



# 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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Phone: 6543 1167

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

Safeguarding Promotor: Jane Jacobs

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR B**

**21st April 2024**

### Entrance Antiphon

*Cf Psalm 32:5-6*

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;  
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

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

### First Reading

*Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*This is the only name by which we can be saved.*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

### **The Word of the Lord.**

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R. v.22*

*(R.) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.*

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men:  
it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. *(R.)*

2. I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. *(R.)*

3. Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;  
I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour.  
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;  
for his love has no end. *(R.)*

### Second Reading *1 John 3:1-2*

A reading from the first letter of St John

*We shall see God as he is.*

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,  
by letting us be called God's children;  
and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,  
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;  
all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

### **The Word of the Lord.**

### Gospel Acclamation *John 10:14*

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

### Gospel *John 10:11-18*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.*

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:  
the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd.

The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.



No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

**The Creed is said.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

### **Fr. Victor's Reflection**

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called 'Good Shepherd Sunday'. In the gospel this Sunday, Jesus uses the image of the shepherd to describe himself and his relationship with us. At the time of Jesus, shepherds were a part of daily life for many people. When Jesus uses the image and symbol of the shepherd, the people to whom he was speaking would have understood what he was talking about immediately. But what does the image of Jesus the shepherd mean for us today? While sheep all look the same to us, a shepherd knows each of them individually. When a shepherd calls a sheep, the sheep recognises the voice and responds. Just as the shepherd knows the sheep, the sheep knows and trusts the shepherd. The shepherd guides and protects the sheep. The sheep go where the shepherd leads them.

We are not sheep! But the Lord knows and loves each of us as individuals. He loves each of us personally and intimately. The Prophet Isaiah has a beautiful image of this when he writes (Is 43: 1,4), 'I have called you by your name, you are mine, do not be afraid. You are precious to me, and I love you.' If a shepherd cares for his sheep with great love and devotion, how much more does Jesus love and care for each of us?

Jesus does not force us to listen to his voice when he calls us. He invites us to follow him freely. The choice whether to respond is ours. We may take our time in responding, but Jesus will never stop calling us by our name; he will wait until we respond.

Jesus does not call and ask us to follow him just for the sake of it. He offers us not only the fullness of life; he offers us the fullness of his life. Jesus came so that each of us may have life and have it to the full (Jn 10:10). This fullness of life is offered to us here and now, not some time in the future.

As we continue our journey through Easter in preparation for the celebration of Pentecost, may each of us realise how deeply and personally Jesus loves us. When Jesus calls us by our name, may we answer in faith, gratitude, and gratefulness. May we follow where he leads us.

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

### **Parish Updates**

#### **Project Compassion**

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

### **Upcoming St Thomas Cuppa**

The next Cuppa after Mass at St Thomas will be held next Sunday 28/4/24.

Marianne and Cathy are rostered for this month.

### **Sacramental Program**

Is your child currently in year 3 or above? Would you like them to take part in the Sacramental Program this year?

There will be an information session held in St James Catholic Church on Wednesday 1st May at 4pm.

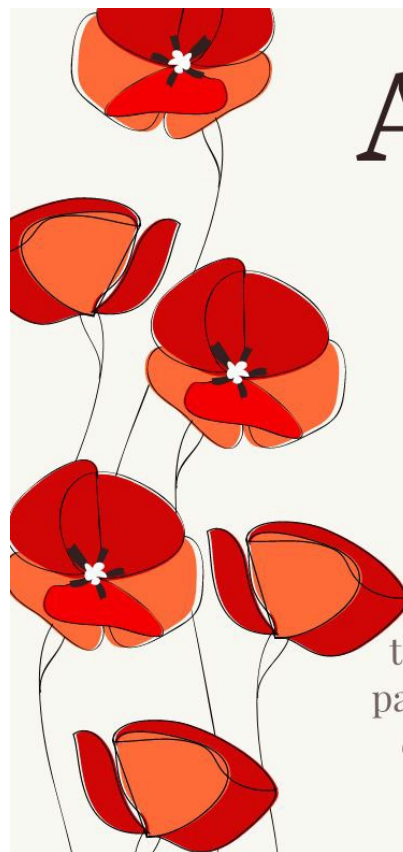
All parents who are interested in their children taking part in the program are encouraged to attend this session.

