



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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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

17th March 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

The Gloria in excelsis is not said.

First Reading [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12](#)

(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)

2. A pure heart create for me, O God,

put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)

3. Give me again the joy of your help;

with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. (R.)

Second Reading [Hebrews 5:7-9](#)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation [John 12:26](#)

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;

and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory to you, Word of God,

Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel [John 12:20-33](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come

for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I tell you most solemnly,

unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,

It remains only a single grain;

but if it dies,

it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world

will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me,

wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.



Now my soul is troubled.
What shall I say:
Father, save me from this hour?
But it was for this very reason that
I have come to this hour.
Father, glorify your name!

A voice came from heaven, 'I have
glorified it, and I will glorify it
again.'

People standing by, who heard
this, said it was a clap of thunder;
others said, 'It was an angel
speaking to him.' Jesus answered,
'It was not for my sake that this
voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on
this world;

now the prince of this world is to
be overthrown.

And when I am lifted up from the
earth,

I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the
kind of death he would die.

The Creed is said.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

John 12: 24

Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless
a grain of wheat falls to the ground
and dies, it remains a single grain.
But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

The season of Lent is an
opportunity to let ourselves be
drawn to Christ, who was lifted
from the earth for our salvation. On
the 5th Sunday of Lent, Jesus
prepares our minds for the coming
events of Good Friday. He calls on
every one of us to face the cross
with faith. His death is not the end
of the story but the beginning of
the fullness of life in God. He says
in the Gospel of this Sunday,
"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a
grain of wheat falls into the earth
and dies, it remains alone; but if it
dies, it bears much fruit."

There are many different images
and symbols used in scripture to
talk about and describe Jesus. He
talks about himself as Light, Water,
Bread, the Vine, Shepherd etc... In
the gospel this Sunday, he talks
about himself in terms of a seed
being sown in the ground.

Jesus tells us that if a seed does
not fall to the ground and die, it is

still only one single small seed.
However, if it falls to the ground
and dies, something miraculous
happens. Over time the seed
ceases to be a seed. In the dark
earth it becomes something
altogether different. As it gives up
its life, something powerful and
previously unseen comes to light
and to birth.

Through the life, death, and
resurrection of Jesus, this is what
happens for us. Jesus goes into
the earth. There through the power
of God he is changed and
transformed, He emerges from the
earth with new and everlasting life.
This is the mystery of the cross
and fruit of the resurrection. Jesus
freely gives himself to us. He offers
himself to each of us as the seed
that falls to the ground and dies
only to be resurrected.

Jesus does not hang on to or cling
to his earthly life. Like all things in
nature, he lets go when the time
and conditions are right. We are
almost coming to the end of our
Lenten Journey. Next Sunday is
Palm Sunday and the beginning of
Holy Week. Jesus knows his time
of suffering is approaching. As we
began our Lenten journey with
him, Jesus now asks to remain
with him.

Can we stay with Jesus as he falls
to the ground and dies? Can we
stay with him, experience the cross
with him so that we can experience
the new life and fruitfulness of his
Resurrection?

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

Parish News!

ST JAMES PARISH GARDEN OF REPOSE
The Blessed Sacrament will be processed
after The Mass of the Lord's Supper on
Holy Thursday to the Chapel Hall .

*We invite you to visit the Garden to
Stay, Watch and Pray with Jesus.*

**The Garden will be open for
Adoration and private Prayer until
10pm Thursday and again on Friday
from 10-11am and 12-2.30pm**



*Please put your name on the Roster to
stay with Jesus and pray. The rosters
will be available in the Foyer of St
James and St Thomas Church from
this Saturday until Holy Thursday.*



VIGIL MASS PALM SUNDAY
Saturday 23/03/24

Blessing of the Palms will take place
at the foot of stairs near the Grotto.

We would like to see as many
people as able to come out of
church after putting their things in
their seat and return to the foot of
stairs to take place in the Blessing
of the Palms. Everyone will then
process into the church in front of
Fr. Victor singing Hail Redeemer
(hymn sheets will be given out with
the Palms.)

As Fr. Victor is the last to enter the
Church we will change the hymn to
The King of Glory for his
triumphant entrance.



8am MASS ABERDEEN
PALM SUNDAY 24/03/24

Blessing of the Palms will take place
in the usual location outside St
Thomas' Church. We would like to
see as many people as possible
take part in the Blessing of the
Palms. Everyone will then process
into the church in front of Fr. Victor
singing Hail Redeemer



10am MASS PALM SUNDAY
Sunday 24/03/24

Blessing of the Palms will take place
on the Convent Verandah.

