



# 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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St James Primary School

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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 31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B**

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024**

### Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 37:22-23

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;  
be not far from me!  
Make haste and come to my help,  
O Lord, my strong salvation!

### First Reading

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

*Hear Israel, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.*

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

### **The Word of the Lord.**

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R.v.2

**(R.)** I love you Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.  
The Lord is worthy of all praise:  
when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**

2. Long life to the Lord,  
my rock!  
Praised be to the  
God that saves  
me.  
He has given great  
victories to his  
king  
and shown love for  
his  
anointed. **(R.)**



### Second Reading

Hebrews 7:23-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*This one, because he remains for ever, has an eternal priesthood.*

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

### **The Word of the Lord.**

### Gospel Acclamation

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

Mark 12:28-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.*

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well

spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.’ Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’ And after that no one dared to question him any more.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Communion Antiphon**

**Cf Psalm 15:11**

You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

**Fr Victor’s Reflection**

We all know from Exodus 20 that God gave ten commandments. But the Jewish religious authorities broke down these into about 613 rules. There were rules everywhere for almost everything. The man in the Gospel on 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday, wanted Jesus Christ to give a summary of them all and there could not have been a better summary than the one Jesus gave using the love of God and love of neighbour as the parameter. Obviously, every worthwhile rule has basis on the love of God and neighbour. In other words, our duties to God and our duties to our fellow human beings.

Love strictly seen is the seed of every good thing. Love is the reason why Jesus Christ came into the world (Jn 3:16), love is the reason why he preached and worked miracles (Matt. 9:36; Mark 6:34). Love is the reason why he went to the cross to die (Rom 5:8). Love is the reason for our salvation. Love answers all questions! Love is the only thing that can decide our fate after leaving this world. Love is a seed which every right-thinking Christian must always sow.

Our Lord Jesus Christ gave us the two-dimensional expression of love: to God and to our fellow human beings. In any case it will be pertinent to examine how we can achieve these. The love of God is not achieved by saying it: “I love God”. It begins first from knowledge of God. In our Catechism when answering why God made us, we begin by saying that: “He made us to know Him, love Him, and serve Him...” It is very clear and undisputable that you cannot love what you do not know! That could be fantasy, lust or infatuation. From knowledge and communication, you connect to others. That is the due process to love. Love seeks to express itself in selfless giving; an example is what our Lord Jesus Christ did for us. A selfish person cannot love effectively because his/her self-interest will always block the way to reaching out to others.

To love is not optional as most of us think. It is a commandment which carries a lot of consequences. In John (13:34) our Lord Jesus Christ said: “I give you a new commandment Love one another as I have loved you”. It also identifies who we are: “If you love one another everyone will know that you are my disciple” (John 13:35). Love is not based on conditions or conveniences. For some people their love is seasonal: the season of abundance, when things are going fine. The litmus test for love is at critical times like the situation Shadrach, Meshach

and Abednego had while being marched to the burning furnace. (Dan 3:16-18)

Today our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the assignment to examine our love quotient. Do we love by mouth, by writings and text messages or do we practice and actualize love by our selflessness!

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

**Parish Updates**

**Parish Youth Mass**

There will be a Parish Youth Mass held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 5.30pm at St James School Hall.

Following the Mass, students are invited to stay for fellowship, a movie and pizza which will be provided by the parish. (Please note pizza will **only** be provided for students).

**Mass Locations**

Unfortunately, we still are unable to use St James Church.

Weekday Masses, including Saturday morning will be held in the Convent Chapel. Saturday evening Vigil and Sunday morning Mass will continue to be held at St James Primary School Hall.

**Blessing of Graves**

If you would like Fr Victor to Bless the grave of a loved one, please contact him or email the office during November.

**Columban Calendar & Daily Mass Books**

We still have some calendars and Mass books in the office.

If you would like to purchase either of these please contact the office.

Mass Books - \$30, Calendars - \$12.

**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.

|                     | <b>Saturday 2/11</b> | <b>Sunday 3/11</b>     |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Muswellbrook</b> | Jasminda             | R. Ross<br>J. Grenfell |
| <b>Aberdeen</b>     |                      | T. Hobbs               |

**Diocese Updates**

**CatholicCare Christmas Hampers**

CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning have started collected donations for their 2024 Christmas Hamper Drive. The team is hoping to spread Christmas cheer by gifting hampers to people who access their Community Kitchens and often go without over the festive period. If you would like to contribute, please drop off any of the following items to one of the listed locations below.