### **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.



# Anzac Day

**25TH APRIL 2024**

A special Mass will be held at

St James Church

Muswellbrook

Thursday 25th April

at 5.30pm.

Anzac Day is a time to reflect on the servicemen and servicewomen, past and present, who have displayed courage and self-sacrifice serving our country.

ANONYMOUS



Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 22 April	Tuesday 23 April	Wednesday 24 April	Thursday 25 April	Friday 26 April	Saturday 27 April	Sunday 28 April
						5th Sunday of Easter
9.00am Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration St James Muswellbrook		5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	5.30pm Anzac Day Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook  5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	NO MASS					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 28th April 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 and 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:**

**Anniversary:**

**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](mailto:muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

The Parish bulletin can be accessed on our website: [muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au](http://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au).

or on our Facebook page: **Catholic Parish of St James Muswellbrook**

Please email [muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au) if you would like the bulletin emailed to you each week.

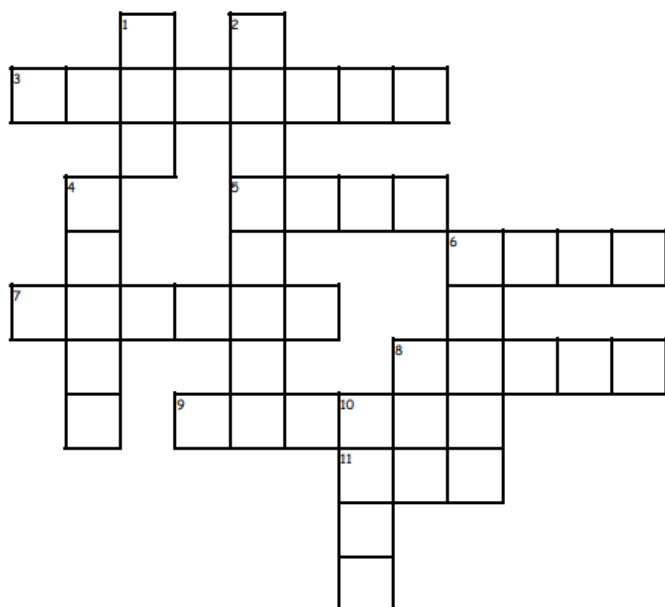
**SAFEGUARDING THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Please visit our 'Safeguarding' page to access a range of safeguarding resources: [muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au](http://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au)

Have a complaint or wish to provide feedback? Visit: [officeofsafeguarding.org.au/feedback/](http://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."**



## Across

- 3: someone who looks after sheep  
 5: Jesus died on a cross but God raised him to \_\_\_\_\_  
 6: Peter told the leaders and elders that only Jesus has the power to \_\_\_\_\_  
 7: to go back to a place is to r\_\_\_\_\_ there  
 8: when you speak people hear your \_\_\_\_\_  
 9: Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the good shepherd. I \_\_\_\_\_ my sheep, and they know me."  
 11: the number before two

## Down

- 1: when Christ returns we will \_\_\_\_\_ him as he truly is  
 2: God loves us and calls us his \_\_\_\_\_  
 4: a woolly animal that says "baa"  
 6: Peter described Jesus as the most important \_\_\_\_\_ of all  
 10: this animal sometimes attacks sheep

## Diocese Notices

### Human Library at the Diocesan Library

On **Friday 26 April**, the Diocesan Library will hold its first Human Library event, the theme being War and Spirituality. Our books are two members of our Diocesan family, each has experienced war and the effects of war. One in the military and one as an innocent person living in a war zone. They are both people of faith. How have they maintained their faith in a space that can be so destructive to our belief in God? Did they ever struggle with their faith in the face of what they experienced? Do they ever feel fear now when they are safe from the physical aspect of war? What impact did their experience of war have on their family?

We invite you to come and listen to their stories, to ask the questions, to share and create relationships.

Date: Friday 26 April, 2024

Time: 10.30am to 12.30pm

Place: Diocesan Resource Centre Library - 12 Tudor Street, Cnr Parry Street, Newcastle West

Bookings Encouraged: <https://forms.office.com/r/1GEzWxaDiq>

### 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](mailto: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>

