



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.

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FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT – YEAR C

1ST December 2024

First Candle

Advent is here, and the wait for the birth of the Christ has begun

As we light the first candle, we are reminded of God's promise of a Saviour.

All: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise, I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." (Jeremiah 33:14-16) *God's promise of hope is for all people; together, we anticipate the day of his coming.*

All: Holy God, you have promised to bring salvation and justice to your creation. As we wait for the arrival of the Saviour, may we live as those who have already been saved by your grace – and may we share that grace with others. **Amen.**



Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the
land.

In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.
And this is the name the city will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**

2. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**
3. His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere
him;
to them he reveals his covenant. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.



Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

Communion Antiphon

Psalm 84:13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Fr Victor's Reflection

As the seasons change, so too does the liturgical life of the church. This Sunday, we begin a new liturgical year with the Sacred Season of Advent. Hopefully we will notice these changes around us, especially in our churches. The first candle on the Advent Wreath is lit; the altar and sanctuary are decorated with the colour purple. Even the nature around us is filled with the purple flowers from the jacaranda trees. To what are our senses and attention been drawn?

The first of the Advent Sundays offers us a message of encouragement and hope; 'Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.' While all the lights and decorations in the shops and the advertisements on television cry out for our attention, the small, single and still candle on our Advent Wreath offers us something else. It silently and calmly draws our attention to the deeper and richer meaning of these next four weeks of prayerful preparation.

The shops tell us to move faster, stay busy and spend more money on those 'must have' gifts so

we can have the 'perfect' Christmas. The prayers, hymns, readings and sacred symbols of Advent gently whisper another message; slow down, watch, pray and wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Here's the great thing – we can do both! We can shop and get ready to celebrate Christmas with our families and friends. But we should also make prayer and silence a part of these preparations.

Our gospel this Sunday asks and challenges us to stay awake at all times and pray. So, as we go about our buying, shopping and cleaning we are also called to prepare a way for the Lord and stay awake and pray. Why? We are asked to stay awake, so that we don't miss anything of what we are going to see, hear and experience over these four Sacred weeks of Advent.

Advent is offered to us as a time of renewal and refreshment so that we can meet God anew. God who loves us so much gives us his only Son, Jesus Christ. How sad it would be if, in all our activities and business, we actually missed what these weeks of Advent are truly about. Advent is about God coming to meet us.

Let us pray with and for each other as we begin our Advent Journey – that God will be with us to encourage, guide and lead us as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

May this Advent transform our lives so that we become completely faithful in the following our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Parish Updates

Simbang Gabi Novena

Parishioners are invited to celebrate the Simbang Gabi Novena from Sunday 15th December to Monday 23rd December.

Saturday and Sundays will be normal Mass times. Monday to Friday will be 6.30pm in the Convent.

A light meal is taken after the Mass. If those attending could please bring a small plate to share after Mass each evening at the Convent.

Mass Readers Reminder

Please make sure you are attending Mass when it is your turn to read so our Masses can run smoothly. Thank you for your cooperation.

	Saturday 30/11	Sunday 1/12
Muswellbrook	Jasminda	R. Ross J Grenfell
Aberdeen		T. Hobbs

Parish Christmas Dinner

Where - Aberdeen Sport & Rec Club

When - Wednesday, 18th December

Limited bus transport available from St James Church.
Bookings required when purchasing ticket.

Tickets - \$25 pp Cash only please.

Tickets will be available after
weekend Masses on 30/11, 1/12,
7/12 and 8/12.

Tickets MUST be pre purchased before
10th December.



**Tickets for the Christmas dinner are also
available from the parish office.

Diocese Updates

25th Annual Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning

Please join Bishop Michael Kennedy and the
Federation of P&F Associations for the 25th Annual
Mass Celebrating Diverse Learning. The Mass will be
a celebration of inclusion and diversity, where
everyone's unique and God-given gifts will be
acknowledged. After Mass, you are invited to stay for
supper, where you will have the opportunity to
connect with friends, old and new. Mass will be
celebrated to ensure everyone feels welcome,
including if that means there is wriggling and noise
amongst the pews!