We would like to see as many
people as able to come out of
church after putting their things in
their seat and join Fr. Victor on the
Convent Verandah for the Blessing
of the Palms. Please arrive by
9.50am to take part.

When Fr Victor has Blessed the
Palms the people will lead the
procession down the path and up
to the Church singing Hail
Redeemer (hymn sheets will be
given out with the Palms.)

As Fr. Victor is the last to enter the
Church we will change the hymn to
The King of Glory for his
triumphant entrance.

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 18 March	Tuesday 19 March	Wednesday 20 March	Thursday 21 March	Friday 22 March	Saturday 23 March	Sunday 24 March
St. Patrick's Day	Feast of St Joseph					Palm Sunday
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration St James Muswellbrook	No Mass Fr. Victor Away	No Mass Fr. Victor Away	11.30am Adoration and Benediction 12.05pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook 5.30pm Stations of the Cross St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook 5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook 8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 24th March 2024

4th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Counters	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	M. Flanagan M. Carter	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	S. Milton	K. Mason	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	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, Sebastiammal, and James McGrath

Recently Deceased: Olga Pratt

Anniversary:

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.”

Keegan/Wood Family Group



The next event is a train trip to Honeysuckle in Newcastle for lunch. **the**
 Leaving Muswellbrook on the train at 10.09am and returning at 6.05pm. Please have an Opal Card ready for the day.
 Lunch will be at Kingfish Honeysuckle Seafood Restaurant.
 Lunch prices start from \$22. If you have any family or friends that would like to join us for lunch, please let us know when you RSVP.
 For more information or to RSVP contact Margaret (65431238 or Robyn (654254326) **before Friday 15th March.**



Choir Practice for Easter Services

Choir practice will be held 7pm Thursday 21st March in church. New and returning members' welcome.



Fifth Sunday of Lent 16 & 17 March



The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with generous supporters and the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2024.

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.



Updates from the Diocese

Chrism Mass

Each year during Holy Week all the faithful of the Church of Maitland-Newcastle are invited to gather with Bishop Michael Kennedy for the Chrism Mass. Here we bless and consecrate the Sacred Oils that will be used for ministry during the year.

Join us on Tuesday 26 March from 7pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Upcoming Events Calendar within the Diocese

Date	Event	Venue	Time
8, 15 & 22 March	Lenten Program	Diocesan Library	9:00am – 10:00am
14 March	Art & Spirituality Day	Kilaben Bay	9:00am – 3:00pm
20 March	Tilling the Church – theology of an Unfinished Project	Online	7:00pm – 8:30pm
5 April	Storytime	Diocesan Library	10.15am - 11am
5 April	Formation Friday- Easter	Diocesan Library	1.00am – 2.30pm
26 April	Human Library	Diocesan Library	10:00am – 12:00pm
27 April	aMeN caMiNo Information / Walk & Talk	Adamstown	8:30am – 1:30pm

To Witness and to Accompany with Christian Hope

The Diocese is holding three workshops with Rev. Fr Kevin McGovern, a Christian ethicist and former director of Melbourne's Caroline Chisholm Centre for Health Ethics. The workshop will focus on accompanying those whom we care for that may be critically ill or at a terminal phase of their life.

SESSIONS AVAILABLE:

Wednesday 20 March, 2pm -4pm and 6:30pm - 8:30pm: Input, discussion and face-to-face workshop

Suitable for staff and volunteers in parishes and staff from Catholic health and aged care providers.

Thursday 21 March, 9:30am - 12:30pm: Input, workshop, and table-talks)

Suitable for Diocesan Leadership, CatholicCare, Principals and staff as well as medical and aged care staff.

Register via Eventbrite: <https://CDMN-witness.eventbrite.com.au> or phone (02) 4979-1329.

aMeN caMiNo Information / Walk & Talk

If you are considering attending one of the aMeN caMiNos this year and want more information, please join us for the Information / Walk & Talk on Saturday 27 April commencing at 8.30am at St Columba's Parish Hall, Lockyer St, Adamstown. After an information session, we will set off on our walk, returning around 1.30pm.

Contact: formed@mncatholic.org.au to register or for further information.

aMeN caMiNo 2024 Dates: 6-10 July, 3-7 August, and 7-8 September.



It is your right to live free from elder abuse

I am treated with respect by family and friends

I know how my money is being spent

I choose what happens in my home

Decisions about my life are in my best interest

My will reflects my own wishes

I know where my medication is

If you answered 'no' to any of these statements, you may wish to talk to someone you can trust.

1800 ELDERHelp (1800 353 374)



We are committed to the NATIONAL CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS