



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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THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD YEAR C

2nd February 2025

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 47:10-11

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

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

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from the prophet Malachi

The Lord whom you seek will come to his temple.

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:7-10. R. v.10

(R.) Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

1. O gates, lift up your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of
glory! **(R.)**



2. Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war. **(R.)**

3. O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! **(R.)**

4. Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Hebrews 2:14-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

He had to be made like us in all things.

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 2:32

Alleluia, alleluia!
This is the light of revelation to the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

My eyes have seen your saving power.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel’s comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God, and he said: ‘Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,

just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.’

As the child’s father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.’

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God’s favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Luke 2:30-31

My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

Fr Victor’s Reflection

This Sunday, we celebrate The Presentation of our Lord in the Temple. This Feast takes place forty days after Christmas. And it is in a way another ‘Epiphany,’ another revelation of God’s presence and promise.

In the gospel this Sunday we meet not one, but two prophets. What exactly was a prophet and

what did they do? The Prophets were not those who were fortune tellers who could see into or tell the future; quite the opposite; they reminded people about their past. They reminded people about that which they had forgotten and helped them to look forward to things that they had not yet considered. They reminded people that God had always been with them and that God would always be with them. Simeon and Anna remind and tell those listening that God has been faithful to the Covenant, they have not been forgotten, and this child is the Messiah, the Promised and Chosen one of God.

Like John the Baptist, both Simeon and Anna have been called by God and filled with the Holy Spirit. They too will lead and point Jesus to others, not themselves. They too are preparing a way for the Lord and preparing others to meet the Messiah. Both Simeon and Anna were prayerful, waiting and watching people. They were models of patience and trusting faith in God’s promises. They had spent years listening to God’s word and waiting for God’s revelation and they wouldn’t be disappointed. With Simeon Luke also adds Anna as one of those who is watching and waiting for this Promised One.

Luke’s gospel is well known for the importance and prominence that it gives to women. They are powerful witnesses and messengers of God’s word; they always have been. Anna is a prophet in her own right. She never left the temple, serving God night and day. She entered the temple just as Mary and Joseph arrived with Jesus. She spoke of Jesus to all those who were looking forward to the liberation of Jerusalem. It is through this elderly, wise, and prayerful woman that God speaks and is revealed. This reminds us that women are powerful witnesses and messengers of God. Think of Mary, Elizabeth, Mary Magdalene and the Woman at the Well, to name just a few.

When given the opportunity, let us not ignore or neglect this rich and sacred part of our heritage and tradition. Today, in our church and parish communities, may we pay attention to the wise and radical voices of women around us. God called these women, and Luke gives equal voice and prominence to women; we would do well to follow their example.

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

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 2/2	Sunday 3/2
Muswellbrook	Jasmine	R. Ross J. Grenfell
Aberdeen		T. Hobbs

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**.



Farewell to Sister Carmel Hanson

It is with deep sorrow that we mourn the passing of Sister Carmel Hanson, a cherished member of the Sisters of St Joseph Lochinvar in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Sister Carmel's lifelong commitment to service, faith, and our local communities leaves a lasting legacy.

For many years, Sister Carmel served with humility and devotion, particularly as Principal at St Patrick's Primary School in Lochinvar and through her work at the [House of Hospitality, which she founded in 1991](#).

At the House, she provided shelter and hope for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, offering not only accommodation but a renewed sense of possibility.

In recognition of her dedication, [Sister Carmel was named the local Australian Woman of the Year in 2024](#). Her passion for supporting others profoundly impacted the lives of many families across our Diocese.

As we mourn her loss, we celebrate a life devoted to serving others and building a more compassionate world. Bishop Michael Kennedy reflected, "Sister Carmel's life was a testament to the power of faithful service. Her ministry was not about recognition but about living out the love of Christ every day. We are grateful for her Congregational leadership and contribution to our community."

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, The Sisters of St Joseph, and all who knew her. May Sister Carmel rest in eternal peace, and may her example continue to inspire us to live lives of service and grace.

Sister Carmel's funeral will be held on Monday 10th February at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newcastle commencing at 10.30am.

May Sr. Carmel rest in peace.

(Written by CDMN)

Australia Day Honours

A huge congratulations to Tim Seymour (Muswellbrook) and Joy Dallah (Aberdeen) on being named Citizen of the Year for their towns. Both Tim and Joy very well deserve these awards.

Joel Bristow received the Service to Sport award at the Muswellbrook Ceremony for his commitment to the Muswellbrook Eagles Football Club for over 13 years.

All your contributions to your communities are very much appreciated and we are blessed to have you as part of our parish. May God continue to Bless you all,



Mass Diary

MONDAY 3 February	TUESDAY 4 February	WEDNESDAY 5 February	THURSDAY 6 February	FRIDAY 7 February	SATURDAY 8 February	SUNDAY 9 February
						5 th 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 9th February

2nd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	S. Bernard	Volunteer Needed	Sr. Dorothy	Volunteer Needed		Ryan	Volunteer Needed
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	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: Sr. Carmel Hanson and Sr. Ruth Long

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.”