

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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THE 24TH SUNDAY – YEAR B – PERPETUAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

15th September 2024

Ode to the Light of Christ

Come, let us walk in the Light of the Lord.

Let us not fear the past

when our hearts were heavy. (Is. 2:5)

Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us bring light from the darkness.

Let us make evil good

and find sweet in the bitter. (Is. 5:20)

Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us weep together

when the light grew dark with the clouds,

from the darkness and distress. (Is. 5:30)

Let us Shine the Light of Christ.

Come, let us walk with our brothers and sisters,
those who have walked in darkness.

Let them see the great Light of God. (Is. 9:2)

and let us Shine the Light of Christ.

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First Reading

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel (37:1-14)

The hand of the Lord was laid on me, and he carried me away by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley, a valley full of bones. He made me walk up and down among them. There were vast quantities of these bones on the ground the whole length of the valley; and they were quite dried up. He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'You know, Lord.' He said, 'Prophesy over these bones. Say, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. The Lord says this to these bones: I am now going to make the breath enter you, and you will live. I shall put sinews on you, I shall make flesh grow on you, I shall cover you with skin and give you breath, and you will live; and you will learn that I am the Lord."'

I prophesied as I had been ordered. While I was prophesying, there was a noise, a sound of

clattering; and the bones joined together. I looked, and saw that they were covered with sinews; flesh was growing on them and skin was covering them, but there was no breath in them. He said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man. Say to the breath, "The Lord says this: Come from the four winds, breath; breathe on these dead; let them live!"' I prophesied as he had ordered me, and the breath entered them; they came to life again and stood up on their feet, a great, an immense army.

Then he said, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole House of Israel. They keep saying, "Our bones are dried up, our hope has gone; we are as good as dead." So prophesy. Say to them, "The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this it is the Lord who speaks."'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 41:2-3; 42:3-4. R. see Ps 41:3

(R.) My soul is thirsting for the living God.

1. Like the deer that yearns
for running streams,
so my soul is yearning
for you, my God. (R.)
2. My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life;
when can I enter and see
the face of God? (R.)
3. O send forth your light and your truth;
let these be my guide.
Let them bring me to your holy mountain
to the place where you dwell. (R.)
4. And I will come to the altar of God,

the God of my joy.
My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp,
O God, my God. (R.)

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
(14:7 – 9)

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine in the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life. (Phil 2:15-16)

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.
(1:46-56)

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.
Yes, from this day forward all generations will call
me blessed,
for the Almighty has done great things for me.
Holy is his name,
and his mercy reaches from age to age for those
who fear him.
'He has shown the power of his arm,
he has routed the proud of heart.
He has pulled down princes from their thrones and
exalted the lowly.
The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich
sent empty away.
He has come to the help of Israel his servant,
mindful of his mercy
– according to the promise he made to our
ancestors –
of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants
for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and
then went back home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Homilette Reflection. Diocesan Perpetual Remembrance Sunday. Shine the Light of Christ.

Today is a Remembrance day for the abused. When we as the Catholic Church in Maitland-Newcastle look the surviving abused child in the eye, adult as they are now, today we look deeper to their soul and our soul. We are, I am, present to the mystery of God in them and in us together as children of God. It may be hard as a Church to say sorry, it should not be, for obvious and grave is the crime. It may be hard for a victim to see the amendment of life and repentance, harder even to trust and believe in the same Church, but the Church is not the same. The pilgrim repents and re-finds the path. Light makes visible the path to salvation individually and as Church. Victims are not the same. The injury remains, scars are there, but they are acknowledged and seen. They teach and call us to be more loving and caring.

What is the magnificence of Mary about? Her prayer is the Magnificat. The magnificence of Mary is that her soul, note soul full of God the Holy Spirit, proclaims the greatness of God the Father, as she is to bear God the Son. The magnificence of Mary Mother of Priests and the Church is that she is humble. In the light of God, she sees her cousin Elizabeth in her old age now pregnant with St. John the Baptist. She is present to her cousin's need, not her own perturbation as a virgin now pregnant and having to explain *that* to St. Joseph. She has no concern about public scandal or her need as pregnant. She in her humility sees her cousin. She is present to the mystery of God in her cousin Elizabeth and goes and visits her for fully three months.

