



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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THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD – YEAR B

12th May 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Acts of the Apostles 1:11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?

This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

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

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore

the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High,
we must fear,
great king over all the earth. (R.)
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;

the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)

3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

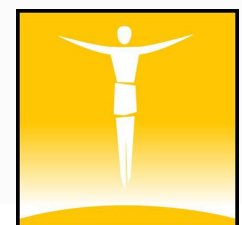
Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand,



in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel **Mark 16:15-20**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

The Creed is said.

The word of the Gospel.

Communion Antiphon

Matthew 28:20

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Fr. Victor's Reflection

Dear Friends, we are coming closer to the end of Easter Season with the celebration of the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. According to the first reading of this Sunday, Jesus took his apostles by surprise as he journeys with them to the mount of Olives and was taken up to heaven in their presence. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to them in bodily form on many occasions. In all these appearances, Jesus explained to his disciples about the kingdom of God. Finally, before his ascension he instructed them to remain in Jerusalem until they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit or the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

At this time the disciples were still afraid of the Jews who were out to kill anyone associated with Jesus of Nazareth. Secondly, they were confused about the meaning of the Holy Spirit and how they would spread the Good News of the Kingdom of God as Jesus instructed them to go out and proclaim the good news to all nations. With these anxieties they waited in prayer at the upper room in the company of Our Blessed Lady.

As we celebrate this feast of ascension, we are like the disciples of Jesus. We have our fears, doubts, and anxieties. We have our personal reservations about the catholic faith, especially in this troubled world. There are some apparent inconsistencies that abound in our world e.g. Why bad things happen to good people. As we wait in prayer for the next nine days, till the Pentecost, let us bring all our worries, fears, and doubts before God. The baptism of the Holy Spirit will surely clear our doubts. We shall receive fresh understanding to face the reality of life. What is important is to take everything to the Lord in prayer as we wait for the Holy Spirit.

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

Parish Updates

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) in St James Church.

Keegan/Wood Family Group

Next Event.

Where – Odeum Restaurant at Muswellbrook Workers Club.

When – Monday 20th May 2024 at 12 noon.

A 2 course seniors lunch menu is now offered for \$14 if you are a member.

R.S.V.P – Margaret 6543 1238 or Robyn 6542 5426 before Friday 17th May please.

Parish Marian Devotion

As May is the month of Our Lady, we will commence a new Marian Devotion. We will circulate on a weekly basis a Statue of Our Lady to homes for their personal prayer. And if willing, a rosary in their home that other parishioners may join them with. The plan is for the statue to be rotated as people express an interest in having Our Lady in their home for the week. We will need to draw up a roster and need people to come forward if willing to have Our Lady in their home. Monica Brown will commence this Parish Marian Devotion. Fr Victor is always available to explain how we hope this prayer initiative can be done in your home. Monica and Jeff Brown will be saying the rosary at their home in Aberdeen at 5.30pm on Wednesday May 15th if you are interested in joining them. Please

either text or ring Monica for her address if interested. Ph 409913453. Children are welcome to come.



Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 13 May	Tuesday 14 May	Wednesday 15 May	Thursday 16 May	Friday 17 May	Saturday 18 May	Sunday 19 May
	St Matthias apostle, Feast					Pentecost Sunday
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
	5.00pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 19th May 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	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	K. Mason				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, James McGrath, April Hyde and Anita Hobbs.

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: Del Smith, Irene Cooper, Allana Sharp, and Nolene Swift.

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."



Ten Quotes about mothers:

- There is no role in life that is more essential than that of motherhood. **Elder Russell Ballard**
- A mother understands what a child does not say. **Jewish proverb**
- A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take. **Cardinal Mermillod**
- Mums are like buttons—they hold everything together. **Unknown.**
- When you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts. A mother always thinks twice, once for herself and once for her child. **Sophia Loren**
- Mother is the bank where we deposit all our hurts and worries. **Dewitt Talmage**
- Mother is the heartbeat in the home; and without her, there seems to be no heart throb. **Leroy Brownlow**
- The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother. **Theodore Hesburgh**

God stopped the work of creation when he made woman. God blessed her with the gift of creating life. It is the greatest and highest responsibility. That is why to disrespect life at any stage of human development is sinful.

God demands our respect for mothers as we see in the Scriptures.

- The Lord confirms a mother's authority over her children (Sirach 3:2).
- "They store up riches who respect their mother" (Sirach 3:4).
- "They multiply sin who demean their mother" (Sirach 3:11).
- "Husbands love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church and handed himself over for her... Husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself" (Ephesians 5:25-28).

There is a saying that it is better that a person's flowers should be given to the person while the person can smell them. The smell of the rose flower which we give to all mothers today symbolize our love and gratitude and prayers. May God bless all mothers. Amen.

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 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>