

# 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 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

1st September 2024

### **Entrance Antiphon**

**Cf Psalm 85:3,5**

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

### **First Reading**

**Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-8**

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

*You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you – keep the commands of the Lord.*

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

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

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1**

**(R.)** The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?  
He who walks without fault;  
he who acts with justice  
and speaks the truth from his heart. **(R.)**
2. He who does no wrong to his brother,  
who casts no slur on his neighbour,  
who holds the godless in disdain,  
but honours those who fear the Lord. **(R.)**
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may;  
who takes no interest on a loan  
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.  
Such a man will stand firm for ever. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading**

**James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27**

A reading from the letter of St James

*Be doers of the word.*

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

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

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

**James 1:18**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.  
Alleluia!

#### **Gospel**

**Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*You forget the commandments of God and hold on to human tradition.*

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing



of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

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

### **Communion Antiphon**

Psalm 30:20

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

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

Many might be tempted to see in the Gospel of 22nd Sunday, a simple criticism by Jesus of external observances of the Law, or of external observances of the faith, attendance at Mass, praying the Angelus or the rosary, attending novenas. Jesus' challenge is much wider than this – it speaks to all who try to manage their relationship with God. A common example of such management is the often-quoted

remarks, "I live a good life"; "I don't need to pray, because I help others"; and "avoiding offending others is enough." The measure of goodness is not always clear. Jesus warns of what comes when we put ourselves front and centre – our hearts ultimately become sources of vice.

Jesus points to another way, a way already indicated by the Law. Moses speaks of how other nations will admire Israel. The greatest source of admiration is Israel's closeness of God. This closeness is not a fixed possession but only becomes apparent when the people call to him. This potential closeness noted by Moses, comes to a new intensity with the arrival of Jesus, God made flesh, God among us. The letter of James in the second reading speaks of this relationship in perhaps one of the most intimate ways in the whole Bible. The Word is planted in us. When we call God, we discover that he is not merely close, but within us, speaking to us his Word which leads to salvation and life.

This Word invites us into a living relationship. The Word is not a possession to be hoarded and ignored.

As we call out to God, the Word responds and invites a response from us in turn. Jesus wants us to walk the road to salvation with him. If we acknowledge our failings, he will speak words of consolation. If we lose our way, he will cry out to us and call us back. If we stumble, he will raise us up. In short, Jesus wants us to be close to him, so that he can be close to us. It is through prayer, that he comes close and invites us into an ever deeper living relationship with him.

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

### **Parish Updates**

#### **Parish Office Hours Next Week**

The office will be **CLOSED** on Tuesday 3rd September due to training.

#### **Thank you**

A special thank you to Diane Hyde for temporarily stepping in as a Sacristan.

If anyone is interested in taking on the role of Sacristan each week or some weeks, please contact the office or speak to Fr Victor.

#### **Mass Location Changes**

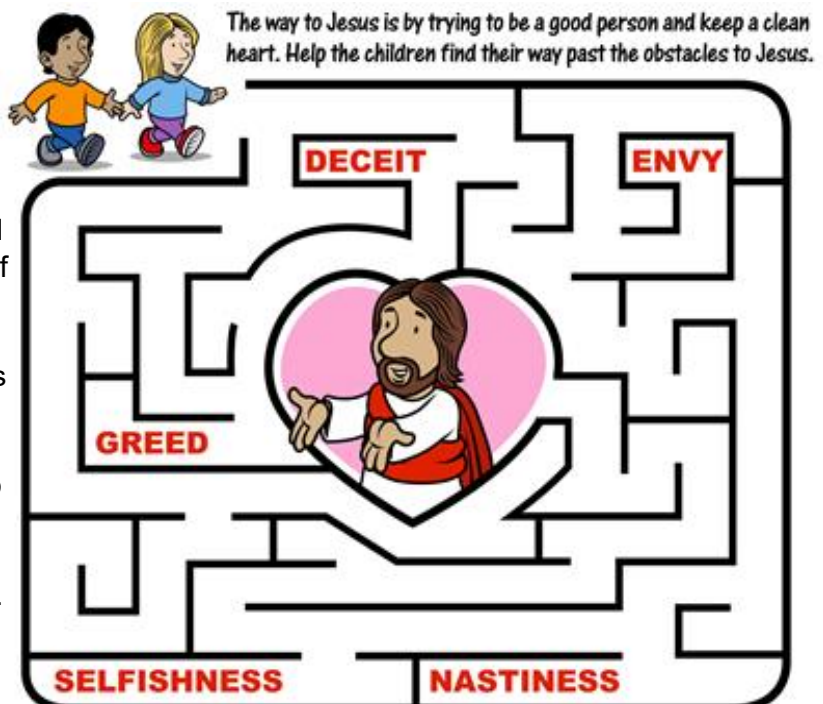
We hope everyone is safe and your homes didn't sustain any damage due to the recent earthquakes.

