



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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Safeguarding Promotor: Jane Jacobs

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR B

7th April 2024

Entrance Antiphon **1 Peter 2:2**

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole group was united, heart and soul.

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R. v.1

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord 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.
I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, but not doomed to die. **(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. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

Second Reading **1 John 5:1-6**

A reading from the first letter of St John

Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation **John 20:29**

Alleluia, alleluia!
You believe in me, Thomas,
because you have seen me;

happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

Gospel **John 20:19-31**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.' 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered,



'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Creed is said.

Communion Antiphon

Cf John 20:27

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,
and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

Fr. Victor's Reflection

On every Second Sunday of Easter, the church celebrates the feast of Divine Mercy. United as a community of believers, we continue to express our joy and faith in the risen Christ. As we celebrate the victory of Christ over death, there is one crucial thing we must remember. This is that we must be united to bear an effective witness to the resurrected Christ as the early Christian community did.

The first reading of this Sunday from Acts of the Apostles says that those who believed were of One heart and one soul (Cor unum et anima una). This summarises the way the early Christian community lived and testified to the risen Lord: "The apostles continue to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were greatly respected."

One of the best ways to bear testimony to the risen Christ is through unity. Christ himself prayed for it: "Father that they may be one as you and I are one" (John 17:21). Of course, he knew that there would be many challenges to this. He knew

that this unity would not rob anyone of his personality. Above all, he knew that this unity is necessary for our success. It is unity in diversity for the progress of His mission.

Christ was sure that living in unity is the best testimony we can bear as his disciples. Hence, the early disciple paid attention to this instruction by being united in their mission. They demonstrated this through their preaching and lifestyles.

In today's gospel, Christ presented himself to his disciples. During this very important visit, he restored their peace, and commissioned them as ministers of the sacrament of reconciliation. The sacrament of reconciliation is the sacrament of mercy. It was not easy for Thomas to believe that Christ has risen.

So, as we bear witness to the risen Christ, we shall certainly encounter people who will doubt our testimony. This must not discourage us. The Holy Spirit will convince them. We should remain focused on our mission. So, as true disciples of Christ, let us continue to announce the good news to the whole world that Jesus Christ, our Lord, has truly risen from the dead.

As we celebrate divine mercy Sunday today, we are reminded that God extended his mercy to us by allowing his son to pay the ransom for our sins. Christ accomplished this through his paschal mystery.

Finally, we must also extend this mercy to others. Hence, we are called to be apostles of mercy. So, as we spread the good news of Christ's resurrection, we must give thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is because his mercy and generosity endure forever.

Stay Safe and have a Blessed Week!

Parish Updates



Keegan/Wood Family Group

On the 15th of April 2024 we are off to Hunter Belle Cheese at 75 Aberdeen Street Muswellbrook for lunch at 12 noon. Please R.S.V.P. before Friday 12th April to Margaret on 6543 1238 or Robyn on 6542 5426.

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.

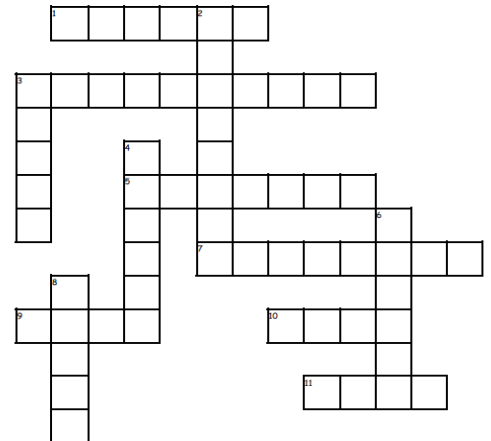
If anyone would like their home to be blessed, please contact Fr Victor or the office to arrange a suitable time.

The blessing ceremony takes around 10 minutes.

Sacramental Program

If your child is in year 3 or above and you would like them to take part in the sacramental program this year, there will be an information session held on 1st May at 4pm in the church. All those who are interested please attend.

Have faith and you will be truly blessed



Across

- 1: this man wanted to see Jesus' wounds before he would believe it was really him
- 3: Jesus breathed on the disciples and said 'Receive the _____' (two words)
- 5: Jesus said to the disciples, 'If you _____ anyone's sins, they will be forgiven.'
- 7: Jesus showed Thomas his hands and side, and told him to stop _____ and have faith
- 9: this part of the body has fingers on it
- 10: the disciples told Thomas they had seen the _____
- 11: there are seven days in this

Down

- 2: Jesus did this after the disciples locked themselves in a room
- 3: the disciples felt this way when they saw Jesus appear
- 4: the disciples were _____ of the Jewish leaders
- 6: another word for centre
- 8: Jesus asked Thomas if he only had _____ because he had seen him

Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 8 April	Tuesday 9 April	Wednesday 10 April	Thursday 11 April	Friday 12 April	Saturday 13 April	Sunday 14 April
Annunciation of the Lord						3rd 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	NO MASS	No Morning Mass 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 14th April 2024							
2nd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Counters	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	J. O'Brien	F. O'Brien	Sr. Dorothy	J. Toohey R. Wood		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, Sebastiammal, and James McGrath.

Recently Deceased: Joy Riley and Dustin Lonergan

Anniversary: Adam Tanner

Baptism:

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."

Thank You

Special Thank you, message from Fr. Victor.

A massive thank you to everyone who worked tirelessly during the Holy Week. A few special mentions, to John O'Brien for making and installing the Stations of the Cross, to John Folpp who was kind enough to lend us his PA System to use outside for the Stations of the Cross, to all the Readers over Holy Week, the Altar servers for their excellent support, to Josh Kelly for harvesting all the palms for Palm Sunday and Convent Garden, Joel & Therese Bristow and Olivia Paynter for cutting up the palms. Mary-Anne Pike for floristry skills all week, Trish Hobbs, Chris Hayes, Steffi George, Monica and Jeff Brown, Mike Kelly, Therese Furlong, Sue- Ellen Barnard and Jinto for all your wonderful cleaning, decorating, and managing the supper at the Easter Vigil. to Sr. Dorothy, Kay Mason & Colleen Kelly (our organists), all choir members who made the liturgy meaningful and

prayerful. I thank very specially Colleen Kelly for all the hard work she put in to make the Palm Sunday procession meaningful and making a conducive atmosphere for adoration in the Convent Chapel with the Garden of Gethsemane.



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

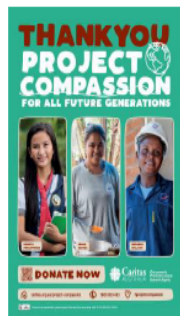
If you're looking for an opportunity to think about God, hear from other men, do some fishing, and relax you should attend the God for Blokes Fishing Weekend from 3 to 5 May.

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/> or call Wayne Caruana on 0466 631 394.



Thank You!



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2024. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online.

Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.

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.



Please return all Project Compassion donations as soon as possible.
Thank you.