Tuesday 3 December, 5pm

Sacred Heart Cathedral

Supper will follow at 6pm

Christmas Appeal

This Christmas, families like Sakhina's are facing the
devastating risk of disease due to a severe lack of
clean water and proper sanitation in the world's
largest refugee camp.

But with your support, we can bring hope to these
families. As part of the second-largest humanitarian
network in the world, Caritas Australia and our
partner Caritas Bangladesh are on the ground, ready
to act. Together, we can improve access to clean
water, provide better sanitation, and help reduce the
spread of deadly waterborne diseases this
Christmas.

Donate today at caritas.org.au/christmas

Caritas
AUSTRALIA

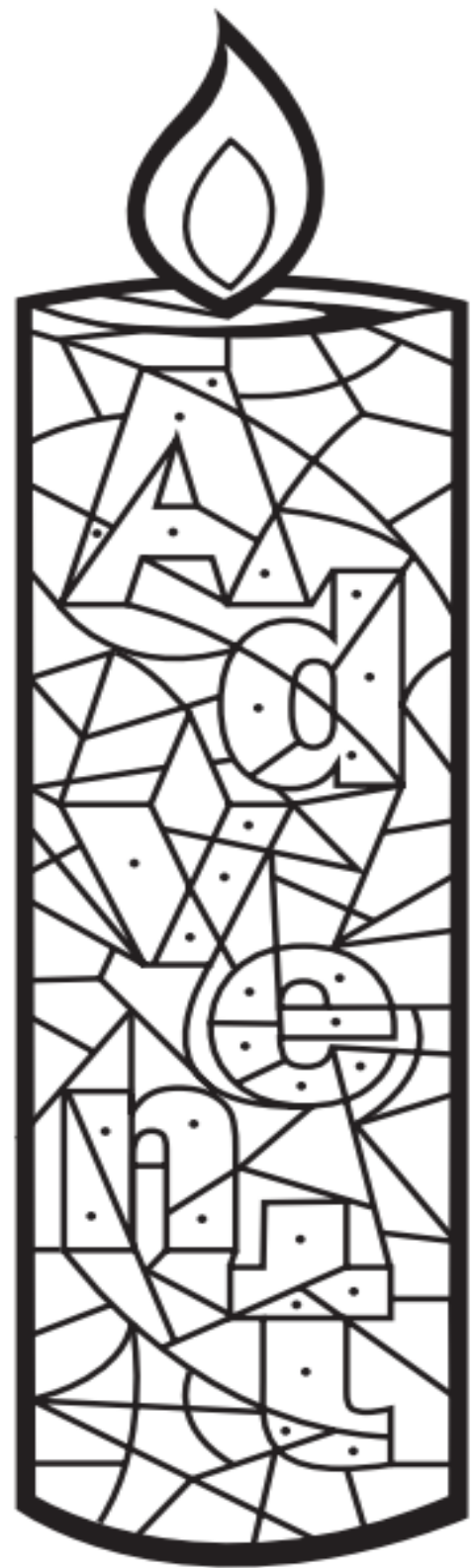
**READY
RESPOND
RECOVER**

Help shine a
light on
refugee mothers
this Christmas.

Donate today!

www.caritas.org.au/Christmas

Photo: Caritas Australia



**Colour the shapes that
contain dots purple.**

**Fill the other shapes
with different colours.**



Mass Diary

MONDAY 2 December	TUESDAY 3 December	WEDNESDAY 4 December	THURSDAY 5 December	FRIDAY 6 December	SATURDAY 7 December	SUNDAY 8 December
	St Francis Xavier					2 nd Sunday of Advent
		9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	11.30am Adoration & Benediction 12.05pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.30am St James Primary School Muswellbrook Mass	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook 5.30pm Vigil Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	5.00pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 8th December

2 nd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Sr. Dorothy	J. Toohey R. Wood		Ryan	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		J & S Thatcher	Stella Liam	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:

Anniversary:

Baptism: Tate Mark Rick Madden, Zachary Andrew Grady, Flynn William Barnett.

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.”