



# 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

Safeguarding Promotor: Jane Jacobs

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR B**

**5th May 2024**

### Entrance Antiphon

*Cf Isaiah 48:20*

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;  
proclaim to the ends of the earth:  
The Lord has freed his people,  
alleluia.

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

### First Reading

*Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.*

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water

of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

### The word of the Lord.

#### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2*

*(R.)* The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. *(R.)*

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. *(R.)*

3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. *(R.)*

### Second Reading

*1 John 4:7-10*

A reading from the first letter of St John

*God is love.*

My dear people,  
let us love one another  
since love comes from God  
and everyone who loves is  
begotten by God and knows  
God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

### The word of the Lord.

#### Gospel Acclamation

*John 14:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.  
Alleluia!

#### Gospel

*John 15:9-17*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me,  
so I have loved you.  
Remain in my love.



If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

### **Communion Antiphon**

**John 14:15-16**

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

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

The theme and message of love is the basis for so many plays, songs, novels, films, and poems more than any other human emotion! If we love someone very dearly, we try to express as best we can through chocolates, flowers, and expensive gifts and say I love you. While these are all very important, there is the danger that they remain a little too romantic. When Jesus speaks of love in the gospel this Sunday, he is speaking of a very different kind of love.

The second reading of this Sunday begins with this call; 'Let us love one another since love comes from God.' In the same reading we read; 'God's love was revealed when God sent his only Son so that we can live through him... this is the love I mean, not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his only son to be sacrificed.' This is the sacred and profound love that God has for each of us. It recalls Jesus' own words in today's gospel; 'there is no greater love than to lay down your life for your friends.' While love is life-giving and central to our experience of being human, there is in Christian love the reality of selflessness and sacrifice. There is nothing vague, sentimental, or romantic about Christian love.

Jesus not only spoke about this, but he also demonstrated it through the way he lived. When he washed his friends' feet, he was showing them how much he loved them and then said; 'I the Lord and master have washed your feet. You, then, are to wash each other's feet. I have set an example for you, so that you will do what I have done for you... this then is what I command you; love one another.' This is Christian love at its most radical and explicit. This is the sacrifice of Christian love; that we reach out to others, put their needs before ours and serve them.

We can love and serve others without literally washing their feet. We can love and serve others by so many acts of sacrifice, love, and service. We must never underestimate the impact our small acts of kindness, love and service have on others. Perhaps we are tempted to see these gestures as unimportant and even insignificant. They can and often do make a huge difference to the other person. Maybe we will never know how our acts of love and sacrifice affect others – that ok, maybe we don't need to!

This is an encouraging and challenging gospel. If we say we love God and follow Jesus, then

we are at the same time called to love others and care for them in whatever way we can. We are called to show our love for others and God in and through our ordinary lives.

As scripture reminds us; 'This is how we know what love is: Christ gave his life for us. We too, then, are to give our lives for each other... our love for each other should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.' (1 John. 3.18).

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

### **Parish Updates**

#### **Project Compassion**

Please return all donation boxes for Project Compassion. All donations **MUST** be returned by **Monday 13th May**.

#### **Sacramental Program**

Is your child currently in year 3 or above? Would you like them to take part in the Sacramental Program this year? Please contact the office ASAP. The program will start on Wednesday 15th May and will run from 4pm until 5pm weekly for 12 weeks (excluding school holidays).

#### **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.

Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 6 May	Tuesday 7 May	Wednesday 8 May	Thursday 9 May	Friday 10 May	Saturday 11 May	Sunday 12 May
						<b>The ASCENSION of the Lord.</b>
9.00am <b>Private, Personal Prayer, and Adoration</b> St James Muswellbrook		9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	11.30am <b>Adoration and Benediction</b>  12.05pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  5.30pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	10.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 12th May 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 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:** Francis McTaggart and Mary Shanahan.

**Baptism:** Madeline Benkovic

**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:

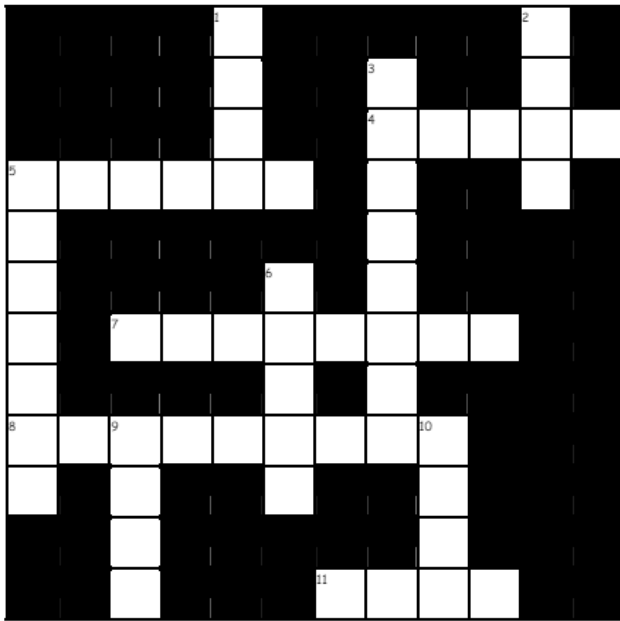
[muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au](http://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au)

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."**

## Love one another as I have loved you



## Across

- 4: Jesus said, 'love each \_\_\_\_\_, as I have loved you'  
 5: the opposite of mother  
 7: another word for best  
 8: Jesus' closest friends and followers were called his \_\_\_\_\_  
 11: to do as you are told

## Down

- 1: Jesus tells us that we must \_\_\_\_\_ each other as he has loved us  
 2: Jesus said, 'If you obey me, I will \_\_\_\_\_ loving you, just as my Father keeps loving me, because I have obeyed him.'  
 3: finished  
 5: the people you care about and like to spend time with are your \_\_\_\_\_  
 6: another word for glad  
 9: Jesus said, 'The greatest way to \_\_\_\_\_ love for friends is to die for them.'  
 10: certain

**Diocese Notices****Christian 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>

**Sacred@Seven with Gen Bryant**

From leading music ministry in her local parish, to performing for Pope Francis at World Youth Day, Genevieve Bryant is a much sought-after music minister and guest speaker who travels around Australia and the world, spreading the love of God through her gift of music.

Gen is joining us to share her amazing story and to encourage us all to step out in faith and to use the gifts that we have been given to impact this world.

Gen and her band members will also be leading the music ministry at Sacred@Seven.

**Date:** Wednesday 15th May 2024.

**Event Address:** 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West 2303

**Location:** Toohey Room next door to the Sacred Heart Cathedral

**Time:** 6.30pm: Gen Bryant Talk (Stepping out in Faith - Using your gifts)

7.30pm- 8.30pm: Sacred@Seven - Fr Anthony Coloma (Praise and Worship, Testimony, Scripture, Preaching and Adoration)