



# 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

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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 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

8th September 2024

### Entrance Antiphon

*Psalm 118:137, 124*

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;  
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

### First Reading

*Isaiah 35:4-7*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the  
tongues of the dumb speak.*

Say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert,  
streams in the wasteland,  
the scorched earth becomes a lake,  
the parched land springs of water.

### The Word of the Lord.

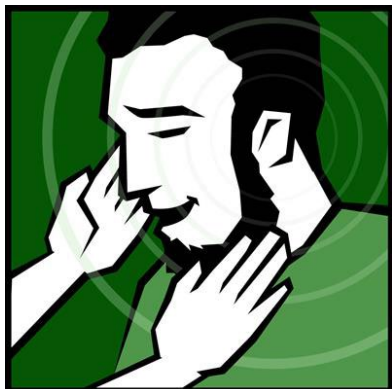
### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1*

*(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!*

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who  
sets prisoners free. *(R.)*

2. It is the Lord who  
gives sight to the  
blind,  
who raises up those  
who are bound down,  
the Lord who loves  
the just,  
the Lord, who  
protects the  
stranger. *(R.)*



3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. *(R.)*

### Second Reading

*James 2:1-5*

A reading from the letter of St James

*Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit  
the kingdom?*

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus  
Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of  
distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose  
a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully  
dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same  
time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and  
you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say,  
'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the  
poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the  
floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have  
used two different standards in your mind, and turned  
yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor  
according to the world that God chose, to be rich in  
faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he  
promised to those who love him.

### The Word of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation

*cf Matthew 4:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

*Mark 7:31-37*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.*

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by  
way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right  
through the Decapolis region. And they brought him  
a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech;  
and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took  
him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his  
fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue

with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

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

### **Communion Antiphon**

**Cf Psalm 41:2-3**

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;  
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

### **REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate**

#### **Ephphatha**

As we began to welcome the Gospel, we made the sign of the Cross on our foreheads, on our lips and over our hearts. It is meant to be accompanied by the thought: 'May the Gospel be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.' It wouldn't be enough to mentally recite that little prayer. We have to do something physical.

Jesus could not have been more physical than in the story of today's Gospel. He stuck his fingers in the man's ears and touched the man's tongue with spittle, saying the Aramaic word 'Ephphatha', 'Be opened'.

Our Lord could have healed this man with a simple prayer. But he acknowledged the sheer physicality of the person to be cured. We are not angels, but ensouled bodies and that is how our Lord particularly related to this man in need of healing.

It is in the sacrament of Baptism that we imitate the Ephphatha incident in today's Gospel. At one stage, the priest lightly touches the ears and then lightly touches the mouth of the person being baptised. This brings the baptised person into a community formed by hearing and speaking the Word in faith.

We could take a moment to recall the Ephphatha dimension of our baptism. Take your thumb and lightly touch your ears (a parent could do this for an infant) making a prayer along the lines of our baptism: 'The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the mute speak. May He again touch my ears to receive His Word and my mouth to proclaim His faith to the glory and praise of God the Father. Amen.'

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia and was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then. He is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.



## **Parish Updates**

### **Mass Location Changes**

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 all weekday Masses (including Saturday morning), usually held in St James Church will now be held in the Convent Chapel. The Vigil and Sunday Masses 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 the bulletin via email, please contact the office to make sure we have your email address as these updates are important.

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

### **Arrangements while Fr Victor is on Holidays**

Fr Victor will be on holidays from the 12<sup>th</sup> September until 15<sup>th</sup> October. We wish him safe travels.

#### **Details for St Thomas Church Aberdeen**

Fr Graham Fullick from Scone will offer a Mass at 7.30am on Sunday mornings. All are welcome to attend this Mass.

#### **Details for St James Church Muswellbrook**

Reverend Deacon Viane Perez will offer a Communion Service at St James Primary School Hall on Saturday evening at 5.30pm and Sunday morning at 10am.

#### **Details for Emergencies**

For any emergencies, please contact Fr Graham Fullick on 6545 1550 or 0477 720 270.

# **Living gospel**

## **Open to compassion**

*When Isaiah described the signs by which the Messiah would be recognised, he identified those people who were isolated from society by their physical afflictions. He portrayed a Messiah who released them from those afflictions and allowed them to re-enter society. That is what Jesus did time and time again. In the healing of the deaf and dumb man, Jesus called on all those around him to also be opened – that their hearts may be opened to compassion. Jesus calls to us through today's gospel to also be open to compassion and open to the needs of those around us.*

### Mass Diary

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
9 September	10 September	11 September	12 September	13 September	14 September	15 September
	St Gregory the Great					24th Sunday Ordinary Time
		9.00am <b>Mass</b> Convent Chapel Muswellbrook	No Mass	No Mass	5.30pm <b>Communion Service</b> St James Primary School Hall Muswellbrook	10.00am <b>Communion Service</b> St James Primary School Hall Muswellbrook
	5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					7.30am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

### Minister Roster Sunday 15th September

3rd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	J. Toohey R. Wood		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	K. Mason	M. Edwards	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	C. Lumaban T. Furlong	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		Therese & Joel Bristow	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:** Bryan Hornery

**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

### 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/>



**NAPCAN** PREVENT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT  
www.napcan.org.au

STARTING FIRST SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER

### 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.



**Kids Helpline is a free, private and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25 years.**  
**1800 55 1800 | www.kidshelpline.com.au**