We are aware of some damage that has happened to the Church and ask that you stay clear and avoid parking your car close to the Church in case of anything falling.

As a precaution Masses usually held in weekdays in St James Church will now be held in the Convent Chapel. Weekend Masses (Vigil and Sunday Mass) will be held at St James Primary School in the hall.

Please keep an eye on your emails for any updates to Mass locations. If you have not been receiving emails, please contact the office to make sure we have your details as these updates are important.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to speak with Fr Victor or contact the office.



### Mass Diary

MONDAY 2 September	TUESDAY 3 September	WEDNESDAY 4 September	THURSDAY 5 September	FRIDAY 6 September	SATURDAY 7 September	SUNDAY 8 September
	St Gregory the Great					23rd Sunday Ordinary Time
		9.00am <b>Mass</b> Convent Chapel Muswellbrook	11.30am <b>Adoration &amp; Benediction</b>  12.05pm <b>Mass</b> Convent Chapel Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> Convent Chapel Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> Convent Chapel Muswellbrook  5.30pm <b>Vigil Mass</b> St James School Hall Muswellbrook	10.00am <b>Mass</b> St James School Hall Muswellbrook
	5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

### Minister Roster Sunday 8th September

2nd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	J. O'Brien	F. O'Brien	Sr. Dorothy	J. Toohey R. Wood		Ryan Panis	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	K. Mason				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	G. Griffin B. Powell	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		Jane and Stephen Thatcher	Stella Liam Cyrus	D. Hyde

### 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, Rochelle Ashman and Benito Bicol.

**Recently Deceased:**

**Anniversary:**

**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.”**

# Diocese Updates

## LGBTIQ Mass

The LGBTIQ+ forum invites you to celebrate a Diocesan liturgy with LGBTIQ+ people, their families, friends and supporters at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. **Date:** Friday 18 October **Time:** 6pm

**Where:** 16 Tighes Terrace, Tighes Hill **Contact:** LGBTIQ@mn.catholic.org.au

## National Child Protects Week



Child abuse and neglect is preventable. If we all work together as a community, we can create an Australia where all children can grow up safe and well. What role can you play in supporting children and their families

**Leesa Waters, CEO, NAPCAN (TWEET)**

National Child Protection Week invites all Australians to play their part to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

National Child Protection Week (NCPW) will take place from 1-7 September in 2024.

This year, the theme is: **'EVERY CONVERSATION MATTERS'**

We can all play a part by creating stronger, safer neighbourhoods. This can be achieved by talking to your neighbours, checking in with friends, being a good role model, supporting and being kind to parents rather than judging or being competitive, offering to assist where possible, and

speaking up if you see something that is unsafe. It is important that we listen to, and value, what children have to say. Where possible, include their voices in decision-making and be advocates for their best interest.

By speaking regularly with children about their personal safety and how they can protect themselves, as well as "tuning in" to their worries, children are more likely to trust us and feel comfortable to talk with us when something big is going on.

Make your influence positive; start a conversation today with your colleagues and families about listening to and valuing the voice of children and young people.

For more information please visit: <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/national-child-protection-week/>

## 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](http://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.

## Reflection

Father's Day is a good time to stop and appreciate a unique person that God has put in our lives – fathers. This includes our own personal father but also all those who step into those shoes and take on the responsibility of fathering, just as Joseph took on the role of being a father to Jesus and raising him into an adult.

Sometimes it is easy to take fathers for granted. The hurts that arise in all families can cause us to forget the wealth and goodness and commitment that is there also. Today is an opportunity to recall and affirm the gifts that fathers can bring to families.

Spend some moments now thinking about the person who has 'fathered' you, and the blessings they brought to your life.

## Celebrating all fathers this Father's Day Sunday 1st September

*God took the strength of a mountain, the majesty of a tree, the warmth of a summer sun, the calm of a quiet sea, the generous soul of nature, the comforting arm of night, the wisdom of the ages, the power of the eagle's flight, the joy of a morning in spring, the faith of a mustard seed, the patience of eternity, the depth of a family need, then God combined these qualities, when there was nothing more to add, He knew His masterpiece was complete, and so, He called it ... Dad.*

Author Unknown