This Sunday the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Maitland-Newcastle seeks to be more humble, more One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic and sees and is present to those hurt by abuse. We see you. Lord help us to see and love more clearly. Today God lets us rejoice and be radiant in Him, to pray for the fire not the ashes, to look to the victims together and say in God's light we see light. Let us be children again, contrite, seeking forgiveness, forgiven and forgiving. In seeing others as God's children, we ourselves become more children of God.

Let us look to the Lord and find new ways to be radiant.

Fr. Graham Fullick (Scone, Murrurundi.)

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 Vigil and Sunday Communion Services will be held at St James Primary School in the School Hall until further notice.

Please keep an eye on your emails for any updates to Service 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 contact the office.

Arrangements while Fr Victor is on Holidays

Fr Victor will be on leave from the 12th September until 15th October. We wish him safe travels.

There will be NO weekday Masses during this time.

We thank Deacon Viane Perez and Fr Graham Fullick for stepping in to help while Fr Victor is away.

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.

Keegan/Wood Family Group

The Keegan/Wood Family Group will be meeting on Monday 16th September for lunch (12noon) at the Commercial Hotel Aberdeen.



Lunch specials are available for \$15, or you are welcome to order from the menu.

Please contact Robyn on 6542 5426 or Margaret on 6543 1238 ASAP if you would like to attend.

Columban Calendar and Daily Mass Book Orders

Anyone who has not yet put their name on the order form and would like to order a Columban Calendar or Dailey Mass Book, please contact the office before Friday 20th September.

Diocese Updates

Police Remembrance Service

This year, Bishop Michael Kennedy is hosting the **National Police Remembrance Service in the Sacred Heart Cathedral on Friday 27 September.**

There will be a police march to the Cathedral beginning at 9.30 and the Service will begin at 10.00am. We encourage as many as possible from across the diocese to gather for this service as an

expression of our support of and prayer for the members of the Police Force and particularly those who have died in the last 12 months. We look forward to seeing you there.

Revelation in the Old Testament

The units from the Christian Formation Course are now being offered as short courses.

Over five weeks we will cover:

- The nature of God revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures
- The different types of literature found in the Hebrew Scriptures
- The cycle of biblical themes: creation, call, covenant, exodus, exile
- The call of the prophet
- Biblical prayer.

When: Tuesdays, 15th October - 12th November.

Time: 6:00pm-9:00pm

Where: Diocesan Resource Centre Cost: \$60

REGISTER HERE:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/christian-formation-course-unit-3-tickets-1003286967327>

Perpetual Day of Remembrance – Sunday 15th September

In the Light of Your Love

God with us,
you have made us in your image,
and filled us with the breath of your divine life.

Through the life of Jesus
you show us the way to live in the light of your love.

Create a clean heart in us O God.

Where people are disempowered
may we shine the light of your justice.

Where there is privilege and prestige
may we shine the light of your humility.

Where there is dishonesty and denial
may we shine the light of your truth.

Where transparency is lacking, and agendas are
hidden,

may we shine the light of your integrity.

Where there is fear
may we shine the light of your courage.

Where there is judgement
may we shine the light of your compassion.

Where there is disrespect
may we shine the light of your love.

Where people feel silenced
may we shine the light of your word.

Where people feel excluded
may we shine the light of your acceptance.

Where there is sin
may we shine the light of your forgiveness.

Create a clean heart in us O God.

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Mass Diary

MONDAY 16 September	TUESDAY 17 September	WEDNESDAY 18 September	THURSDAY 19 September	FRIDAY 20 September	SATURDAY 21 September	SUNDAY 22 September
						25 th Sunday Ordinary Time
<u>NO MASS</u>					5.30pm Communion Service St James Primary School Hall Muswellbrook	10.00am Communion Service St James Primary School Hall Muswellbrook
						7.30am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 22nd September

4th Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	M.Flanagan M. Carter	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			R. Panis	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	S. Milton	K. Mason	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	M.Medhurst B. Powell	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		Jane & 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, David Curran, Beate Shanahan, Rochelle Ashman and Benito Bicol.

Recently Deceased: Maurie Hyde

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

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 (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.”