



# 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

THE 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

7th July 2024

### Entrance Antiphon

**Cf Psalm 47:10-11**

Your merciful love, O God,  
we have received in the midst of  
your temple.

Your praise, O God, like your  
name,  
reaches the ends of the earth;  
your right hand is filled with  
saving justice.

### First Reading      **Ezekiel 2:2-5**

A reading from the prophet  
Ezekiel

**The people are rebellious; they  
shall know there will be a prophet  
in their midst.**

The spirit came into me and  
made me stand up, and I heard  
the Lord speaking to me. He  
said, 'Son of man, I am sending  
you up to the Israelites, to the  
rebels who have turned against  
me. Till now they and their  
ancestors have been in revolt  
against me. The sons are defiant  
and obstinate; I am sending you  
to them, to say, "The Lord says  
this." Whether they listen or not,  
this set of rebels shall know there  
is a prophet among them.'

### **The word of the Lord.**

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 122. R. v.2**

**(R.)** Our eyes are fixed on the  
Lord,  
pleading for his mercy.

1. To you have I lifted up my  
eyes,  
you who dwell in the heavens:  
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves  
on the hand of their lords. **(R.)**

2. Like the eyes of a servant  
on the hand of his mistress,  
so our eyes are on the Lord our  
God  
till he shows us his mercy. **(R.)**

3. Have mercy on us, Lord, have  
mercy.  
We are filled with contempt.  
Indeed all too full is our soul  
with the scorn of the rich,  
with the proud man's  
disdain. **(R.)**

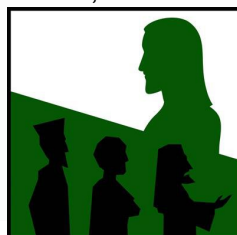
### Second Reading

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

A reading from the second letter  
of St Paul to the Corinthians

**I will glory in my infirmities so that  
the power of Christ may dwell in  
me.**

In view of the extraordinary  
nature of these revelations, to  
stop me from getting too proud I  
was given a thorn in the flesh, an  
angel of Satan to beat me and  
stop me from getting too proud!  
About this thing, I have pleaded  
with the Lord three times for it to  
leave me, but he has said, 'My  
grace is enough for you: my  
power is at its best in weakness.'  
So I shall be very happy to make  
my weaknesses my special boast  
so that the power of Christ may  
stay over me, and that is why I  
am quite content with my  
weaknesses,



and with insults, hardships,  
persecutions, and the agonies I  
go through for Christ's sake. For  
it is when I am weak that I am  
strong.

### **The word of the Lord.**

### Gospel Acclamation

**See Luke 4:18**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News  
to the poor.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

**Mark 6:1-6**

A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Mark

**A prophet is despised only in his  
own country.**

Jesus went to his hometown and  
his disciples accompanied him.  
With the coming of the sabbath  
he began teaching in the  
synagogue and most of them  
were astonished when they  
heard him. They said, 'Where did  
the man get all this? What is this  
wisdom that has been granted  
him, and these miracles that are  
worked through him? This is the  
carpenter, surely, the son of  
Mary, the brother of James and  
Joset and Jude and Simon? His  
sisters, too, are they not here  
with us?' And they would not  
accept him. And Jesus said to  
them, 'A prophet is only despised  
in his own country among his  
own relations and in his own  
house'; and he could work no  
miracle there, though he cured a  
few sick people by laying his

hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

## **The Gospel of the Lord.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

#### **Psalm 33:9**

Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

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

The story of Jesus' rejection by fellow-townsmen in Nazareth is a story that we can identify with because it is a story that has happened to most of us. We might have experienced the pain of rejection caused by hurts, wounds, betrayal, divorce, abandonment, violated trust, trauma, neglect, or abuse in its various forms. What about rejection by those closest to us? Often our friends, families, or childhood companions fail to listen to, and refuse to accept, the words of grace, love and encouragement that we offer to them, because they are so familiar with us as we were that they are unable to see us as God's appointed instruments, the agents of God's healing and saving grace. Let us check also the other side of the coin. How often do we discount God's agents through prejudice? How often do we fail to see God's image in them because of our own hardheartedness? We must realize that God's power is always available to transform even the most unlikely people.

God is present giving us his message through our nearest and dearest and our neighbours and coworkers. Since God uses them as His prophets to convey His message to us, it is our duty to acknowledge and honour them. Let us express our appreciation today for our families – spouses for each other, parents and children for each other. A word of appreciation for the lady who cooks the dinner, for the neighbour who is always ready to share our happiness and sorrow, for the friends who have given us time, support and attention during a recent bereavement or a

tragedy in our life – all are our proper responses to God's messengers of love and light. Let us not take for granted the presence of God among us, as evidenced by the goodness shown by family and friends but thank them and thank God as well for their goodness to us. Let us also recognize God's direction, help, and support in our lives through His words in the Bible and through the advice and examples of others.

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

## **Parish Updates**

### **Parish Office Hours**

The Parish office will be **closed** from 12noon on **Friday 12th July and reopen on Tuesday 23rd July.**

Anyone wishing to put anything in the bulletin over the next two weeks is encouraged to send an email to the office before Wednesday 10th July. Sorry for any inconvenience.

### **Parish Marian Devotion**

The statue of Our Lady will be hosted by Trish Hobbs on **Wednesday 10th July at 5.30pm.** Please contact Trish on 0429 075 700 to let her know you will be attending. If you would like to host the statue of Our Lady, please contact either Tracey at the Parish Office or Monica Brown on 0409913453 to organise a date and time that suits you to host the devotion.

