



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

3rd March 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.

Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is not said.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Exodus **20:1-17**

The Law was given through Moses.

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men, or women, not your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

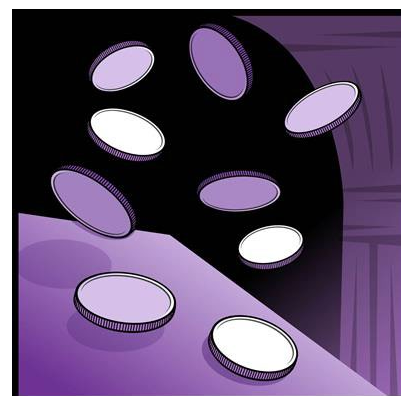
The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68

(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**
2. The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. **(R.)**
3. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. **(R.)**



4. They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

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

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 3:16

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

John 2:13-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Creed is said.

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon

John 4:13-14

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

In the gospel reading of the Third Sunday of Lent, Jesus reminds each one of us about making a sharp contrast between a **House** and a **market**. Jesus being aware of the political and religious significance of his time, he strongly challenged it as well as challenging those who were responsible for it. He challenged the institution because the temple was not serving God's purposes. Jesus said "stop turning my father's house into a market (Jn2:16).

A sharp contrast between a House and Market is that a house has a potential at least to be a home, and a home is the place where we find a school of Jesus' values such as love, generosity, compassion, forgiveness, charity etc. People go to the market to buy and sell their items. Buying and selling are not the activities to be associated with home.

The activities associated with the market were the barriers to some worshipers to feel the presence of God in their lives (distractions in prayer). Jesus, in perceiving that reality, felt a need to reform the institution. We are invited to reflect on the need to reform our religious institutions whenever there is an urgent need to do so. The Holy Mother Church as the human institution is not perfect. It is marching towards perfection. Thus, it needs constant reform. Our catholic church history attests that reality, that it has undergone many reforms since its existence (councils, like Vatican 1 and Vatican 2).

The church exists to serve the mission of Christ. The church is called to serve as the sacrament of Christ, to reveal the powerful and life giving of Christ in the world. The church should not present the distorted image of our Lord Jesus Christ. All of us being the members of Christ's body we need to open our hearts for spiritual growth and transformation through the ministries of the church's sacrament which Christ himself instituted.

Thus, in this Lenten season it is the time to listen to what the spirit is saying about our lives, it is the time when as individuals and community we are called to allow the spirit to reform and renew our lives so that we conform more fully to the image and likeness of Christ.

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



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

No matter what the rule or law is, some people can find a way around it. Sometimes they obey the 'letter' of the law, but they disregard the 'spirit' of the law. Sometimes they pretend to misunderstand the meaning of the law. And sometimes they actually get away with breaking a law by paying off someone who is supposed to be guarding the law.

Is it ever okay to break a law? Why or why not? Give examples.

What are some school rules or family rules that you hate to keep? What do you dislike about them? What are some rules or family rules that you wish other people would keep, but they don't? Why do you like those rules?

Do you think it would be possible to run a country, a school, an organisation or a family without rules or laws? Why or why not? How would life be different?

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

The Lord gave Moses the commandments

Try to find these words:

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

- commandments
- destroy
- doves
- Egypt
- marketplace
- money
- Moses
- mother
- punish
- sheep
- steal
- temple

Parish Office Update

The Parish office will be **CLOSED** on Tuesday 5th March 2024. Sorry for any inconvenience.

2024 Sacramental Program

Children in Year 3 or above who are interested in receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion are asked to contact the Parish Office and leave your details so you can be notified of the upcoming information session.

Different View

Just like Jesus

This gospel passage must be one of the most commonly misused passages in the Bible. So often it is used as justification for someone losing their temper, or worse, an outrageous temper tantrum, or 'dummy spit'. People will declare in their defence, 'Well, Jesus lost his temper and got angry in the Temple!' They fail to appreciate the difference between their own hot-headedness and the outrage against injustice that was being expressed by Jesus. They also seem to miss the significance of the fact that this was a 'one off' for Jesus!

**A Lenten Day
of Reflection and Reconciliation**



When: Saturday 16th March 2024.
Time: 9am Mass until 12 Noon.
Where: St Thomas Church Aberdeen
Who: Combined Parishes of St James Muswellbrook, St Thomas Aberdeen, St Marys Scone and St Joseph's Murrurundi.

A Day of Reflection is a time set aside specifically for a Christian to seriously go deeper into his or her relationship with God.

It is an opportunity to spend a couple of hours in prayer and conversation with God guided by meditation, spiritual reading, and an examination of conscience and Reconciliation..

*Following the service a Cuppa/Cold drink will be available.
Please bring a plate to share.*



**Third Sunday of Lent
2 & 3 March**





Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result.

Leaia lives with her five children, husband, brother and sister-in-law on the island of Upolu in Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water caused Leaia a lot of worry.

Their home is not connected to a piped water system, so they had to rely solely on rainwater collected in old fridges. When their water ran out, Leaia had to walk with her young children to collect water in buckets and containers from a neighbour down the street.

With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed at Leaia's home. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water at home. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions.

"We are very thankful and grateful for the water tank. It has helped us so much and made our daily life easier," Leaia said.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

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 or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Laura Womersley/Caritas Australia





LENTEN 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 (changed):
Mass 9am
Stations of the Cross 5.30pm

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 4 March	Tuesday 5 March	Wednesday 6 March	Thursday 7 March	Friday 8 March	Saturday 9 March	Sunday 10 March
						4th Sunday Lent
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration St James Muswellbrook		9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	11.30am Adoration and Benediction <u>12.05pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook <u>5.30pm</u> Stations of the Cross St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook <u>5.30pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	4.30pm Stations of the Cross 5.00pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 10th March 2024

2nd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Counters	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	J. O'Brien J. Paul	F. O'Brien	Sr. Dorothy			R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	K. Mason				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	G. Griffin B. Powell	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		Jane & 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: Zlatka Pikulich, Noel Symington and Allen Bishop.

Anniversary: Terry Toohey.

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

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."