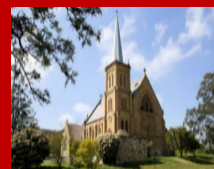




ST JAMES' PARISH

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
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St James Primary School Office: 6543 3094
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 Email: admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au
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 Website: muswellbrookparish.org.au
 PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333
 Phone: 6543 1167
 Office Hours: Tue, Wed & Fri 9.00am – 3.00pm

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – YEAR B

24th March 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out:

* Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

* Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

First Reading [Isaiah 50:4-7](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

In the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2](#)

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

- All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' **(R.)**
- Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. **(R.)**
- They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! **(R.)**
- I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.' **(R.)**

Second Reading

[Philippians 2:6-11](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in

heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

In the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

[Philippians 2:8-9](#)

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
 Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross.
 Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.
 Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel [Mark 15: 1-39](#)

**Please see the full gospel on screens around the church.

Communion Antiphon

[Matthew 26:42](#)

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.



Fr. Victor's Reflection

With the celebration of Palm Sunday, we enter into the Holy Week. It is known as a week of reflection based on the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus. These events begin with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on what is now called Palm Sunday. It is followed by the Last Supper with the twelve apostles, Judas' betrayal, Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and death, His burial in the tomb, and finally His resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus' return to Jerusalem. According to the gospels, the people in Jerusalem waved and spread branches on the ground. Palm Sunday is the turning point in Jesus' ministry. This is the first time that he is publicly recognized as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Holy Thursday, also known as Maundy Thursday, is significant because of three key events. First, Jesus shows his disciples through the washing of their feet, the true meaning of being a servant to each other. Second, by declaring the bread and wine as His flesh and blood, Jesus demonstrates the way in which He will always be with us, even after death. Finally, it is on this night that Jesus is betrayed by Judas thereby fulfilling the prophecies of His life and death.

On Good Friday Christians often reflect, through fasting and prayer, on the carrying of the cross and the crucifixion of Jesus. From the time of the betrayal to His death, Jesus experiences the abandonment of his disciples, the tribulations of Pilate and Herod in identifying His alleged crimes, the vicious display from religious leaders and the crowds calling for his death – all this before the beatings, the crown of thorns, and the carrying of the cross for miles. Once nailed to the cross, Jesus' suffering escalates. Yet, He turns to the Father and focuses on the salvation of others until His last breath.

But this is not the end of the story. Holy Week culminates on Easter Sunday with the glorious resurrection of Jesus. This is the holiest week of the Christian year. It is a time of prayerful reflection and coming together as Christians

to reminisce upon and be grateful for the sacrifices Jesus made for our salvation. This is what it means to be one with Jesus. I wish all of you a very fruitful and blessed Holy Week.

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

Supper Easter Vigil After Mass

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

Easter Vigil Commences at 8pm.



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

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.



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.

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 25 March	Tuesday 26 March	Wednesday 27 March	Thursday 28 March	Friday 29 March	Saturday 30 March	Sunday 31 March
			The Lord's Supper	The Passion of the Lord	Holy Saturday	The Resurrection
	7pm Chrism Mass Sacred Heart Cathedral	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	6.00pm Mass St James Muswellbrook 7pm-10pm Garden of Repose	11.00am Stations of the Cross St James Muswellbrook 3.00pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	8.00pm Easter Vigil Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	No Mass			9.00am Stations of the Cross Aberdeen		8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 31st March 2024

5th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Counters	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	C. Panis	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	M. Brown	C. Wykes	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	T. Furlong B. Powell	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		Brian & Kay 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: Olga Pratt, Proscovia. Lawrence Nebauer, and Paul Toohey.

Anniversary: Frank Bowen

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.”

Diocese Upcoming Events

HOLY WEEK 2024

@ SJM

25

**KINDERGARTEN PRESENTS
PALM SUNDAY**

MAR COURTYARD | 10:40 AM

26

**STAGE 1 PRESENTS
THE LAST SUPPER &
WASHING OF THE FEET**

MAR COURTYARD | 9:15 AM

27

**STAGE 2 PRESENTS
THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE**

MAR SCHOOL HALL | 9:15 AM

28

**STAGE 3 PRESENTS
THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS
& CRUCIFIXION**

MAR SCHOOL HALL | 9:30 AM

02

**STAGE 3 PRESENTS
THE RESURRECTION**

APR SCHOOL HALL | 10:30 AM

CHECK COMPASS & FACEBOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION

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.

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. All are welcome.



Sixth Sunday of Lent (Palm Sunday)
23 & 24 February





As Project Compassion 2024 comes to an end, we want to thank you for your incredibly generous support throughout Lent.

This year, we shared with you the story of three inspiring women from across the globe, who overcame challenges to complete their education, access water and find secure employment. With the support of compassionate people like you, they are now forging a path to a better future for their families and their communities.

There is still time to donate! Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, **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 or by calling 1800 024 413.

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 St James Church, M/brook	8.00 am 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 St Thomas Church, A/deen St James Church, M/brook	10am-11am, 12pm-2.30pm 9.00 am 11.00 am
	STATIONS OF THE CROSS		
	THE PASSION OF THE LORD	St James Church M/brook	3.00 pm
SATURDAY 30/03/2024	EASTER VIGIL	St James Church, M/brook	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