



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

Parish Priest: Fr Victor Babu Doss

Email: frvickybabu@gmail.com

Phone: 0484 903 427 or 6543 1167

St James Primary School

Principal: Mr Aaron Moon

Office: 6543 3094

Email: admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au

Parish Administration: Mrs Tracey Marsden

Email: muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Website: muswellbrookparish.org.au

PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

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

Safeguarding Promotor: Jane Jacobs

THE 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

25th August 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 85:1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

First Reading

Joshua 24:1-2. 15-18

A reading from the book of Joshua

We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33:2-3. 16-23. 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. The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal. (R.)

3. They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. (R.)

4. Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken. (R.)

5. Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. (R.)

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:21-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body.



This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

[See John 6:63. 68](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:

you have the words of everlasting life.

Alleluia!

Gospel

[John 6:60-69](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

[Cf John 6:54](#)

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord, and I will raise him up on the last day.

Fr. Victor's Reflection

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. This is what we read in the Gospel of 21st Sunday in Ordinary time, Year B. Not his enemies, but Jesus' own disciples were falling away from him. They didn't like what Jesus was saying, because it was "a hard saying." So, they applied what we might call "the logic of dislike."

We have all seen it. We have all done it. The logic is very simple. It goes a little like this: 1) I try something; 2) I don't like it; 3) I will never try it again.

In the case of this Sunday's Gospel: 1) This Jesus is fascinating; 2) I don't like this business of eating flesh and drinking blood; 3) Goodbye, Jesus.

There are some situations, where the logic of dislike is perfectly legitimate. For instance, you try a new recipe, you don't like what you tried, and you decide not try it again. The 'logic of dislike' works here.

But this is different. "They no longer walked with him" — true then, true today. It is no secret that Churches of most denominations are experiencing a great decline in attendance and membership. There are many reasons, ranging from a deeply painful personal loss of faith to a gradual drifting away. If we don't like the pastor or minister, or the preaching, or some of the church members, etc., we look elsewhere, we go to a different parish or denomination, or we may dispense ourselves from joining any worshipping community.

"They no longer walked with him." At a personal level, the experience is not unfamiliar to most of us. The loss of friendship, companionship, admiration, or respect is always painful. It can undermine our self-confidence. It seems to have had a similar effect on Jesus. His question to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" is one of the most poignant moments of the Gospel.

This was a hard saying for Peter and to the other apostles too. But Peter looked beyond what he didn't understand, to what he knew from experience. "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." His reply had nothing to do with likes or dislikes, but rather anticipated what His faith was in the person of Jesus. The mere failure to understand was nothing by comparison.

There are many things in the Scriptures, or in Church teaching, that remain hard sayings to this day. It is very sad when the logic of dislike causes people to reject them rather than make an effort to understand them. This sometimes turns people away from Christianity, or from religion altogether.

Sure, there are plenty of non-religious groups and movements that we can "go" to, to satisfy our likes. But how many of them have the words of eternal life?

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

Parish Updates

Special Thank you!

Many Thanks to Kay Mason! I am sure you have noticed we now have an organ in St James C

Church, so we have some live music happening at Masses again.

Our appreciation and thanks to Kay Mason who has loaned the church her own home organ for the interim.

We greatly appreciate her generosity, and fingers crossed the technician can restore life (at least for a little while) to the Church Organ.

Thanks Kay.

Cuppa at St Thomas



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

Lost Property

On Sunday 18th August a ring was found outside near the church steps and handed to Fr Victor. If it belongs to you, please contact the office.

Mass Diary

Monday 26 August	Tuesday 27 August	Wednesday 28 August	Thursday 29 August	Friday 30 August	Saturday 31 August	Sunday 1 September
	St. Monica	St. Augustine Bishop, doctor	Passion of St John the Baptist			22nd Sunday Ordinary Time
9.00am 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 Vigil Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	No Mass					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 1st September 2024

1st Sunday of month.	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Alter Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook		C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	White Ladies		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	T. Hobbs	J. Lonergan	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	M. Kempis R. Ross		K. Mason		Kay & Brian Mason	Stella Cyrus Liam	

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: Richard Meagher

Anniversary:

Baptism: Isla Charker and Ella Irving

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.