### **Keegan/Wood Family Group**

The Keegan/Wood Family Group will be having a planning meeting and lunch on Monday 15th July at 12noon, located at Everest Restaurant (Muswellbrook RSL Club). Lunch specials starting from \$12.00. Please **R.S.V.P. by Friday 12th July** to Margaret 6543 1238 or Robyn 6542 5426.

### **SING TO THE LORD**

A four-night training session provided free by the Diocese. 'Sing to the Lord' provides training and formation for anyone who:

1. Would like to have a go at cantoring and singing in the liturgy.

2. It is for those already engaged in these ministries, offering an opportunity for renewal and development.

3. It is for those who would love a place to sing and would like to have a go at cantoring or to be part of a liturgical choir.

We currently have three members of the Parish signed up who will be travelling to Singleton for four Tuesdays in July – 9, 16, 23, 30 from 5pm at St Patricks Singleton.

With four Sunday Masses in the Parish churches every week we really would benefit from more people volunteering to be on the roster. We warmly welcome and encourage anyone interested in coming along with us. Please call Colleen Kelly on 0402 242 273 for further information or to commit to travelling to Singleton with us.

### **Devine Mercy Meeting**

The Devine Mercy group will be meeting in the Convent Chapel on **Sunday 7th July at 2.30pm.** New members most welcome.

### **St James Novena**

Novena leading up to the feast of St James will be held at 5.30pm in St James Church Muswellbrook from 16, July 2024.

\*Please note there will be no Tuesday evening Mass in Aberdeen on the 16th and 23rd July. Please join us in Muswellbrook on these days.

### **St Thomas**

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Novena Masses in honour of St Thomas. A special thanks to Fr Graham Fullick who was the main celebrant at the Feast of St Thomas on Wednesday 3rd July and preached an inspiring homily. Fr Victor and Fr Graham were joined by a few parishioners for dinner following the Mass.



Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 8 July	Tuesday 9 July	Wednesday 10 July	Thursday 11 July	Friday 12 July	Saturday 13 July	Sunday 14 July
			St Benedict			14th Sunday Ordinary Time
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 14 July 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 & Stephen Thatcher		C. O'Brien

#### **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, Pat Hogan, Helen Tumbers, Anne Rawson, Michael Dolahenty, Jenny Paul, Sebastiammal, Kym Mason, Anne Hugo, James McGrath, April Hyde, Beate Shanahan, Margaret Bishop and Rochelle Ashman.

**Recently Deceased:** Patricia Easter

**Anniversary:** Ronald Lambkin

**Baptism:** Oliver Corunha Horsburgh

**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' webpage 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.”**

## **NAIDOC WEEK**

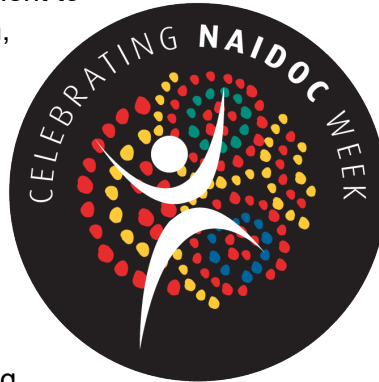
Held across the country from 7-14 July 2024, NAIDOC Week will celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This year's theme chosen by the National NAIDOC Committee, is Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud. This year's theme celebrates the unyielding spirit of our communities and invites all to stand in solidarity, amplifying the voices that have long been silenced.

The fire represents the enduring strength and vitality of Indigenous cultures, passed down through generations despite the challenges faced. It is a symbol of connection to the land, to each other, and to the rich tapestry of traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As we honour this flame, we kindle the sparks of pride and unity, igniting a renewed commitment to acknowledging, preserving, and sharing the cultural heritage that enriches our nation.

"Blak, Loud and Proud" encapsulates the unapologetic celebration of Indigenous identity, empowering us to stand tall in our heritage and assert our place in the modern world. This theme calls for a reclamation of narratives, an amplification of voices, and an unwavering commitment to justice and equality. It invites all Australians to listen, learn, and engage in meaningful dialogue, fostering a society where the wisdom and contributions of Indigenous peoples are fully valued and respected.

Through our collective efforts, we can forge a future where the stories, traditions, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are cherished and celebrated, enriching the fabric of the nation with the oldest living culture in the world.



# **KEEP THE FIRE BURNING! BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD**

**7-14 JULY 2024**

## **Diocese Notices**

### **Growth Formation Retreat – 23 – 25 August 2024**

Jesus, Light of the World Communities will be hosting a retreat in August. Over two nights and three days from 23 to 25 August, the retreat will include a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, workshops, discussions and an hour of empowerment. It's being hosted at the Collaroy Centre, accommodation is available from \$360 per twin share or \$450 for single. Call Helen on 0433 455 114 for more information or to book.

### **NAIDOC Week Community Event – Monday 8 July, 9am to 3pm**

During NAIDOC Week (7 – 14 July) the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning will be participating in a community event in Newcastle.

Hosted by Awabakal Ltd, the event starts at Civic Park, with a flag raising at 9 am before a united procession to Foreshore Park.

The Diocese and CatholicCare are sponsors of this event and will provide information and activities in a marquee, along with other community groups, to engage with and share the wealth of programs and offerings of the diocese with the local community.

### **NAIDOC Week Ecumenical Prayer Service**

Coinciding with National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, all are welcome to attend this year's NAIDOC Week 2024 Ecumenical Prayer Service.

The theme this year is "Keep the Fire Burning. Blak, Loud and Proud!"

Celebrate and honour the rich cultural heritage and contributions of our First Nations people:

Venue: Christ Church Anglican Cathedral, Church Street, Newcastle

Time: 1:45pm for 2pm

Date: Sunday 7 July 2024

All Welcome