

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 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

22ND September 2024

Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

First Reading

[Wisdom 2:12, 17-20](#)

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Let us condemn him to a most shameful death.

The godless say to themselves,

‘Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.

Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.

If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.

Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof.

Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.’

The Word of the Lord.

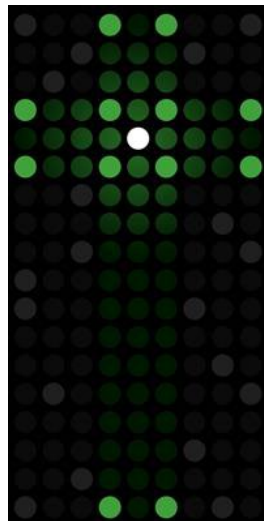
Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 53:3-6. 8. R. v.6](#)

(R.) The Lord upholds my life.

1. O God, save me by your name;
by your power, uphold my cause.
O God, hear my prayers;
listen to the words of my mouth. (R.)

2. For proud men have risen against me,
ruthless men seek my life.
They have no regard for God. (R.)



3. But I have God for my help.

The Lord upholds my life.

I will sacrifice to you with willing heart
and praise your name for it is good. (R.)

Second Reading

[James 3:16 – 4:3](#)

A reading from the letter of St James

Justice is the harvest of peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace.

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

[See 2 Thessalonians 2:14](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Gospel

[Mark 9:30-37](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of humanity ... All who wish to be first must make themselves the servants of all.

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to

death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Psalm 118:4-5

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Fr Graham Reflection.

Homilette Mk 9 30 37 Reflection Who is the Greatest?

It would seem that the key to this passage of the Good News of St. Mark lies in the words of Christ "If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all". In taking the child, our Lord compare those who seek power and position of importance with those who understand love. It is not so much the lovableness or the cuddliness of children He wants us to imitate, but rather the innocence, the powerlessness and the vulnerability of children.

True parental love is repetitive, unconditional, selfless and often irrational. The apostles were caught up by ambition.

The Lord cannot send out apostles like that as they are disciples of ego of self, not disciples of the "Ego sum" the I AM Eternal God of peace and joy, even in suffering and encountering the worldliness of others. God is other-world. In Jesus He comes into this world and wants to draw us into His world not of naivety, but the Wisdom Who knows what truly matters in this world. Jesus is the Wisdom and Revelation of the Father's Love given to us on the Cross and in the Mass living, through the Holy Spirit. Like the Lord, we are to be in this world, but not "of" this world. The apostles were allowing themselves to be mastered by the ambitious glamour of this world which lasts no time. Our answer to who is the greatest must be "God is the greatest". As a child looks to a parent and sees that too—or should be able to see that in parents who are the domestic "home" Church. The Church that Christ had in mind, is one which seeks to grow through conviction of its members, one which is led by example, one which listens especially to those who have experience, and one which teaches as well to seek the power only to love with the Lord's love. If we acknowledge that God is the Greatest and we are just specks of dust and will

return to dust without His glorification we are getting a proper understanding of the glorious call which when answered makes us tower in heaven above, certainly not on earth below. As we become more His children we know also "God is Good—all the time!"
GCF

Parish Updates

Parish Office Hours

Please be advised the Parish Office will be CLOSED on Tuesday 24th September for Tracey to attend a meeting.

St James Church Service Details

St James Church remains CLOSED.

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

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Arrangements while Fr Victor is on Holidays

Fr Victor is on leave until 15th October.

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 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 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 on 6545 1550 or 0477 720 270.

Cuppa after Mass at St Thomas

You are invited to stay after Mass this Sunday, 22nd September for a cuppa at St Thomas Church Aberdeen.

This month's organisers are Marg and Carol.



Volunteer Needed

We are in need of a Sacristan for 10am Mass on Sundays. If you are interested, please contact the office.

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.

Advent 2024: Awaiting Hope

We are called during this holy time to wait with hope knowing the joys of what is to come with the arrival of Christ. Awaiting Hope is a Diocesan resource that invites all members of the community to gather a circle of people – family, friends, colleagues, ministry teams to reflect mystagogically on the Advent Gospels. This is an opportunity to encounter Christ where we are, to pay attention to what Christ reveals in the scripture and the living tradition of our faith, to share this, to connect it to our life now and to be changed by it.

To access the resource, go to: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/liturgy/liturgical-year/advent-christmas-1/>

2024 Rosary Rally – The Public Rosary

Join us as we pray for our nation. The Public Rosary is an international campaign to pray the rosary together in commemoration of the last apparition of Our Lady (13 October 1917) at Fatima. It is a great opportunity for prayer groups and communities to join together in public prayer. In 2023, there were 180 groups registered to pray the Rosary throughout Australia. Everyone is invited. <https://fatima.org.au/public-rosary/>

When 11:30AM start on Saturday 12 October 2024 Where: Ken Lambkin Reserve Pacific Highway Belmont South Enquiries: Joan 0476 636 750 BYO picnic afterwards. (BBQ facility available)



Members of St James Parish warmly welcomed Deacon Viane and his wife, Effie, to Muswellbrook last weekend. Those who attended the Communion Services were enriched by Deacon Viane's introduction to life as a Deacon, his family and his background in NSW working as a Chaplain in the Prison System.

Deacon Viane will be celebrating a Communion Service at the Vigil, 5.30pm Saturday Evening and Sunday, 10am and looks forward to meeting more of our Parish over the next four weeks.

For those who have not had opportunity to attend a Communion Service the following might be of interest: Meet the Communion Service

A Communion service looks very much like a Mass but is presided over by a deacon or layperson rather than a priest, because it does not have a moment of consecration, which only the priest can perform. At a Communion service, you will not hear the words, "This is my body. ... This is my blood. ..." Instead, the deacon or layperson distributes hosts that have been consecrated at a Mass, then stored in the tabernacle until needed.

The Communion service begins with a liturgy of the Word that is almost exactly like that at a Mass. Songs are sung, prayers are recited, Scriptures are read, and a sermon is given. Those paying attention will notice slight differences, such as the absence of references to "sacrifice," because a Communion service is not a sacrifice as the Mass is.

The noticeable changes begin after the general intercessions (aka prayers of the faithful). There is no presentation of gifts (what Catholics used to call the offertory) nor is there the Eucharistic prayer, which includes the consecration of the gifts. Instead, after the general intercessions, the presider and the community recite the Lord's Prayer, exchange the sign of peace, and then receive Communion. There can be songs at the appropriate times plus a final prayer, blessing and dismissal.

We still need to have our Volunteers including our Readers, Musicians – pianist and singers, Collections. Look forward to seeing you next weekend at St James Primary School Hall.

Mass Diary

MONDAY 23 September	TUESDAY 24 September	WEDNESDAY 25 September	THURSDAY 26 September	FRIDAY 27 September	SATURDAY 28 September	SUNDAY 29 September
St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest				St Vincent de Paul, Priest		26 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 29th September

5th Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	Jasminda R. Ross	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			R. Panis	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	M. Brown	C. Wykes	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	T. Furlong B. Powell	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		Kay & Brian Mason	Stella Liam Cyrus	Volunteer Needed

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: Francis Michael Dolahenty

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.”