



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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT – YEAR C

15th December 2024

Third Candle

The Advent of our Lord is near, as we make God's love known in our world.

As we light the third candle, we are encouraged to proclaim the good news of God's gift of salvation.

Priest: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be

known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 12:2-6) *God's proclamation of joy is for all people; together we anticipate the day of his coming.*

All: Holy One, you are the only true source of our strength and salvation.

As we proclaim the good news of the coming birth of Christ, may we dare to worship you with joy – and may we invite others to experience the joy of your salvation. **Amen.**



Entrance Antiphon

Philippians 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear,

do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior.

He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love;

he will dance with shouts of joy for you

as on a day of festival.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **(R.)**

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!

Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!

Declare the greatness of his name. **(R.)**

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord

for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth!

People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **(R.)**



Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf Isaiah 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Fr Victor's Reflection

The third Sunday of Advent, popularly known as "*Gaudete Sunday*." The term Gaudete simply means "to rejoice." As we come closer to Christmas, the church encourages us to rejoice because God is about to fulfill his promise to us. However, this does not mean we have come to the end of the Advent season.

Instead, it is a way of urging us to be more focused and courageous. It is also a way of assuring us that our preparations shall soon be rewarded. All our readings this Sunday, exalt us to be happy, and joyful as we wait for the Lord's coming. The first reading calls us to shout for joy! The reason is simple! Our Lord is coming with lots of good packages like justice, liberation, and peace. Above all, he is ready to visit us personally if we dispose of ourselves well.

Paul the apostle understood this very well and so he insists: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice." The joy that Paul speaks of here is not that which comes from mere fantasy or from the material wealth of this world. Rather, it is a very profound sentiment that proceeds from a very strong faith in God. It is a true joy that sprouts from God's promises. It is that joy that comes with peace and strengthens the soul. It is the joy of our salvation and a gift from God.

In the Gospel, after preaching the good news of repentance, John the Baptist provoked a great yearning for change in his listeners. We must ask the same question that the people asked John the Baptist: "What must we do?" This was the same question of the people to Peter after his preaching on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2: 39-41).

For our joy to be complete, we must be charitable, forgiving, just, and be modest in our actions. Also, we have to seek reconciliation and live in peace with one another. Above all, we must shun all the acts that are capable of making life difficult for others.

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

Parish Updates

Parish Office Hours Change

The Parish office hours will be slightly different for next week. Please feel free to email the office at anytime and I will get back to you A.S.A.P.

Day	Date	Time
Tuesday	17/12/24	8.00am – 3.00pm
Wednesday	18/12/24	8.00am – 12 noon
Friday	20/12/24	8.30am – 3.00pm

Please note - The office will close next Friday, 20th December at 3pm for 2 weeks, and reopens on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Simbang Gabi Novena

Parishioners are invited to celebrate the Simbang Gabi Novena from Sunday 15th December to Monday 23rd December. Saturday and Sunday Masses will be held at the normal 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 14/12	Sunday 15/12
Muswellbrook	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Lumaban T. Furlong
Aberdeen		K. Mason



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**

Diocese Updates

Job opportunities at the Diocese

Are you enthusiastic, passionate and looking for a career change?

You should join our new Mission & Evangelisation team.

Formally known as Pastoral Ministries, the team's new permanent, full-time roles offer the chance to shape and have a meaningful impact across our parishes and faith communities.

Mission and Evangelisation Partner - Youth Ministry: bring a creative and strategic focus to a new and bespoke strategy for the engagement of young people in the life and mission of the local Church. This is a chance for a passionate leader to animate an inspired vision in fertile ground with significant support from a broader team.

Mission and Evangelisation Partner - Worship: be part of an outward-looking, interconnected and collaborative group who will provide significant leadership to all who seek advice and formation in this space.

To apply, find these vacancies advertised on the Diocese website under Careers, Diocese positions vacant:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/careers/positions

We encourage anyone across the Diocese who is interested and meets the criteria to apply. For further information regarding this position, please contact Director of Mission & Evangelisation James Camden:
james.camden@mn.catholic.org.au

Newcastle Catholic Charismatic Thanksgiving Mass 2024

Everyone is invited to give thanksgiving to the Lord for all that 2024 has brought during a Thanksgiving Mass on Friday 13 December at 7pm at the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Bishop Michael has kindly accepted our invitation and will be joining our other priests while presiding over the Mass. We will also be gathering for Praise and Worship at 6:30pm before the Mass and all are welcome to part of this part of the celebration.

Refreshments will be served afterwards. Please contact Mary-Anne on 0402 918 375 or Wayne on 0466 631 394 for more information.

Mass Diary

MONDAY 16 December	TUESDAY 17 December	WEDNESDAY 18 December	THURSDAY 19 December	FRIDAY 20 December	SATURDAY 21 December	SUNDAY 22 December
		Parish Christmas Dinner				4th Sunday of Advent
<u>6.30pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>6.30pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook		<u>6.30pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>6.30pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>5.30pm</u> Vigil Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>10.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook
		<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen			<u>9.30am</u> Mass Advent Reconciliation St Thomas Aberdeen	<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 22nd December

4th Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	M. Flanagan M. Carter	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	K. Mason	M. Edwards	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	M. Medhurst B. Powell		K. Mason		J & S Thatcher	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: Luzvimenda Abiol, Jeanie Smith.

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

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.”