



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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD YEAR C

5th January 2025

Entrance Antiphon Cf Malachi 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is said.

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,

to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)

3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. (R.)

4. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord.



Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

We have come from the East to worship the king.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the
leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Creed is said.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf Matthew 2:2

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

**The parish office will reopen on
Tuesday 7th January at 9am**

Fr Victor's Reflection.

This Sunday, we celebrate the great festival of light, the Epiphany of the Lord. As the church, we remember and celebrate that Jesus who was born in the darkness of night in an animal shed is the light of and for the world. The word 'epiphany' means to make known or to reveal. The angels made known and revealed to the shepherds the joy of the birth of Jesus. In the same way, the star led these strangers from the East and revealed the same Jesus to them. Our first reading from the Prophet Isaiah calls us to 'Arise, shine out because our light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising in us, though night still covers the earth and darkness the people. Through the birth of Jesus and today's wonderful feast, we are the people on whom a great light has shone.

Traditionally, we believe that the shepherds did not stay at stable after seeing Jesus, Mary and Joseph; they left glorifying and praising God. They left filled with the good news of this wondrous child. Just as the angels had proclaimed the good news to them, the shepherd in their turn shared their good news with others. In the same way, the Magi from the east, after they had given Jesus, their gifts also left the stable. They didn't stay there either. We are only told that they did not go back to Herod but went home another way. We can only assume that they too told everyone what they had seen and heard in that small stable in Bethlehem.

As we look upon the crib, we cannot stay there. Like the Shepherds and the Magi, we too are called to move away and take the light of Jesus with us. We are asked not only to admire the light, but to be the people of light, as Jesus himself tells us (Mt 5:14 & 16), 'you are the light of the world, and your light must shine.' The light of the Epiphany is given to us as a gift, but we cannot keep it to or for ourselves. Through the quality of our daily lives and how we treat each other, we are called to make our families, homes, parish communities and the wider world a better and brighter place for all people, especially the poor and the marginalised. May Christ the Light and the Light of Christ fill all our homes, families and our parish communities this day and always.

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

Parish Updates

Mass Readers Reminder

	Saturday 4/1	Sunday 5/1
Muswellbrook	Jasminda	R. Ross J. Grenfell
Aberdeen		T. Hobbs

Mass Diary

MONDAY 6 January	TUESDAY 7 January	WEDNESDAY 8 January	THURSDAY 9 January	FRIDAY 10 January	SATURDAY 11 January	SUNDAY 12 January
						The Baptism 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 12th January

2nd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Sr. Dorothy	J. Toohey		Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	K. Mason				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	G. Griffin B. Powell	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		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, Sebastiammal, Kym Mason, Anne Hugo James McGrath, David Curran, Beate Shanahan, Rochelle Ashman and Benito Bicol.

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

Anniversary: Rita Lorraine Oakes

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.”

Wise men came from the East

The Epiphany of the Lord



Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

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Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.



The wise men had to search for Jesus.
Where are some of the places we
can find Jesus in our world today?

Help the wise men find their way to Bethlehem - watch out for King Herod!

