



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

Email: frvickybabu@gmail.com

Phone: 0484 903 427 or 6543 1167

St James Primary School

Principal: Mr Aaron Moon

Office: 6543 3094

Email: admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au

Parish Administration: Mrs Tracey Marsden

Email: muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Website: muswellbrookparish.org.au

PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Tue, Wed and Fri 9.00am – 3.00pm

Safeguarding Promotor: Jane Jacobs

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD YEAR C

12th January 2025

Entrance Antiphon

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened,
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,
and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

First Reading

[Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.

‘Console my people, console them’
says your God.

‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid
low,

let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall
be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has
spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger
to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,



say to the towns of Judah,
‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 103:1-2. 3-4. 24-25. 27-30. R. v.1](#)
(R.) Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

1. Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. (R.)
2. Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servants. (R.)
3. How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small. (R.)
4. All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill. (R.)
5. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)

Second Reading

[Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

[See Luke 3:16](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia!

Gospel

[Luke 3:15-16. 21-22](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.

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.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

[John 1:32,34](#)

Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

Fr Victor's Reflection

The Baptism of the Lord is the great event in the life of Jesus because it is the occasion of the first public revelation of all the Three Persons in the **Holy Trinity**, and the official revelation of **Jesus as the Son of God** to the world by God the Father. Hence, it is described by all four Gospels. It marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

As we celebrate the baptism of the Lord, let us focus our attention on the relationship between baptism and the kingdom of God. The mission of Jesus is to establish God's kingdom on earth. And it is only through baptism that we can access this kingdom. St Paul reminds us in the second reading of this Sunday that; "...it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour". So, we are baptised through the death and resurrection of Jesus into the kingdom of God. He redeemed us by his love. It is a kingdom of peace!

Baptism is expected to make us act in a certain way as members of God's kingdom. The principle of this kingdom is the redemptive love of self-sacrifice. Self-sacrifice is the baptismal character that enables us to be good towards others. According to St Paul again in the second reading; "He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good." The sacrament of baptism cleanses our hearts of all defilements opposed to God's kingdom and infuses in our hearts the burning love and desire to seek good in all things. Baptism makes us seek the good that comes through self-sacrifice. Self-sacrifice is a personal decision to substitute evil with good. This is the power of Christian baptism. This is the work of God in our hearts.
Stay Healthy, Stay Safe, Stay Joyful and Stay Blessed!

Helpers Needed for St James Masses

On the noticeboard in St James church, you will find the colour coordinated 2025 calendar and liturgical roster.

We would like to fill all the yellow squares. If you are happy to help at weekend Masses each

week or even once a month, could you please write your name in the box you wish to fill.

If you have any question, please speak to

Fr Victor.

Keegan/Wood Family Group

A planning meeting will be held on **Monday 20th January** at Everest Restaurant (Muswellbrook RSL Club) starting at 12 noon. Come along for lunch and share your ideas for the next 6 months.

Please R.S.V.P. to Robyn or Margaret A.S.A.P.

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 11/1	Sunday 12/1
Muswellbrook	Volunteer Needed	G. Griffin B. Powell
Aberdeen		J. Dallah

You are my own dear son

Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

L L I I C V L Y P U Y N M Q J C C
 S C F L U F R E W O P N H A N H C
 F Z I I P J H N C A O G E O F L N
 J X L B C O Y I Y W U N K V J R G
 G S O D R Q A E G T D G J O A W O
 I S F G R W D V R P E K W V N E O
 D X U D W E Y G Q R Z T Q Y G X H
 P O Z P Y B D I I M T O O L O B X
 L C V A T S N F L E N S F C E K X
 E J R E L H S D A X D J P C N L W
 A P Q F X R J P Z C Z U D X Q A G
 S P P M V Z I L E I E H U M T U N
 E J N L B D E S I T P A B E S K Y
 D P W W N K P K P E T P R L U G Q
 P Q L J F L U Q K D J P P C O I D
 M K I S Y A G Q J T K I J M J Z Y
 N V S L A D N A S G N T M N G H G

Try to find these words:

- baptised
- dove
- excited
- fire
- heaven
- John
- pleased
- powerful
- prayed
- sandals
- sky
- water

GOSPEL FOCUS

My Son, the Beloved

'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' This declaration by the voice from Heaven – the voice of God – is an amalgamation of two earlier pieces of scripture: 'You are my son; today I have begotten you' (Ps 2:7) and 'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights' (Is 42:1). The fact that it is uttered before Jesus has begun his ministry is a sign to all of us that God delights in us for who we are, not for what we have achieved in our lives.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Baptism

John makes clear to the people that the baptism he performs is with water but the baptism by Jesus is with the Holy Spirit. John preached a baptism of repentance. In keeping with his Jewish tradition, John called upon the people to make a public declaration of their wrong-doing and commitment to be washed clean of this sinfulness and desire to live in right relationship with God and others. The baptism to which he refers is the complete change of heart and mind that comes through the Holy Spirit and results from a person accepting the message of Jesus.

Mass Diary

MONDAY 13 January	TUESDAY 14 January	WEDNESDAY 15 January	THURSDAY 16 January	FRIDAY 17 January	SATURDAY 18 January	SUNDAY 19 January
						2 nd Sunday Ordinary Time
		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 12th January

3rd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	C. Lumaban T. Furlong	M. Kelly	C. Kelly			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, Benito Bicol, Sr. Anne Daley and Des Daley.

Recently Deceased: Jenny Paul, Hettie O'Connell, and Salvatore Cangeri

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.”