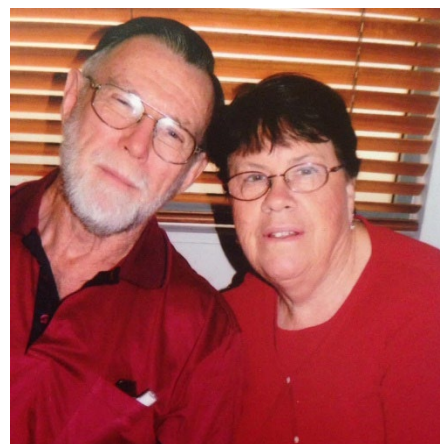
"Our mission is to spread the Kingdom by being an alive and informed Community, united as one family in care and consideration for each other in the love of God."

Thank you and Farewell

Bob and Carol O'Brien have been a part of the Muswellbrook Parish for over 35 years.

In their time here they took alternate Tuesdays to conduct a Communion Service at Mt Providence and later Calvary Nursing Home and also assisted the Priest with Mass each month. After attending training, they taught scripture each Friday at Roger Street Public School for 15 years! Both Bob and Carol joined the St Vincent de Paul Society, in the Conference and as Volunteers at Vinnies. Bob was involved for 10 years and Carol for a massive 24 years.

Bob set up for Mass on weekdays for many years and when Priest was away, Bob ran a Communion Service and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Bob also read at Mass on weekdays and Carol was also on the roster for Sundays. When Kay Goodwin fell ill, Carol willingly filled the position of the Sacristan at St James Muswellbrook.



We thank Bob and Carol for their many years of service within our parish and local community. You will be dearly missed.

Diocese Updates

Creation Sings

The Diocesan Liturgy Council will be hosting Creation Sings. The afternoon will be an opportunity to come together for the whole of the Newcastle, Hunter and Manning community to sing in support of creation. Let us then come together and sing for creation and stir in our hearts, through song and one voice, a reconnection and love of the gift that has been given to us from God.

Saturday 21 September | 2:00pm - 4:00pm | Sacred Heart Cathedral
Bring a plant cutting for someone to propagate in their garden
The day will be in 3-parts: learn a song, time of prayer, afternoon tea.

Registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/xKCr907ew6>

Zoom Discussion: 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement - Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World

In the 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement, Australia's Bishops scrutinise the signs of our own troubled times, observe the violence around us, and ask why it is so. They also ask what is needed if there is to be peace. Join us for an online Zoom discussion as we break open the document, hear responses from across our Diocese, and participate in small group discussions on how we can be peacemakers in our communities.

When: Wednesday 4 September Where: Zoom Time: 7pm

Register Here: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/truth-and-peace-exploring-the-social-justice-statement-tickets-991438247487

Crossing Culture: Hidden Histories

Facilitated by Aunty Louise Campbell and Craig Duncan from the Catholic Schools Office, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Unit, Crossing Cultures: Hidden Histories will take you on a 65,000-year journey from pre-contact to the present day.

It will deepen your knowledge and understanding of the cultural perspectives and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, broadly and in your local communities.

Bishop Michael Kennedy will join Chisholm Pastoral Region clergy and parishioners for this educational cultural awareness day.

When: Saturday 31 August

Where: The Therry Centre, Cnr New England Highway and King Street, East Maitland (Entry via King Street)

Time: 8.30am to 3.30pm

Cost: \$10 pp which will include morning tea and a light lunch.

Payment is to be made on the day

ENQUIRIES: Helen B - M: 0439 334 000

Perpetual Day of Remembrance

September 15, promulgated as a 'Perpetual Day of Remembrance' in our diocese, marks a day of solemn remembrance of the harm caused by a history of child sexual abuse and failure to protect children. It has two aspects: one focused on supporting survivors and the other on the prayer of the whole church. This year Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday falls on September 15. As a people of faith, we can pray for a change of heart as the ground of hope for a safer future for all. Special prayer resources are available online at

www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/perpetual-day-of-remembrance Every person is invited to use and help disseminate as widely as possible the resource for Individuals and households. May Christ be our Light.