



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

Parish Priest: Fr Victor Babu Doss

Email: frvickybabu@gmail.com

Phone: 0484 903 427 or 6543 1167

St James Primary School

Principal: Mr Aaron Moon

Office: 6543 3094

Email: admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au

Parish Administration: Mrs Tracey Marsden

Email: muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Website: muswellbrookparish.org.au

PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

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

Safeguarding Promotor: Jane Jacobs

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD – YEAR B

31st March 2024

Entrance Antiphon

I have risen, and I am with you still,
alleluia.

You have laid your hand upon me,
alleluia.

Too wonderful for me, this
knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is said.

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their

sins forgiven through his name.'

The word of the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

(R.) Alleluia!

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.' **(R.)**
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. **(R.)**
3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**

Second Reading ***Colossians 3:1-4***

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The word of the Lord.

Sequence

The sequence is said or sung on this day. On the weekdays of the Octave of Easter, its use is optional.

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended: combat
strangely ended!

Life's own Champion, slain, yet
lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst
see upon the way.

The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes
before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the
dead we know.

Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Gospel Acclamation

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal
sacrifice;

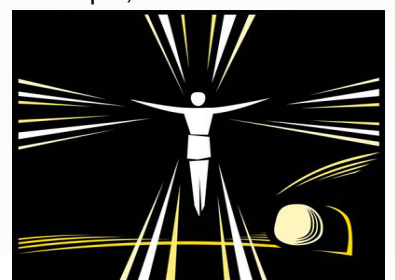
let us feast with joy in the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel ***John 20:1-9***

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved.



'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.' So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Communion Antiphon

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Christ our Passover has been
sacrificed, alleluia;
therefore let us keep the feast with
the unleavened bread
of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

Fr. Victor's Reflection

Happy Easter!

Easter Sunday is the greatest of all Sundays in the Christian calendar because of the renewal of life that it brings. Not only is Easter the beginning of the new life of the glorified Christ, but it is also equally, the beginning of the new life of all true Christians.

What is Easter then for us? Firstly, Easter is a celebration of faith. The gospel (Jn 20:1-9) tells how important faith is in understanding the resurrection of Christ. There are three disciples mentioned in the gospel passage, namely, Mary of Magdala, Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved (who is to be interpreted as John). The three became first witnesses to the empty tomb, but they had different reactions when they saw it. Mary surmised that the body of Jesus was taken and was put somewhere. Her faith has not grown yet. Peter did not show any judgment of what he saw. But John had a praiseworthy reaction. Why? Because when he saw the empty tomb, "he believed."

The empty tomb is the object of our faith. Our faith in the resurrection of Jesus is directed at the empty tomb.

We don't need our bodily eyes because they could not understand the event. We should use another set of eyes. We should look at the empty tomb through the eyes of faith, so that we could see more clearly the meaning of Christ's rising for us. Often our faith can be compared to that of Mary of Magdala. It is not yet a grown or mature faith. But faith is a process. The Mary of Magdala in us should be transformed into John. In other words, we must believe and strengthen our faith in Christ who has been raised by God from the dead.

Secondly, Easter is a celebration of joy. The responsorial psalm captures the feeling: "This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad." This joy has its basis on the new life that Christ has offered us through his resurrection. We have a share in that new life. It can be seen as a gift for us from the risen Lord. But it is also a task. St Paul emphasises that in the second reading. He says that we should "celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." Easter could have no meaning for us if we nevertheless cling to the old sinful life. Easter is about new life, a new life in Christ.

Thirdly, Easter reminds us of our calling as "witnesses" of Christ. This is the tone of the preaching of Peter in the first reading. He says, "We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem". The witnessing of the disciples of Jesus is witnessing par excellence because they really witness to what they had seen and heard. Our kind of witnessing may be different. The resurrection of Christ influences our life. We have been transformed by Christ. As Easter people, we can be bringers of hope for others. We share in the risen life of Christ. By that, we live and exist for love and for the truth.

This is the meaning of Easter. With the resurrection of Christ, God has renewed our life totally from within because the Spirit of the Risen Christ lives in us.

May the Risen Christ Bless you all!

Stay Safe and have a Blessed Week!

Supper After Easter Vigil Mass

Fr. Victor invites everyone for a cuppa in the Convent after the Easter Vigil Mass.

Easter Vigil Commences at 8pm.

