



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR B

14th April 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise,
alleluia.

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

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15. 17-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

You have killed the prince of life; God, however, raised him from the dead.

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7

(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice;

from anguish you released me, have mercy, and hear me! (R.)

2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves; the Lord hears me whenever I call him. (R.)

3. 'What can bring us happiness?' many say. Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. (R.)

4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. (R.)

Second Reading 1 John 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St John

Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and those of the whole world.

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's. We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

Alleluia!

Gospel

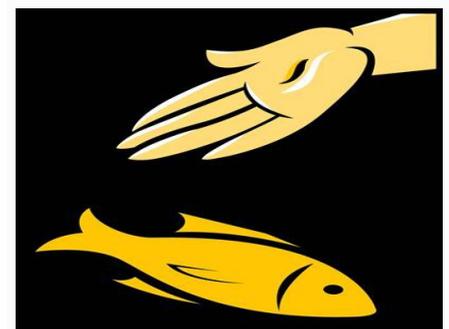
Luke 24:35-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see, I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes. Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.'



He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

The Creed is said.

Communion Antiphon

Luke 24:46-47

The Christ had to suffer and on the third day rise from the dead; in his name repentance and remission of sins must be preached to all the nations, alleluia.

Fr. Victor's Reflection

On this third Sunday of Easter, the church invites us to celebrate the living Christ, who is our advocate. Through his death and resurrection, he advocates for us. Ignorance and doubt keep us in fear and darkness, while Christ illumines and strengthens our faith.

Last Sunday we heard about Thomas. One man whose own personal experience of Easter enabled him to move from doubt to faith in his risen Lord. This Sunday we hear about several people who witness Jesus coming among them, showing them his wounds, and eating food to convince them that he really is alive. They are convinced and the experience changes their own lives and their life together as a community of believers.

Let us consider this Sunday's Gospel very carefully. The disciples are frightened. Perhaps the people who killed Jesus would now go after them. So, they cower and hide in the upper room. Doors are locked, lights kept low, words are spoken in hushed tones so that no one will find them in their hiding place. And yet despite their efforts and the obstacles that they created Christ stands in their midst.

This is where we find the truth of the Gospel. The disciples are not looking for Christ. As far as they are concerned, Christ is dead and buried. It is Christ who is looking for them. It is Christ who comes into their midst. It is Christ who decides the time to reveal Himself to them.

Here is the great mystery of faith. In every moment of our lives, in the

brightest and in the darkest of times, it is God who reveals Himself in new and unexpected ways. And God reveals Himself to us not when we seek, demand, or ask for it...God reveals Himself in His own time.... even in moments when we do not search for Him or even try to hide from His presence. The great truth of this Gospel is that we are not in control.... God is. And no matter when God reveals himself to us His message is always the same: "Be at peace...for I am here to save you."

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

Parish Updates

Keegan/Wood Family Group



On the 15th of April 2024, the Keegan/Wood Group are having lunch at Hunter Belle Cheese, located at 75

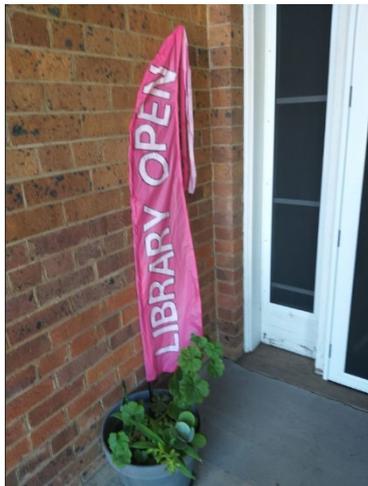
Aberdeen Street Muswellbrook at 12 noon.

If you would like to join the group for lunch, please R.S.V.P. **before** Friday 12th April to Margaret on 6543 1238 or Robyn on 6542 5426.

Parish Library Update

The Parish library is now ready for visitors! The library can be found in the convent and is open most Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 11.30am.

Jane Thatcher has put in a lot of time to get the parish library organised and up and running and we thank her for all her efforts.



Project Compassion

Please return all donation boxes for Project Compassion as soon as possible so this money can go to help those in need.



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.

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.



Have you thought? Is 'Literal' wrong?

Is there really something intrinsically wrong about a literal interpretation of scripture? Not at all! It is indeed an essential tool of any scriptural interpretation. It is of course important that we first and foremost understand the text as it is written - we have to have a literal understanding of the words that are used and what they mean. The problem arises when this is as far as we go. If we stop at this stage then we are shutting ourselves off from the richness of the scriptures. If we fail to dig below the surface then we are denying ourselves the opportunity of scrutinising our lives in the light of the scripture.

Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 15 April	Tuesday 16 April	Wednesday 17 April	Thursday 18 April	Friday 19 April	Saturday 20 April	Sunday 21 April
						4th 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	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 21st April 2024							
3rd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Counters	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	K. Mason	M. Edwards	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	C. O'Brien T. Furlong	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		Therese & Joel Bristow		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: Dustin Lonergan

Anniversary: Allan Hamilton and Stephen Lambley

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/

"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."

You will be forgiven

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

Try to find these words:

- eat
- Emmaus
- friends
- ghost
- good
- leader
- nation
- Pilate
- raised
- road
- sins
- three

Diocese Notices

Magdalene Award: Nominations are now open.

The Magdalene Award recognises a woman living in, and committed to, the Diocese of Maitland Newcastle. This is a public affirmation of a life lived in ways that echo the spirit of Mary Magdalene.

For more information,

visit www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/mission-and-outreach/council-for-women/magdalene-award-2024

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.

Christina Meditation – Saturday 25 May, 9.30am - 2.30pm

John and Anne Gray will lead this event, opening a space for inner silence, gratitude, love, and divine beauty. The duo will lead us in Imaginative Contemplation and share the aims of the Worldwide Prayer Network.

Where: St James School Hall (Vista Parade, Kotara) – parking available on Church grounds or Street.

Morning tea provided. Bring your lunch.

RSVP: annecuskelly@hotmail.com or 0407 436 808. \$10 donations would be appreciated.

BBI Short Course: Ethical Foundations: Human Dignity Mondays 20 & 27 May, 4pm -5:30pm

Human dignity is at the heart of all ethical and moral reasoning. What do we mean by human dignity? Why is it so important, that without it, we cannot properly act toward others, develop economic systems, or know what is good or bad care of another human being?

Register to join us at the Diocesan Resource Centre, at home or as a parish group at

<https://forms.office.com/r/7uMVUncy4f>

