEBRUARY 2024**

### **Entrance Antiphon** *Cf Psalm 30:3-4*

Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

### **First Reading** *Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46*

A reading from the book of Leviticus

*As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts, he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

### **Responsorial Psalm** *Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7*

**(R.)** I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,  
whose sin is remitted.  
O happy the man to whom the Lord  
imputes no guilt,  
in whose spirit is no guile. **(R.)**
2. But now I have acknowledged my sins.  
my guilt I did not hide.  
I said: 'I will confess.  
my offence to the Lord.'  
And you, Lord, have forgiven  
the guilt of my sin. **(R.)**

3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,  
exult, you just!  
O come, ring out your joy,  
all you upright of heart. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading** *1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1*

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

*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

### **Gospel Acclamation** *Luke 7:16*

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us.

God has visited his people.

Alleluia!



## **Gospel** [Mark 1:40-45](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

### *The leprosy left him and he was cured.*

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said, 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

## **Communion Antiphon** [Cf Psalm 77:29-30](#)

They ate and had their fill,  
and what they craved the Lord gave them;  
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

or

### [John 3:16](#)

God so loved the world  
that he gave his Only Begotten Son,  
so that all who believe in him may not perish,  
but may have eternal life.



## **REFLECTION** by Fr Victor

In the Gospel of 6th Sunday in ordinary time, the encounter between the leper and Jesus begins in an unusual way. Normally it is Jesus who makes the first move when healing someone; however here it is the leper who takes the initiative and approaches Jesus; 'a leper came to Jesus and pleaded with him on his knees: if you want to, he said, you can cure me.' The leper knows the strict religious laws and yet he still breaks them. He doesn't keep his distance and shout 'unclean.' He walks right up to Jesus, falls to his knees, and pleads with Jesus to cure him. What courage, strength, and humility this leper has. Maybe he recognised Jesus or just heard about him; either way he knows what he can do. Jesus returns the leper's courage. As the leper reaches out to Jesus, he in turn reaches out, touches, and heals him. Jesus not only reaches out to heal the leper but reaches out across all social and religious boundaries separating the clean for the unclean. Jesus, too, breaks every religious and social

restriction. Jesus goes out of his way not only to comfort and heal this leper but to identify with him.

If we are honest with ourselves and God, there are parts of our own lives that we might call 'unclean.' Maybe there are things in our past that we have said and done, of which we are not proud. Perhaps there are relationships with our friends and families that are still broken and that hurt after many years. There are so many examples that we could give; take a minute and name one that is important to you at the moment.

The invitation and challenge of this gospel is to follow the courageous humility of the leper. Can I in any way this week follow his example and make his prayer my own? Can I come to Jesus and pray, 'If you want to, you can heal me?' If I find the strength and faith to reach out to Jesus, he in turn will reach out to touch and heal me. There is nothing more Jesus wants than to heal and help me; renew and restore to me full health at all levels.

This week, may we have the faith and find the humility to ask God's for help, so that we too may be renewed and restored to health at all levels.

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



## **Lenten Program 2024**

Interested Parishioners are invited register for the Pieta 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.

## LECTIONARY BASED YOUTH ACTIVITIES

by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

### God's Word

#### Turn Around

A major theme of the Scripture readings is 'Turn to the Lord to be healed'.

The first reading relates an old Jewish practice of branding as unclean those who have leprosy and setting them apart from the community. It may also symbolise current practices of labelling persons and groups and excluding them from the community. The psalmist then tells us that we can attain acceptance and healing if we turn to the Lord.

In the reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul calls upon the people to build up the community by imitating him, who imitates Christ.

The leper in the Gospel reading did not wait for Jesus to come to him; he recognised his affliction and turned to Jesus for healing. Jesus healed him and sent him back to the community.

### Parish Office Notice

You may have seen the updated Liturgical Roster on the notice board in the church.

If you can fill in any of the positions, please add your name to the spot you would like to volunteer for or contact the office. If those who are already on the roster could put a tick next to their name if it is correct, it would be most appreciated.

### Sacramental Program

If anyone would like to participate in the sacramental program this year, please contact the parish office.

The confirmation day is expected to be mid-August 2024.

### Devine Mercy Prayer Group

Devine Mercy prayer group meeting will take place Sunday 18th February at 2.30pm in the old Convent Muswellbrook. Everyone is most 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 Margaret (6543 1238) or Robyn (6542 5426) by Friday 16 April 2024.



Project Compassion Sunday  
10 & 11 February



Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **for all future generations**. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.

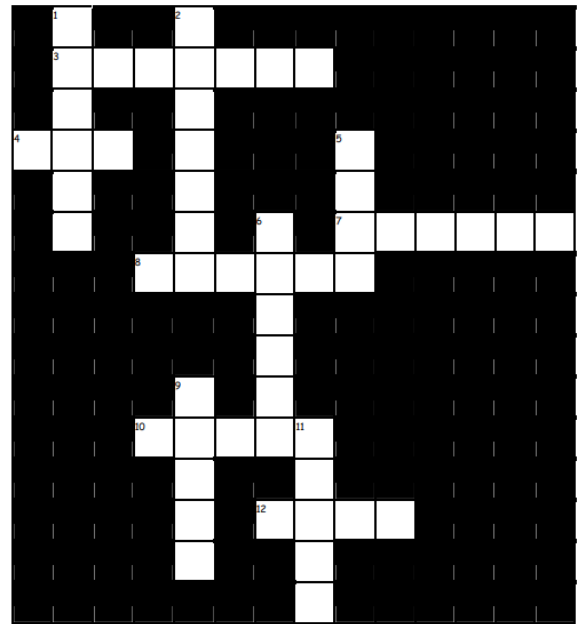
Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations**.

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.



## CROSSWORD

Do everything to honour God



#### Across

- 3: Jesus healed a man with this disease
- 4: you do this when you are hungry
- 7: Paul says we must \_\_\_\_\_ Christ's example
- 8: the man was told to go and show this person that he was well
- 10: a person from Greece is called this
- 12: the man was asked not to \_\_\_\_\_ anyone that Jesus healed his leprosy

#### Down

- 1: to make someone happy
- 2: the opposite of sister
- 5: a present
- 6: Jesus told the man to take a gift to this place
- 9: what you need when you are thirsty
- 11: to get down on your knees



## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 12 February	Tuesday 13 February	Wednesday 14 February	Thursday 15 February	Friday 16 February	Saturday 17 February	Sunday 18 February
	<b>Shrove Tuesday</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>				<b>1st Sunday of Lent</b>
9.00am <b>Personal Prayer and Adoration</b> St James Muswellbrook	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  5.30pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	10.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	6.00pm <b>Burning of Ashes</b> St. Marks Aberdeen	5.30pm <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen				8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

## Minister Roster Sunday 18th February 2024

3rd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Counters this week	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm <b>Saturday Muswellbrook</b>	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am <b>Sunday Aberdeen</b>	K. Mason	M. Edwards	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am <b>Sunday Muswellbrook</b>	C. O'Brien	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		Therese & Joel Bristow		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  
We also pray for King Charles III, after his recent cancer diagnosis.

**Baptism:** Leonisa Cumberland

**Recently Deceased:** Kevin Doherty and Jared Jones

**Anniversary:** Eric Tanner

**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."**