



# 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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St James Primary School

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PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

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

Safeguarding Promotor: Jane Jacobs

THE 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

18th August 2024

### Entrance Antiphon

**Psalm 83:10-11**

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;  
and look on the face of your anointed one;  
one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

### First Reading Proverbs 9:1-6

A reading from the book of Proverbs

**Come and eat my bread; drink the wine I have prepared.**

Wisdom has built herself a house,  
she has erected her seven pillars,  
she has slaughtered her beasts,  
prepared her wine,  
she has laid her table.  
She has despatched her maidservants  
and proclaimed from the city's heights:

'Who is ignorant? Let him step this way.'

To the fool she says,  
'Come and eat my bread,  
drink the wine I have prepared!  
Leave your folly and you will live,  
walk in the ways of perception.'

### The word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 33:2-3. 10-15. R. v.9**

**(R.)** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.

The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**

2. Revere the Lord, you his saints.

They lack nothing, those who revere him.

Strong lions suffer want and go hungry  
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing. **(R.)**

3. Come children, and hear me that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.

Who is he who longs for life and many days, to enjoy his prosperity? **(R.)**

4. Then keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from speaking deceit.

Turn aside from evil and do good;  
seek and strive after peace. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

**Ephesians 5:15-20**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

**Be watchful that you may know the will of God.**

Be very careful about the sort of lives you lead, like intelligent and not like senseless people. This may be a wicked age, but your lives should redeem it. And do not be thoughtless but recognise what is the will of the Lord. Do not drug yourselves with wine, this is simply dissipation; be filled with the Spirit. Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, so that

always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### The word of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation John 6:56

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who eat my flesh and drink my blood  
live in me and I in them, says the Lord.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel John 6:51-58

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.**

Jesus said to the crowd:

'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.  
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;  
and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you.'

Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life,



and I shall raise him up on the last day.  
 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him.  
 As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me.  
 This is the bread come down from heaven;  
 not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon**

**Psalm 129:7**

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

**Fr. Victor's Reflection**

In last Sunday's gospel Jesus identified himself as 'the bread of life' (Jn 6:35) – the food that permanently satisfies our deepest hunger. In the gospel this Sunday, Jesus makes the even more astounding claim that the bread he is offering us is 'his flesh, for the life of the world' (Jn 6:51). When his audience reacted to this statement, saying 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' (Jn 6:52), Jesus repeats his claim in even stronger language: 'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of

Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you' (Jn 6: 53).  
 Jesus, of course, is not speaking literally? He was no advocate for cannibalism! What he is telling us is something profoundly spiritual and personal. To eat the flesh of Jesus and to drink his blood means to be totally united with him, and to be filled with his spirit. It means to take on board his vision, his ideas, his values, and to embrace his mission of establishing on earth God's reign of justice, truth, and love. It means opening our hearts to his word as it comes to us through the Scriptures and allowing that word to direct our everyday decisions and choices. This is what we do when we celebrate the Eucharist, recalling and re-enacting the greatest act of love the world has ever known: Jesus' life-giving death on the Cross. And, when we say 'Amen' as we receive his body and blood, we identify ourselves with his sacrifice, and commit ourselves to carrying our own crosses after Jesus, accepting the sufferings which come into our lives as a consequence of this commitment.

So, when we participate in the Eucharist and receive the body of Christ, we affirm our deepest identity as members of Christ's body, called to be sources of healing and renewal for the world of our time. We are saying that we want to be with Jesus totally and unreservedly, to serve him

with all our hearts and work with him for the making of a better world: a world of truth and love, a world of justice and peace, a world of freedom and happiness. When we see ourselves as really part of that great endeavour, then we know that in a very real sense we have eaten his flesh and drunk his blood.

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

**Parish Updates**

**Parish Marian Devotion**

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

*Keegan/Wood Family Group*

Below are the details for next Keegan/Wood Family Group lunch.

**When:** Monday 19th August at 12 noon.

**Where:** Hunter Belle Cheese Muswellbrook.

**R.S.V.P.:** Friday 16th August to Margaret – 6543 1238 or Robyn – 6542 5426.

**Cuppa at St Thomas**



Sunday 25th August there will be a cupper after 8am Mass at St Thomas Church. This month's organisers are Marianne and Cathy.



