

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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THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

26th January 2025

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 95:1,6

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

First Reading

Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord.

And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep'. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has

nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63

(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)
2. The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. (R.)
3. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. (R.)
4. May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your
sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my
rock! (R.)

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Together you are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

Just as a human body,
though it is made up of



many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, 'I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, 'I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body,' would that mean that it is not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you,' nor can the head say to the feet, 'I do not need you.'

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and so that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

[See Luke 4:18](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the
poor

and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

Gospel

[Luke 1:1-4. 4:14-21](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to
the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives
and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free,
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

[Cf Psalm 33:6](#)

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

Fr Victor's Reflection

In the second part of this Sunday's gospel, Jesus announces the mission statement of his public ministry. He claimed to be the fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah that said, the spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour. The truth of this claim is found in his life and ministry. He was

sent by the father to establish the kingdom of God on earth. A kingdom of love, justice and peace. The summary of the economy of salvation is summed up in the mission statement.

The second reading gives a dimension to the mission statement when it referred to us as the body of Jesus Christ. It read: Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. The church is the body while Jesus Christ is her head. The work of salvation continues in the world as the body of Jesus Christ, the church continues in the spirit of the mission statement of Jesus Christ her head. It is through the church that the good news will be brought to the poor. It is through our fight for justice that liberty will be given to captives. Our charitable works will alleviate poverty. Our justice will set the downtrodden free. Our love will give new sight to the blind. Our joy will announce the Lord's year of favour. It is the activities of the church that will fulfil the mission statement of Jesus Christ.

Today's gospel is a wakeup call, a reminder of our Christian responsibility to our world. This is based on the understanding that every good thing we do has an eternal value. Each time we do good, we participate in the mission statement of Jesus. The joy of the Lord is our strength. As we celebrate Australia Day as well as the Republic Day of India, let us pray for the leaders of these two nations that they may be aware of their responsibilities to work for the upliftment of the nations, especially for the poor and the needy. May the citizens of these two countries love and respect each other and follow the rules and regulations of the country and may become good news to one another.

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

Parish Updates

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 25/1	Sunday 26/1
Muswellbrook	M. Flanagan M. Carter	M. Medhurst B. Powell
Aberdeen		K. Roach

Keegan/Wood Family Group

Monday 10th February: (Please note change of date to 2nd Monday for Feb.)

Muswellbrook Chinese Restaurant 55 Sydney St Lunch at **12 noon**. Phone 6543 2636. Cost of lunch \$15. An opportunity to celebrate the **90th Birthday** (Dot's birthday is on 5th February) **of our eldest member, Dot Jackson.** **IMPORTANT:** Please give names to Margaret (6543 1238) by **Sat 8 February.**



Jesus said to those listening, "What you have just heard me read has come true today." Circle the statements below which are true.

JESUS TAUGHT IN SYNAGOGUES

JESUS READ FROM A NEWSPAPER

THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT
WAS IN JESUS

JESUS GREW UP IN BETHLEHEM

A SYNAGOGUE IS A JEWISH
PLACE OF PRAYER

ISAIAH WAS A PROPHET



Mass Diary

MONDAY 27 January	TUESDAY 28 January	WEDNESDAY 29 January	THURSDAY 30 January	FRIDAY 31 January	SATURDAY 1 February	SUNDAY 2 February
						Presentation of the Lord
		9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	11.30am Adoration & Benediction 12.05pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	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 2nd February

1st Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	Jasmine	Volunteer Needed	Sr. Dorothy	White Ladies		Ryan	Volunteer Needed
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	T. Hobbs	J. Lonergan	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	R. Ross J. Grenfell	Volunteer Needed	K. Mason		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, Sebastiammal, Kym Mason, Anne Hugo James McGrath, David Curran, Beate Shanahan, Rochelle Ashman and Benito Bicol.

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: Alma Dolahenty, Joan Powell, Sr. Laurel Dolahenty and Fay Biddle

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.”