Easter Blessing of Parish Homes

In many parts of the world, it is a tradition for a Priest to take Holy Water that is blessed during the Easter Vigil and bless people's homes.

If anyone would like their home to be blessed, please contact Fr Victor or the office to arrange a suitable time.

The blessing ceremony takes around 10 minutes.

Upcoming Children's Mass

There will be a children's Mass held on Sunday 7th April 2024 at 10am in St James Church Muswellbrook. Children from St James School will be participating throughout the Mass.

Following Mass there will be morning tea in the convent. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Sacramental Program

Please contact the office if you would like your child to participate in the sacramental program this year.

Cuppa after Mass at St Thomas

Everyone is invited to stay after Mass on 31/3/24 for a cuppa. Marg and Carol are rostered this month.



Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 1 April	Tuesday 2 April	Wednesday 3 April	Thursday 4 April	Friday 5 April	Saturday 6 April	Sunday 7 April
						2nd Sunday of Easter
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration St James Muswellbrook		9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	11.30am Adoration and Benediction 12.05pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	11.30am Funeral Mass of Joy Riley. St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook 5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	5.00pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 7th April 2024							
1st Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Counters	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook		C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	White Ladies		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	T. Hobbs	J. Lonergan	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	St James Students	St James Students	K. Mason		Kay & Brian Mason		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: Proscovia. Lawrence Nebauer, Paul Toohey and Joy Riley.

Anniversary: Joyce Johns

Baptism: Quincy Sowter

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/

Muswellbrook Parish Promoter of Safeguarding: Jane Jacobs.

"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."

 ST JAMES MUSWELLBROOK AND ST THOMAS ABERDEEN EASTER SERVICES 			
DATE	SERVICE	AVENUE	TIME
SATURDAY 23/03/2024	PALM SUNDAY VIGIL MASS	St James Church, Muswellbrook	5.30 pm
SUNDAY 24/03/24	PALM SUNDAY MASSES	St Thomas Church, A/deen	8.00 am
		St James Church, M/brook	10.00 am
THURSDAY 28/03/2024	THE LORD'S SUPPER GARDEN OF REPOSE	St James Church, M/brook St James Chapel Hall (Convent)	6.00 pm 7.00 – 10pm
FRIDAY 29/03/2024	GARDEN OF REPOSE	St James Chapel Hall Cvent	10am-11am, 12pm-2.30pm
	STATIONS OF THE CROSS	St Thomas Church, A/deen	9.00 am
	THE PASSION OF THE LORD	St James Church, M/brook	11.00 am
SATURDAY 30/03/2024	EASTER VIGIL	St James Church, M/brook	3.00 pm 8.00 pm
SUNDAY 31/03/2024	EASTER SUNDAY	St Thomas Church, A/deen	8.00 am
		St James Church, M/brook	10.00 am

Diocese Notices

Women of the Well: Weekend Retreat

Rest, reflect, release, and reconnect at the next Women of the Well Weekend Retreat. It starts on Friday 19 April (ending Sunday 21 April) and will be hosted at St Joseph's, Kincumber. Cost is \$125.

For more information or to register, visit www.womenofthewell.com.au/events/gatherings-at-the-well

Fishing Weekend: God for Blokes

If you're looking for an opportunity to think about God, hear from other men, do some fishing, and relax you should attend the God for Blokes Fishing Weekend from 3 to 5 May. You will travel from Newcastle to Forster, food and accommodation are included in the cost.

For more information or to book, visit <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1092382> or call Wayne Caruana on 0466 631 394.

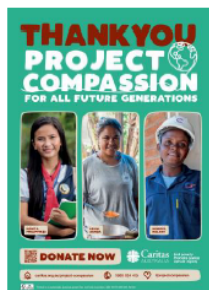
Holy Land Collection (Good Friday)

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, March 29th. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing. Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Due to the ongoing war, the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world. In 2023 Australian Catholics were once again extremely generous and we were able to send to the Holy Land nearly \$1.4 million [\$1.4 million (2022), \$1,126,098 (2021), \$406,023 (2020) and \$1.3 million (2019)]. The reality for the Holy Land mission is that they will continue to face challenges financial and spiritual and so we again ask Catholics around the world again to be as generous as possible, with their financial support as well as the spiritual support. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday.

Thank you.



**Easter Sunday
31 March**



Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia!

Thank you for your continued support through Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, **for all future generations.**

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2024 Lenten appeal.

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.

