



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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT – YEAR C

22nd December 2024

Fourth Candle

Our Advent journey is almost complete, and the Christ child will soon be here.

As we light the fourth candle, we are reminded of the peace that only Christ can give.

All: But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. (Micah 5:2-5a) *God's peace is meant for the whole of creation; together, we anticipate the day of his coming.*

All: God our Saviour, you alone are the Prince of Peace who shall rule with justice and love. As we seek to be bearers of your peace in the world, may we find our security in your grace – and may we be sources of peace and safety to others. **Amen.**



Entrance Antiphon Cf Isaiah 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a
Saviour.

First Reading Micah 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon
them

till the time when she who is to give birth
gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come
back

to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,

with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he
will extend his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and
protect it,
the vine your
right hand
has
planted. (R.)



3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or
sacrifices for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the
book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your
will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who

believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Isaiah 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Fr Victor's Reflection

We remember the time and date of the birth of our family members. We look back and remember the day they came into our family. We might look at photographs of them when they were younger. We might remember their first steps and their first day at school. Then we celebrate with them. We give thanks for and celebrate the difference they have made and still make in our families.

This is exactly what we do at Christmas; we remember, and we celebrate. We recall and tell that story of how, where and when Jesus was born. We tell the story of Mary and Joseph going back to Bethlehem. We recall that they were turned away because there was no space for them. We remember that the shepherds and the kings came when Jesus was born. Then we joyfully celebrate the difference and impact that Jesus has made and is making to our world and to each of us personally.

We are asked to remember that Christmas is not something that happened in the past. The birth of Jesus echoes and ripples through the century's right down to us today. Through the birth of Jesus God enters our world, our time and our lives. Jesus is Emmanuel, God-is-with us. In and through the person of Jesus, God reaches out to embrace each of us. Through the birth of Jesus God comes to live amongst us and deeply within us. Christmas is not just about remembering the birth of Jesus; it is about celebrating the presence of Jesus in our hearts and in our lives today.

When he was Pope, John Paul II, wrote that the mystery of Jesus that took place over 2000 years ago must be lived today and every day. The word of God who found a dwelling place in and through Mary comes to knock on our hearts this Christmas and every Christmas, this day and every day.

May Christ the light and the light of Christ fill all our homes, hearts, families and the whole world this Christmas and always.

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

Parish Updates - Office Closure

The Parish Office is now closed for 2 weeks. It will reopen on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Tracey.



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 21/12	Sunday 22/12
Muswellbrook	M. Flanagan M. Carter	M. Medhurst B. Powell
Aberdeen		S. Milton

Parish Christmas Dinner

This year's Christmas dinner was very well supported. Everyone enjoyed a few games and a lovely dinner. A special **THANK YOU** to those who organised the event, sold tickets, decorated the hall and ran games on the night. It was a wonderful evening.



Caritas AUSTRALIA 60 YEARS 1954-2014
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Mass Diary

MONDAY 23 December	TUESDAY 24 December	WEDNESDAY 25 December	THURSDAY 26 December	FRIDAY 27 December	SATURDAY 28 December	SUNDAY 29 December
	Christmas Eve	Nativity of the Lord	St. Stephen	St. John	The Holy Innocents	Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
<u>6.30pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St James Primary School Hall	<u>9.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	NO MASS	NO MASS	<u>5.30pm</u> Vigil Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>10.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook
	<u>8.00pm</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 29 December

5th Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	Jasminda R. Ross	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	M. Brown	C. Wykes	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	T. Furlong B. Powell	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		K & B Mason	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: Kathleen Storer

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.”