



# 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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Safeguarding Promotor: Jane Jacobs

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT – YEAR C**

**8th December 2024**

## Second Candle

**Our Advent journey continues as we get ready to meet the promised Lord.**

*As we light the second candle, we are reminded that we must prepare our hearts and minds.*

**Priest:** See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight — indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord

in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. (Malachi 3:1-4) *God prepares the way for all to be saved; together we anticipate the day of his coming.*

**All:** Lord of hosts, you are coming to purify our hearts and refine us so that we may be pleasing, living offerings to you. As we prepare ourselves for the arrival of the Christ, may we bring honour and glory to your name – and may we prepare the way for others to meet you. **Amen.**



## Entrance Antiphon

**Cf Isaiah 30:19,30**

O people of Sion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard  
in the joy of your heart.

## First Reading

**Baruch 5:1-9**

A reading from the prophet Baruch

**Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.**

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,  
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,  
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,  
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:  
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,  
since the name God gives you for ever will be,  
'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.  
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights  
and turn your eyes to the east:  
see your sons reassembled  
from west and east  
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God  
has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot,  
with enemies for an escort,  
now God brings them back to you  
like royal princes carried back in glory.  
For God has decreed the flattening  
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,  
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level  
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of  
God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide  
shade  
for Israel at the command of God;  
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory  
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

## The Word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 125. R. v.3**

**(R.)** The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**



2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. (R.)

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. (R.)

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. (R.)

### **Second Reading**

**Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

**Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.**

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

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

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Luke 3:4. 6**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

#### **Gospel**

**Luke 3:1-6**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**All people shall see the salvation of God.**

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley will be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
winding ways will be straightened

and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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

#### **Communion Antiphon**

**Baruch 5:5; 4:36**

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

#### **Fr Victor's Reflection**

There is something beautiful about all the lights that we now see around us in the streets and shop windows. As they shine and sparkle, they are trying to catch our eye and get our attention. In our gospel this Sunday, John the Baptist is trying to do the very same thing; he too is trying to get our attention because he has a message for us as we take another step on our Advent journey.

John comes as a messenger in the wilderness not just with any news, but with 'good news' for all to hear. He comes to us with a message of hope. John tells us that someone (Jesus) is coming and that he is far more powerful than John. John reminds us today as he did in the desert that God has not forgotten us or the promise that was made to generations before us; Jesus the Messiah is coming. Jesus is coming not just into our world, but into our homes, lives and our very hearts. This most definitely is 'good news.'

John came with a new message in a new place. Normally people went to the temple or the synagogue to hear the word of God. But John is in neither of these places. He appeared and spoke in the wilderness of the desert. Through John, God is proclaiming a new message in a new way.

What is this new thing God is doing? Through the words and actions of Jesus, God breaks into our world and lives in a new, life-giving and personal way. Our God is God of surprises and God's ways are not our ways.

John asks us to 'prepare a way for the Lord and make his paths straight.' What does it mean for us today? When the people heard John speak, 'they were baptised and confessed their sins.' An important aspect of our Advent journey and preparation is acknowledging that there are parts of our lives that need straightening! Perhaps one way we could prepare away for the Lord during these weeks of Advent is to consider celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation. As we focus our attention on so many other things during the lead up to Christmas, let us not forget to prepare a place in our hearts to welcome Jesus.

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



## Parish Updates

This weekend is the last chance to grab your tickets!

### 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.



### 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 7/12</b>	<b>Sunday 8/12</b>
<b>Muswellbrook</b>	Jasminda	G. Griffin B. Powell
<b>Aberdeen</b>		J. Dallah

## Join the Ministry of Special Religious Education

Are you passionate about making a difference in the lives of young people? Do you have a heart for teaching and sharing your faith? The Ministry of Special Religious Education is looking for dedicated individuals to join our team!



### Who we are looking for:

- Individuals with a strong faith & desire to teach
- Those who are patient, compassionate & enthusiastic
- People who can commit to regular teaching sessions

### How to Get Involved:

- [Visit our website](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/childrens-ministries/sre-scripture/) - <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/childrens-ministries/sre-scripture/>
- [Contact us](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au) - [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au)

For more information please contact  
[Nicola.graham@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:Nicola.graham@mn.catholic.org.au)



## Advent Reconciliation

"Prepare the way for the Lord"

**The Parishes of Scone, Murrurundi &  
St. James (MBK & Aberdeen)**

together invite you for a day of Reflection &  
Reconciliation .

Place: St. Thomas Church, Aberdeen  
Date: Saturday 21st December 2024.  
9.30am - Mass  
10.00am - Reflection Talk by Fr. James Odoh  
11.00am - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
Confessions available until 1.00pm  
1.00pm - Benediction  
B.Y.O. lunch.

It's a great opportunity to prepare ourselves to  
celebrate Christmas meaningfully.

\* Please join us to prepare the way for the Lord.

**Fr. Graham Fullick PP**      **Fr. Victor Babu PP**





**Help shine a  
light on  
refugee mothers  
this Christmas.**

**Donate today!**

[www.caritas.org.au/Christmas](http://www.caritas.org.au/Christmas)

### 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](http://caritas.org.au/christmas)



### Mass Diary

MONDAY 9 December	TUESDAY 10 December	WEDNESDAY 11 December	THURSDAY 12 December	FRIDAY 13 December	SATURDAY 14 December	SUNDAY 15 December
Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary					St John of the Cross	3rd Sunday of Advent
<u>5.30pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook		<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>11.30am</u> <b>Adoration &amp; Benediction</b>  <u>12.05pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  <u>5.30pm</u> <b>Vigil Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>10.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	<u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

### Minister Roster Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December

3rd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
<b>5.30pm</b> <b>Saturday</b> <b>Muswellbrook</b>	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	J. Toohey		Ryan	C. Hayes
<b>8.00am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Aberdeen</b>	K. Mason	M. Edwards	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
<b>10.00am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Muswellbrook</b>	C. Lumaban T. Furlong	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		T & J Bristow	Stella Liam	<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:**

**Anniversary:** Dulcie and Frank McTaggart

**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.”**