



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

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR B

28th April 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 97:1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance,
alleluia.

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

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever! (R.)
2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. (R.)
3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done.' (R.)

Second Reading *1 John 3:18-24*

A reading from the first letter of St John

His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.

My children,
our love is not to be just words or mere talk,
but something real and active;
only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth
and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,

whatever accusations it may raise against us,
because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him,
we shall receive,
because we keep his commandments
and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these:
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments
lives in God and God lives in him.
We know that he lives in us
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation *John 15:4-5*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you,
says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!



Gospel

John 15:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

The Creed is said.

The word of the Gospel.

Communion Antiphon

Cf John 15:1,5

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Fr. Victor's Reflection

In the gospel of the 5th Sunday of Easter, Jesus uses the familiar image of the vine and the branches to teach us lessons about our Christian life. First of all, the image reminds us that God is the real owner of everything that we have and are. He is the vinedresser. He does to us what he thinks is good and right. As disciples, we need to live our life as if we don't own anything. We belong fully to God. We should not allow our selfishness and pride to make us think that we have absolute control over our lives. Rather, we always have to be open to God's action, confident that he knows fully what is good for us.

Second, the image teaches us that Jesus is the source of our life and the point which connects us with one another. He is the vine, and we are the branches. A branch cut off from the vine will wither and die. And so, it is with our life as disciples. We live fully and become fruitful only by remaining in Christ. In the gospel of John, the word "abide" appears at least thirty-seven times: "Abiding in God", "abiding in Christ", and "abiding in his Word". We need to remain in Christ because apart from him, we can do nothing.

And finally, the image tells us that in order to stay healthy and fruitful we need pruning. Vinedressers know that the act of pruning is good for the branch. If the branch is not pruned for a long time, it becomes wild and produces no good grapes. Sometimes in our lives, God intervenes with the cross in order to challenge and make us grow. To take away our pride, sometimes God allows us to fail. To make us grow stronger in faith, sometimes God sends us trials and difficulties.

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.

St Thomas Cuppa after Mass

Cuppa after Mass at St Thomas will be held this Sunday 28/4/24. All welcome.

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.

Mother's Day Register

If there is a mother or motherly figure (living or deceased) that you would like included in this special register, please write their name on the form in the church foyer.

The register will be placed on the altar with candles at all Masses for Mother's Day.

A Modern Day Psalm

"The TV is my shepherd; I shall not want. It makes me to lie down on the sofa. It leads me away from the faith; it destroys my soul. It leads me to the path of sex and violence for the advertiser's sake. Even though I walk in the shadow of Christian responsibilities; there will be interruption, for the TV is with me. Its cable and remote control, comfort me. It prepares a commercial for me in the midst of my worldliness; and anoints my head with secular humanism and consumerism. My covetousness runs over; surely ignorance and laziness shall follow me all the days of my life. And I shall dwell in the house of wretchedness

watching TV forever."

Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 29 April	Tuesday 30 April	Wednesday 1 May	Thursday 2 May	Friday 3 May	Saturday 4 May	Sunday 5 May
						6th 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	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook 5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	5.30pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 5th May 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	M. Kempis		K. Mason		Kay and 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:

Anniversary: Hilda Carey

Baptism: Hazel Laughton

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."

SENIOR WORDSEARCH

Show love for others by truly helping them

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

Find these words – children, clean, cut, Damascus, follower, fruit, gardener, love, prayer, Saul, true, vine.

Diocese Notices

DoMN Library Events

Check out the events that are happening at our library next month! Everyone is welcome to attend, our address is Diocesan Resource Centre Library – 12 Tudor Street – Newcastle West (Cnr Parry Street).

Friday 3 May – Children’s Storytime

Let’s have some fun with Eric Carle’s Very Hungry Caterpillar 10.15am – register by email domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au

Friday 3 May – Formation Friday

Meet with other community members in the Diocesan Resource Centre Library for a chance to reflect and discuss seasons, moments and mysteries of the church and our faith – 1pm – register by email domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au

Saturday 4 May – Formation Films

Join us as we watch and discuss the 2020 film *Fatima*. Tea, coffee, and lunch will be provided – 11am – register by email domnlibrary@mn.catholic.org.au

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>



ANZAC DAY MAIN SERVICE

Fr. Victor participated in both the Dawn Service and the Main Service at the Muswellbrook Cenotaph on Anzac Day.

At the Main Service he delivered both prayers and benediction.

