

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



SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

23rd February 2025

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 12:6

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful
with me.

First Reading [1 Samuel 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23](#)

A reading from the first book of Samuel

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8](#)

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and
compassion. (R.)
3. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear
him. (R.)

Second Reading

[1 Corinthians 15:45-49](#)

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

**Just as we have carried the earthly image,
we must carry the heavenly image.**

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

The Word of the Lord.



Gospel Acclamation

[John 13:34](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Gospel

[Luke 6:27-38](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

[Psalm 9:2-3](#)

I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

Fr Victor's Reflection

The Christian life is not mathematics. It's not about calculating all of our good deeds and weighing them against our sins. It is not about measuring ourselves against some perfect performances. This is why we must read the last line of the gospel of 7th Sunday, "The measure

by which you measure shall be in turn be measured out to you" in light of Jesus' words earlier in the passage. There he tells us to be merciful as our heavenly father is merciful. The Christian life is not about measuring one thing against another. It's about imitating God, about being merciful to others because God is merciful to us. God does not desire to calculate our sins and achievements. God wants to change us so that we can love and show mercy even as God loves and shows mercy.

This after all is the only way that we can make sense out of Jesus' commands in the gospel of this Sunday. He tells us that we are to love our enemies, that we are to do good to those who hate us, that we are to bless those who curse us. None of us could follow any of those commands on our own. If we were making a list of our achievements, we could not enter any of these commands in our success column. If we are to love our enemies, God has to change us. God has to give us a new heart, a new way of seeing, a new way of loving.

This is why the most practical command that Jesus gives us in this Sunday's gospel is: "Pray for those who treat you badly." Pray for your enemies. If we take that step, if we bring the person who has hurt us, our enemy, before God in prayer, we open the possibility not only for God to change our enemy, but for God to change us. So, we should bring the person that we cannot forgive before God in prayer and ask God to show us something, to give us some understanding that can move our heart closer to forgiveness. We should place the member of our family who has severely disappointed us and hurt us in God's presence and ask that God would give us a new way to love that person. We should take the friend who has betrayed us and spoke evil against us before God and ask Him that we might find a way to soften our judgement so that we might forgive as God forgives us.

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 22/2	Sunday 23/2
Muswellbrook	M. Flanagan M. Carter	M. Medhurst B. Powell
Aberdeen		K. Roach

Diocese Updates

Jubilee Year Launch (NEXT SUNDAY)

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.

For more information, visit www.mn.catholic.org.au/JubileeYear2025

Note – The St Joseph's Catholic College bus will be driven by Joel Bristow to this event. The bus currently has one seat available, please contact the office ASAP if you would like to take it.



Diocesan Pilgrimage 2025

Join us on pilgrimage this Jubilee Year with Bishop Michael Kennedy as we visit the biblical sites and spiritual heights of Greece, Turkey and Italy from 25 September -12 October.

Scan the QR code or visit www.mn.catholic.org.au and click the *2025 Jubilee Year Information* tile for more information, the application form, and costings.



Rite of Election – Sunday 9 March

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 within this Jubilee Year of Hope. It starts at 2.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West, followed by afternoon tea. RSVP for catering to mission@mn.catholic.org.au. Enquiries to Fiona 0408 895 951.

Diocesan Launch
of the Jubilee Year

Pilgrimage Mass Festival.

Sunday 2 March 2025
Foreshore Park to Sacred Heart Cathedral
from 8am onwards

**Sacramental Program
Muswellbrook
2025**

*IF YOU HAVE A CHILD WHO WOULD LIKE TO
COMPLETE THEIR SACRAMENTS OF
RECONCILIATION, CONFIRMATION AND
EUCHARIST?*

*PLEASE CONTACT TRACEY AT ST JAMES
PARISH OFFICE ASAP ON PH: 65431167*

ST JAMES CATHOLIC PARISH

**2025
Lenten Groups**

GROUP 1
ST THOMAS CHURCH - MONDAYS 6PM
CONTACT - MARGARET HAMILTON
PH: 0408 668 251

GROUP 2
OLD CONVENT TUESDAY 10AM
CONTACT - GERRI GRIFFIN
PH: 0419 628 116

GROUP 3
OLD CONVENT WEDNESDAY 7PM
CONTACT - COLLEEN KELLY
PH: 0402 242 273

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

Mass Diary

MONDAY 24 February	TUESDAY 25 February	WEDNESDAY 26 February	THURSDAY 27 February	FRIDAY 28 February	SATURDAY 1 March	SUNDAY 2 March
						7 th Sunday Ordinary Time
		<u>9.00am</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>5.00pm</u> Confession <u>5.30pm</u> Vigil Mass St James Muswellbrook	Jubilee Launch No Morning Mass <u>6.00pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook
	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					NO MASS

Minister Roster Sunday 2nd March

1st Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	Jasmine	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	Volunteer Needed	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, Sebastiammal, Kym Mason, Anne Hugo James McGrath, David Curran, Beate Shanahan, Rochelle Ashman, Benito Bicol, Sr. Anne Daley and Des Daley.

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: Jackie Partridge, Myra and Joe Jeans, Wendell Borres

Baptism: Norah Wilson

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.”