



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

THE 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

21st July 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 53:6,8

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord,
for it is good.

First Reading Jeremiah 23:1-6

A reading from the prophet
Jeremiah

The remnant of the flock I will gather to me, and bring them back to their pastures.

'Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered – it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds – it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost – it is the Lord who speaks!

'See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David,

who will reign as true king and be wise,
practising honesty and integrity in the land.

In his days Judah will be saved and Israel dwell in confidence. And this is the name he will be called:

The Lord-our-integrity.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22. R. v.2

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**

2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff,
with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me

all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house
shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R.)**

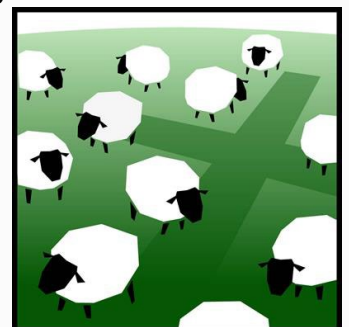
Second Reading

Ephesians 2:13-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Christ, our peace, has made us one.

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God. In his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.



Gospel Acclamation John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice,
says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 6:30-34

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Mark

They were as sheep without a shepherd.

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, 'You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while'; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.

Communion Antiphon

Psalm 110:4-5

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.

Fr. Victor's Reflection

In the gospel last Sunday, Jesus sent his followers out with his message to proclaim God's Kingdom. The gospel this Sunday follows on immediately after this; having sent them out, they return to Jesus, and he welcomes them back. The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, 'You must come away to some quiet place all by yourselves and rest for a while.'

There is something very ordinary about this scene. I imagine the friends of Jesus returning

excitedly after teaching, preaching and healing; they have so much to share with Jesus. I see them sitting with Jesus and telling him all they had done. As they speak, I picture Jesus simply listening to them. We know from the gospels that Jesus was a great speaker. He often went to the synagogue to read the scriptures and preach. He spoke to the people in the streets and the marketplaces and taught them through parables. Have we ever considered that Jesus was also able to make time and space for people and listen to them?

We recall when Jesus met the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24:17-24) he asked them; 'What are you talking about to each other, as you walk along?' He asks them a question; he walks with them, remains silent and listens to their story and all that had happened to them. There are other incidents where Jesus listens to the people.

Whenever, however and wherever we pray Jesus listens to us, no matter what we say. We might say prayers that we have known since childhood, or we might simply talk to Jesus casually and informally as we would with a close friend. When we pray, we too are offered the opportunity to tell Jesus our own very personal and sacred story – whatever that is. When we pray can we see Jesus looking at us and hear him gently ask, what are all things you are talking about as you walk along? When we pray, whether on our own or with others, Jesus takes the time to listen to us. He is concerned about what is happening to us. He will not ignore or dismiss us.

We each have a personal and sacred story. Our story and our experiences, the positive, negative, challenging and the life-giving make us who we are today. It is good to pray with our own story. It is vital that when we pray, we have the courage and humility to come to Jesus just as we are and tell him exactly how

we are. He will sit and listen to us.

Sometimes we just need to take a break from being occupied and busy, from all our activities and to-do-lists, from the noise of the world around us and simply sit quietly at the feet of Jesus. In him we will find rest.

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

Parish Updates

Parish Office

The parish office will reopen as usual from Tuesday 23rd July

Parish Marian Devotion

The Statue of Our Lady is available to all of our parishioners.

If you would like to have our statue of Our Lady in your home, please contact either Tracey at the Parish Office or Monica Brown on 0409913453.

Feast for St James Mass

On Thursday 25th July there will be a Mass at St James Primary School in Muswellbrook to celebrate the Feast of St James.

The Mass will commence at 10am in the school hall and be followed by morning tea at the school.

All Parishioners are welcome and encouraged to attend the Mass and stay for morning tea.

It would be appreciated if those attending could bring a plate to add to the morning tea.