***Congratulations***

To the children who will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion this weekend:

- |                |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| John Acosta    | Harley Eusebio | Emmet O'Riely  |
| Abigail Acosta | Jacob Lane     | Benjamin Roach |
| Prestyn Boyle  | Sophie Lane    | Callum Ross    |
| Alice Callinan | Poppy London   | Keelie Ross    |

A very special thank you to our Sacramental Program team, Jane Jacobs and Lauren Gehrig for running the program and helping the families prepare their children to receive their Sacraments.

Many thanks also to the parents who prepared their children to worthily receive Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

We are most grateful to Bishop Michael Kennedy for being the celebrant for this special occasion.

## Mass Diary

Monday 19 August	Tuesday 20 August	Wednesday 21 August	Thursday 22 August	Friday 23 August	Saturday 24 August	Sunday 25 August
	St. Bernard abbot, doctor	St. Pius X pope	Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary		St Bartholomew apostle	21st Sunday Ordinary Time
<u>9.00am</u> <b>Personal Prayer and Adoration</b> St James Muswellbrook		<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>11.30am</u> <b>Adoration and Benediction</b> <u>12.05pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook <u>5.30pm</u> <b>Vigil Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>10.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	<u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

### Minister Roster Sunday 25th August 2024

4th Sunday of the month.	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Alter Server	Sacristan
<b>5.30pm</b> <b>Saturday</b> <b>Muswellbrook</b>	M.Flanagan M. Carter	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			R. Panis	C. Hayes
<b>8.00am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Aberdeen</b>	S. Milton	K. Mason	C. Bowen				M.Hamilton
<b>10.00am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Muswellbrook</b>	B. Powell M.Medhurst	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		Jane & Stephen Thatcher	Stella Cyrus Liam	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, Maurie Hyde, David Curran, Beate Shanahan and Rochelle Ashman.

#### Recently Deceased:

**Anniversary:** Molly and Clare Casey

#### 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](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 (Contact via the parish office)



**“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.”**



## Parish Update

### Father's Day Prayers

In the lead up to Father's Day we will be putting together a register of Fathers and Fatherly figures living or deceased.

If you would like to add someone to the register, the form can be found in the foyer of St James and St Thomas Church until the 25th August.

## Diocese Notices

### Church/Faith Crawl

Next month the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is excited to be hosting our third Church/Faith Crawl in Maitland. We will be exploring four different faith communities and will be encouraged to ask questions and get to know our neighbours.

It is on Wednesday 11 September from 9.30am. For more info or to register, visit <http://mn.shor.tn/ChurchCrawl24>

### Decorate Your Space: National Child Protection Week 2024

Decorate Your Space invites our communities—including Catholic Schools, St Nicholas, CatholicCare Hunter-Manning, and Parishes—to decorate a space in a way that uniquely reflects their commitment to children's safety and wellbeing in line with the theme of National Child Protection Week 'Every conversation matters' for the chance to win some fantastic prizes.

'Decorate Your Space' is the evolution of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle's highly successful 'Decorate Your Gate' initiative, which was held as part of National Child Protection Week in 2022 and 2023. Our communities can still decorate their gate if they choose, or they can decorate their fence, wall, door, desk, or floor – the only limit is your imagination!



The banner features a dark blue background with white text and logos. At the top left, logos for NAPCAN (Prevent Child Abuse & Neglect), Office of Safeguarding (Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle), Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, Catholic Schools Office (Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle), St Nicholas (Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle), and CatholicCare Social Services (Hunter-Manning, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle) are displayed. On the top right, a speech bubble contains the text 'EVERY CHILD IN EVERY COMMUNITY NEEDS A FAIR GO'. The main text reads 'DECORATE YOUR SPACE' in large white letters, followed by 'NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK' and '1-7 SEPTEMBER 2024'. A white box on the right contains the text 'WIN! SPECIAL PRIZES TO BE WON!'. The bottom of the banner features faint white line art illustrations of a hand holding a paintbrush, a paint can, a heart, and a lightbulb.

## Seniors Rights Service

**We support older people  
with free legal advice,  
advocacy and information.**

Seniors Rights Service is a community organisation dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights of older people in New South Wales.

**Call 02 9281 3600**

