

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au)

Parish Administration: Mrs Tracey Marsden

Email: [muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

Website: [muswellbrookparish.org.au](http://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 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B**

**6<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

**Cf Esther 4:17**

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will.

For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

### **First Reading**

**Genesis 2:18-24**

A reading from the book of Genesis

*They were two in one flesh.*

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them, each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh!

for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

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

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 127. R. v.5**

(R.) May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!



By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. (R.)

2. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. (R.)

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life! May you see your children's children. On Israel, peace! (R.)

### **Second Reading**

**Hebrews 2:9-11**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*He who sanctifies, and those who are sanctified have one origin.*

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

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

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**cf 1 John 4:12**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
If we love one another,  
God will live in us in perfect love.  
Alleluia!

### **Gospel**

**Mark 10:2-16**

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

*What God has joined together, no one must divide.*

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

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

#### **Communion Antiphon**

Lam 3:25

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,  
to the soul that seeks him.

#### **Homilette Mk 10 2 16 What God has United man must not Separate 031024**

My dear deceased mother was an adult convert from the Church of England, along with four other members of my immediate family before and after her. One of the things she said of the "sectarian era" in which she grew up and subsequently of the "contraceptive pill era" (her words in both cases) was that "people are jealous of the Catholic Church because it speaks with the authority of Christ; its prestige is its truthfulness". This message about adultery is from Jesus Himself. Mum was speaking to me when I was in my twenties. Mum had converted at the age of 20. At that point of speaking, mum and dad had been married over 30 years. She was speaking of the Church's sexual morality when she and dad were in their 30's and 40's as young parents. (They had married both aged 21.) It had taken them almost 11 years to conceive undiagnosed twins. Her observation was that people embracing artificial contraception had put an end to fidelity in marriage and had assaulted God's plan of freedom AND responsibility and the reciprocal self-donation—what marriage was itself. Or at least the Christian understanding of marriage from Christ Himself in today's Gospel. I consider this conversation with my mother in as one of her most astute observations, given I recall it over 30 years later. To her, the observations were almost trite, throw-away remarks as she had lived through these eras and could stand

back from them now and name them plainly. At the time I was talking about my girlfriend and good Catholic women. The same applies for women seeking good Catholic men.

There is a difference between being married and unmarried and having children in both situations. I hear it and see it in my own friends and relatives. Children in a sacramental marriage are the consummation of marriage, the type(-ology) of a human holy communion from the husband and wife ministering God's love to each other. The two become one flesh and they are given in God by God in matrimony and create in God and in service of each other a sacrificial sacrament which becomes a "spiritual nest" for their children. Just as there is a difference between being ordained and un-ordained. The difference is "for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health; so long as we both shall live." But it is more than that for a pagan contract of marriage celebrated by a state-appointed civil celebrant can use those words, while at the same time allowing for divorce and remarriage on demand (after a 12 month wait) and/or with cohabitation in the meantime. As my law lecturer (a retired Family Court founding Judge) said wryly at the time: "moderate polygamy"!

Artificial contraception is self-deception, not even getting to know your natural self as God intended, let alone your (putative) spouse. Civil "marriage" is the contraception of marriage itself, a slap in the face of God that endures a lifetime, the very time God has given us to remain in His love. Or pretend so. God created marriage as a covenant (one of the 7 sacraments in the economy of salvation), a living sign of truly loving relationship, continual encounter with the living God vivifying the spiritual life of the spouses as this sacrament is worked out as long as they both shall live in God and each other. God is Love, proper, full love. What dignity of consortium with the Lord and for the children is the out-working of sacramental covenant love. A civil contract can be converted into a sacramental marriage and the grace of God backdated to the date of the civil "marriage," dignifying the choice of the spouses back then and fortifying that.

seed of commitment with the eternal commitment of the Lamb of God who marries earth to heaven and heaven to earth in Jesus. Jesus wants His love to cover all. His first miracle was at the wedding feast of Cana changing water into wine. This last miracle of the new and eternal covenant in His love was and is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb of God: The Mass to us the Church His bride. He shed His blood in His body to incorporate us into His spiritual nest, the Church. Let us not adulterate that Holy Communion with the ego of pride. In forgiveness let us reconcile to the living God. Pope St. John-Paul II said, "The sacramental married love of a husband and wife is an icon of the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit being the overflowing love of Father and Son.



## Parish Updates

### Muswellbrook Parish Office Hours

Day	Date	Hours
Tuesday	8 <sup>th</sup> October	CLOSED
Wednesday	9 <sup>th</sup> October	9am – 3pm
Thursday	10 <sup>th</sup> October	9am – 3pm
Friday	11 <sup>th</sup> October	9am – 3pm

### Arrangements while Fr Victor is on Holidays

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

There are **NO** weekday Masses at the moment.

### 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

#### St James Church remains CLOSED.

Reverend Deacon Viane will offer a Communion Service in St James Primary School Hall Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October and in the Convent Chapel on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 10am.

### Details for Emergencies

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



Don't forget to change your clocks this weekend!

## Diocese Notices

### Hunter Men's Rosary Crusade

On the first Saturday of every month, you are welcome to join the Hunter Men's Rosary Crusade at 10.30am at SacredHeart Cathedral. The group meets after the 9.15am Mass and Novena, and Reconciliation is offered too.

### Scone Parish Secretary

Scone Parish is seeking a Parish Secretary, 14 hours per week. Hours are flexible and can be worked across Tuesday to Friday. To apply, find the vacancy advertised on the Diocese website under Careers: [www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/careers/positions](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/careers/positions) We encourage anyone across the Diocese who is interested in the role to apply. Please contact Fr Graham Fullick for any further information about the role on (02) 6545 9911 or 0477 720 270.

Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at [www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream)



## COMMUNION SERVICE CHANGES

Saturday 6th October - **NO SERVICE**  
Sunday 7th October - 10am St James School

Saturday 12th October - **NO SERVICE**  
Sunday 13th October - 10am Convent Chapel

St Thomas will continue with  
7.30am Mass on Sundays.



**Mass Diary**

<b>MONDAY</b> 7 October	<b>TUESDAY</b> 8 October	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 9 October	<b>THURSDAY</b> 10 October	<b>FRIDAY</b> 11 October	<b>SATURDAY</b> 12 October	<b>SUNDAY</b> 13 October
Our Lady of the Rosary						28th Sunday Ordinary Time
<b><u>NO MASS</u></b>						10.00am <b>Communion Service</b> The Covent Chapel Muswellbrook
						7.30am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

**Minister Roster Sunday 13th October**

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Month</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Cantors</b>	<b>Musician</b>	<b>Gifts</b>	<b>Counters</b>	<b>Altar Server</b>	<b>Sacristan</b>
<b>5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook</b>							
<b>7.30am Sunday Aberdeen</b>	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	K. Mason				M. Hamilton
<b>10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook</b>	G. Griffin 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:**

**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.”**