Living  gospel

Take time out

I recently travelled to France and was amazed that in the smaller towns and villages everything stopped for two hours in the middle of the day and people went home for lunch. As a tourist used to almost 24 hour convenience, it was at first terribly frustrating. Even tourist attractions would close down. The only businesses open were restaurants. However, the wisdom of the custom soon became apparent. How wonderfully civilized and life-giving to stop for two hours in the middle of the day, go home and have a leisurely lunch. It made me ask myself, When do I take time out to renew myself?

Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 22 July	Tuesday 23 July	Wednesday 24 July	Thursday 25 July	Friday 26 July	Saturday 27 July	Sunday 28 July
St Mary Magdalene			St James Feast	St Joachim & St Anne (Parents of Virgin Mary)		17th Sunday Ordinary Time
5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Primary School	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook 5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
						8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 28th July 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 & 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, David Curran, Beate Shanahan and Rochelle Ashman.

Recently Deceased: Kay Goodwin, Patricia Hopkins and June Jordan

Anniversary: Margaretha Klasen, Adrian Klasen and Kevin Jones

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.”

About St James the Apostle

St James the Apostle was the great protector of pilgrims. In his spirit, we hope that all who venture here are made strong in faith and steadfast in hope on this pilgrim's journey: the path of Christian life.

To James and to his other disciples, Jesus simply said, "Follow me." This Gospel truth is strikingly simple but sometimes hard to live.

At St James the Apostle Parish, with the grace of God and through the generosity of our parishioners, all are invited to be sustained on the journey. Together, as a community, we step forward and risk the journey of faith.

Our lives are full of graced moments. Whether you are a visitor, a recent arrival to the rapidly growing area of Hoppers Crossing North, Tarneit or Truganina, or simply looking for a spiritual home, we are confident that you will find our parish to be an inspirational place where you can enrich your Christian life, and explore and grow in faith. The faith of our Parish community today is sustained through the experience of many humble and faith-filled witnesses who, through their generosity, shine a light in many different ministries as they help us feel the warmth of Jesus. The sacraments we celebrate at St James and these ministries which we offer are signs of a gracious God who never stops revealing himself.

May St James intercede for us today and help us to follow his example. Like him, may we recognize our human limitations, and thus grow in our humility and our loving trust in God who desires to do great things through us and bring us into His kingdom of love and self-giving.

May God bless us all on this day of St James as we continue to build bridges that unite us all to Christ. Happy Feast Day to all Parishioners and friends.

Diocese Notices

Women of the Well – Weekend Retreat – 9 to 11 August 2024

The Women of the Well retreats are designed to help you create space in your life to listen to the spirit's whisper and connect with other like-minded women. The next Women of the Well retreat will be happening at The Hermitage, Mittagong from 9 to 11 August. We want to ensure our retreats are accessible to all, as such we set our fees to cover just our costs for your food & accommodation. Thanks to our partnership with the Sisters of St Joseph, we are able to offer these subsidised rates to first-time retreatants. If this cost is a barrier, please contact us.

First time retreatants: \$125 Returning Retreatants: \$350

Visit www.womenofthewell.com.au or email info@womenofthewell.com.au for more information.

Season of Creation: Wonder – Weaving – Healing

Join Catholic Earthcare and their Season of Creation Convocation for three special events in September.

- Thurs 12 and Fri 13 September - online keynote presentations, workshops, discussions and spiritual experiences
- Sat 14 September at Diocesan Resource Centre - hear about and discuss regenerative projects within and beyond our diocese and consider how we can contribute. Morning tea and lunch supplied as part of registration.

Information/Registration at: www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1231165

aMeN caMiNo – Seasons of Creation Weekend Retreat

Join us for an aMeN caMiNo weekend experience during this year's Season of Creation at the beautiful Myall Coast. This caMiNo is suitable for both beginners and experienced walkers. It offers a one- or two-day experience on September 7th and 8th.

For more information visit our website: mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/amen-camino

