



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 HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH YEAR C

29th December 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Lk 2:16

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying
in a manger.

First Reading

1 Sm 1:20-22. 24-28

A reading from the first book of Samuel

**For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be
lent to the Lord.**

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and
called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the
Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the
husband Elkanah went up again with all his
family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord
and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not
go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before
the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and
present him before the Lord and he shall stay
there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up
with her together with a three-year-old bull, an
ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she
brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh;
and the child was with them. They slaughtered
the bull, and the child's mother came to Eli. She
said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord,
I am the woman who stood here beside you,
praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for,
and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now
I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his
life. He is made over to the Lord.'

There she left him, for the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 83:2-3. 5-6. 9-10. R. v.5

(R.) How happy they who dwell
in your house, O Lord.



1. How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.
My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God. **(R.)**

2. They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.
They are happy, whose strength is in you;
they walk with ever growing strength. **(R.)**

3. O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,
gave ear, O God of Jacob.
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24

A reading from the first letter of St John

**He calls you his own children, and that is
what you are.**

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on
us,

by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of
God

but what we are to be in the future has not yet
been revealed,

all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him

because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our own
conscience,

we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him,

we shall receive,

because we keep his commandments
and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these:
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus
Christ
and that we love one another
as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments
lives in God and God lives in him.
We know that he lives in us
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

[Acts 16:14](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel

[Lk 2:41-52](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke

**His parents found him in the temple, sitting
among the learned men, listening to them.**

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go
to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover.
When he was twelve years old, they went up for
the feast as usual. When they were on their way
home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed
behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing
it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it
was only after a day's journey that they went to
look for him among their relations and
acquaintances. When they failed to find him they
went back to Jerusalem looking for him
everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple,
sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and
asking them questions; and all those who heard
him were astounded at his intelligence and his
replies. They were overcome when they saw
him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why
have you done this to us? See how worried your
father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why
were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you
not know that I must be busy with my Father's
affairs?' But they did not understand what he
meant.

He then went down with them and came
to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His
mother stored up all these things in her heart.
And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and
in favour with God and men.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

[Bar 3:38](#)

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived
among us.

Fr Victor's Reflection

No one would expect that the adolescent Jesus
Christ would constitute a worry to Mary and
Joseph. It is expected that the initial situation of
a virgin birth of the Saviour with all the initial
worries of explanations by Mary and the
eventual acceptance of the responsibility on the
part of Joseph, is all there. The flight to Egypt is
still fresh in their memories.

But the gospel on the Feast of Holy Family,
brings forth the missing adolescent and the
three-day search for him in Jerusalem. Mary
didn't hide her feelings for the said; 'My child,
why have you done this to us? See how worried
your father and I have been, looking for you.'
Jesus Christ' response directed the focus of
Mary and Joseph to the temple.

The lesson as we reflect on the family life of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph is, that crisis is always
threatening the family union. As children grow
and develop, new challenges emerge. As life
situations change, adequate adjustments are
made. Besides, couples live the continuous
understanding of each other amidst what reality
brings before them. The church invites families
to look towards the presence of God as they
grapple with worrisome realities. The response
that comes from the presence of God is always
astounding. Families in the present age are
advised to grow in the presence of God.
Mary and Joseph did not get any solution when
they presumed that he could be with their
relatives and acquaintances. Marital solutions
are not found in such places. It is rather exposed
to gossip, betrayal, mockery and calumny.
Journeying back to Jerusalem and ending in the
temple is the source of any marital solution.
Openness to God and honesty to each other will
lead to astounding solutions. Praying together
keeps the family together.

Take a minute today and simply say a prayer of
'thanks' to God for your own holy, sacred and
special family and pray for all the broken and
breaking families that they may get united.

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

Parish Updates

Office Closure

Reminder the Parish office is currently closed
and will reopen Tuesday 7th January 2025.





























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 28/12	Sunday 29/12
Muswellbrook	Jasmina R. Ross	T. Furlong B. Powell
Aberdeen		M. Brown









DECODE THE PROPHECY

Use the code below to decipher the prophet's message

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

Wishing all Parishioners a very

Happy

New Year

2025

Mass Diary

MONDAY 30 December	TUESDAY 31 December	WEDNESDAY 1 January	THURSDAY 2 January	FRIDAY 3 January	SATURDAY 4 January	SUNDAY 5 January
		Mary, the Holy Mother of God				The Epiphany of the Lord
		<u>10.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>11.30am</u> Adoration & Benediction <u>12.05pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook <u>5.30pm</u> Vigil Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>10.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook
	<u>NO MASS</u>	<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen				<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 5th January

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

Recently Deceased:

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.”