

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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

16th February 2025

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 30:3-4

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-8

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

A curse on those who trust in humanity; a blessing on those who trust in the Lord.

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.
He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.

'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for his hope.
He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 1:1-4. R. Ps 39:5

(R.) Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

1. Happy indeed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked; nor lingers in the way of sinners nor sits in the company of scorners, but whose delight is the law of the Lord and who ponders his law day and night. *(R.)*

2. He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters, that yields its fruit in due season and whose leaves shall never fade; and all that he does shall prosper. *(R.)*

3. Not so are the wicked, not so! For they like winnowed chaff shall be driven away by the wind. For the Lord guards the way of the just but the way of the wicked leads to doom. *(R.)*

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

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

If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith is in vain.

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

The Word of the Lord.



Gospel Acclamation

Luke 6:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 6:17. 20-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

‘How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

‘Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

‘But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

‘Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf Psalm 77:29-30

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Fr Victor’s Reflection

The Gospel on 6th Sunday in year C, presents us with the beatitudes according to the gospel of Luke the Evangelist. Jesus addressed these beatitudes to his disciples. According to the gospel, “Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples....”. Pronouncing these beatitudes from a level ground is very significant. Those suffering now will enjoy later while those enjoying now will

suffer later. Jesus is not raising false hope in the poor nor creating panic amongst the rich and comfortable. Rather he is stating in clear terms what will happen if nothing is done to curb social injustice in the world.

The first reading traced the root of social injustice to self-indulgence. It places a curse on the man who puts his trust in man and relies on things of flesh, while turning his heart from the Lord. The indifference of the rich and comfortable widen the gap between poverty and affluence. Jesus did tell us to embark on poverty alleviation. He simply commanded us to assist the needy and feed the hungry. He wants a relationship between the rich and the poor. To achieve this, we must put our trust in the Lord. Putting our trust in God is trusting in his message of love. The man who believes in love will never lack what to give to the hungry and needy. Charity is an act of faith. Love is the only thing that can guarantee a relationship between the poor and the rich. The level playing ground of love will bring joy to all hearts, irrespective of social status.

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

Parish Updates

Thankyou for the keyboard

St James Church has been lucky enough to receive a donation of a keyboard from Gerard Minch. The keyboard works perfectly and sounds lovely in the church.

Thank you, Gerard, for this wonderful donation. Also thank you to Sr Dorothy for being instrumental in getting the keyboard to the Church.

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 15/2	Sunday 16/2
Muswellbrook	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Lumaban T. Furlong
Aberdeen		K. Mason

Caritas AUSTRALIA
GAZA CRISIS APPEAL
A ceasefire means more aid can assist people affected in Gaza. Your support is urgently needed.
DONATE NOW www.caritas.org.au/gaza
1800 024 413

Diocese Updates

Catholic Men's Rosary Crusade

We are having a gathering of Catholic men for the Men's Rosary Crusade on **Saturday 1 March** from 11am at St Patrick's Church, Wallsend. We are more than a prayer group, we are here to help men struggling with faith or other issues. Contact Jason for more information on 0499 854 928.

Women of the Well Events

You are invited to join the next few gatherings of the Women of the Well. The events are designed to help you make space in your life to listen to the spirit and share your story with like-minded women. There will be a one-day gathering on **Sunday 23 February** at the Corcoran Centre, Immaculate Conception Church in Morpeth. This will cost \$35. A weekend retreat will be held on Friday 11 and Sunday 13 April at The Hermitage in Mittagong. This will cost \$350.

For more information, visit <http://www.womenofthewell.com.au/> or call Tricia on 0417 216 917.

Jubilee Year Launch

Bishop Michael invites all to celebrate the Jubilee Year with a special event on **Sunday 2 March!**

It will start with a Diocesan pilgrimage from Nobby's Beach at 8am to Sacred Heart Cathedral, culminating in Mass at 10am and a Festival at 11am in the Cathedral precinct grounds.

All corners of the Diocese are encouraged to get involved as we celebrate Pope Francis' theme - Pilgrims of Hope. For more information, visit www.mn.catholic.org.au/JubileeYear2025

Note - Our parish will be attending. If you would like to join us, please fill out the sheet at the back of the church.

The Rite of Election

The Rite of Election on **Sunday 9 March 2025** is an opportunity to welcome all catechumens who will be baptised in their parishes at the Easter Vigil [a catechumen is an unbaptised person whose search for meaning has brought them to the Catholic Church]. Please join in witness and prayerful support of those who choose to be Catholic. 2.30pm Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West, followed by afternoon tea. RSVP for catering to E mission@mn.catholic.org.au. Enquiries to Fiona P 0408 895 951.

ST JAMES CATHOLIC PARISH

2025 Lenten Groups

**GROUP 1 - ABERDEEN
CONTACT - MARGARET HAMILTON**

**GROUP 2 - MUSWELLBROOK (DAYTIME)
CONTACT - BOB POWELL / GERRI GRIFFIN**

**GROUP 3 - MUSWELLBROOK (EVENING)
CONTACT - COLLEEN KELLY**

If you would like to join a Lenten group, please speak to the appropriate group contact person or contact the office.



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2025 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

We are now taking names for the upcoming Sacramental program. If you have a child in year 3 or above who are ready to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion please email the office with your contact details, your child's name, date of birth and Baptism certificate if they were not Baptised in Muswellbrook or Aberdeen.

Mass Diary

MONDAY 17 February	TUESDAY 18 February	WEDNESDAY 19 February	THURSDAY 20 February	FRIDAY 21 February	SATURDAY 22 February	SUNDAY 23 February
					Conversion of St Paul	7 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 23rd February

4th Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	M. Carter		Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	Kristy R	K. Mason	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	M Medhurst 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, Benito Bicol, Sr. Anne Daley and Des Daley.

Recently Deceased: Sally Ryan

Anniversary: Kevin Doherty, Tim Pike, Zlatka Pikulich, and Neville Pikulich.

Baptism: Dalton Flannery

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.”