- Christmas puddings/cake & custard - Chocolates, lollies or candy canes, biscuits, Chips or popcorn
  - Tea bags, coffee, hot chocolate, sugar
- CatholicCare office – 50 Crebert Street, Mayfield  
CatholicCare office – 32-34 Pulteney Street, Taree | Coles Taree | Coles Stockland Forster

## **Annual Thanksgiving Mass and Luncheon**

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Women's League will be hosting the Annual Mass of Thanksgiving on Thursday, 14 November at St. Paul's Church, Rutherford at 12pm. The luncheon will follow at Telarah Bowling Club on Clarke St, Telarah at 1.00pm.

Lunch is \$40.00 per person (we can cater for dietary requirements, let us know when you book in).

### **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Please RSVP for the luncheon to either of the contacts below by Wednesday 6 November. Payment for the lunch will also be required before the event date. Please contact Colleen ph. 0427 327 611 or [ccanny4@bigpond.com](mailto:ccanny4@bigpond.com) or Margo ph. 0439 758 211 or [bjmnan4@bigpond.com](mailto:bjmnan4@bigpond.com)



## **LEBANON CRISIS APPEAL**

Communities are being devastated by conflict and economic instability.

Please help provide families with food, water, and medical care.

**DONATE NOW**

[caritas.org.au/lebanon](https://caritas.org.au/lebanon)

1800 024 413



Photo: Caritas Lebanon



The Most Reverend Michael Kennedy  
and the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle cordially invites

Parishioners of the Diocese

to the priesthood ordination of

**Dcn Omeiza Solomon Okovido**

by

**Most Reverend Michael Kennedy**

on Saturday, 23 November 2024 at 10am

in Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West

(Refreshments will be served in the Southern Cross Hall, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West following the ceremony)

&

**Mass of Thanksgiving**

To be held on Sunday, 24 November 2024 at 11am

In St Francis Xavier Church, 40 Ernest St, Belmont



On behalf of the Church in Mongolia, and people like Chuluunbaatar, we would like to again thank you for your generosity.

**Your gift is already working towards programs like the House of Mercy, which will support people that have been affected by a range of issues, such as homelessness and domestic violence.**

To learn more about the impact your support is making, please visit [catholicmission.org.au/our-work](https://catholicmission.org.au/our-work). Here, you can also sign up to our regular newsletter to keep up to date with the latest news.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please do so at [catholicmission.org.au/mongolia](https://catholicmission.org.au/mongolia). Your action will make a positive impact for many around the world.



Freecall: 1800 257 296

[catholicmission.org.au/mongolia](https://catholicmission.org.au/mongolia)

SCAN ME



## Mass Diary

| MONDAY<br>4 November | TUESDAY<br>5 November                       | WEDNESDAY<br>6 November                                | THURSDAY<br>7 November   | FRIDAY<br>8 November                                  | SATURDAY<br>9 November   | SUNDAY<br>10 November                                       |
|----------------------|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| St Charles Borromeo  |   |  |  |   | Dedication of the Lateran Basilica   | 32nd Sunday Ordinary Time                                   |
|                      |   | 9.00am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James Convent Muswellbrook | 11.30am<br><b>Adoration &amp; Benediction</b><br>St James Convent<br><br>12.05pm<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James Convent Muswellbrook | 9.00am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James Covent Muswellbrook | 9.00am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James Convent Muswellbrook<br><br>5.30pm<br><b>Vigil Mass</b><br>St James School Hall Muswellbrook | 10.00am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James School Hall Muswellbrook |
|                      | 5.00pm<br><b>Mass</b><br>St Thomas Aberdeen |  |  |   |  | 8.00am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St Thomas Aberdeen                 |

## Minister Roster Sunday 10th November

| 2nd Sunday of Month                | Readers                 | Cantors    | Musician    | Gifts                | Counters                | Altar Server            | Sacristan               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5.30pm<br>Saturday<br>Muswellbrook | J. O'Brien              | F. O'Brien | Sr. Dorothy | J. Toohey<br>R. Wood |                         | Ryan                    | C. Hayes                |
| 8.00am<br>Sunday<br>Aberdeen       | J. Dallah               | T. Hobbs   | K. Mason    |                      |                         |                         | M. Hamilton             |
| 10.00am<br>Sunday<br>Muswellbrook  | G. Griffin<br>B. Powell | M. Kelly   | C. Kelly    |                      | Jane & Stephen Thatcher | Stella<br>Liam<br>Cyrus | <b>Volunteer Needed</b> |

### 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:** Ray Gutierrez and Elsa Panis

**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.”**