



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

FIRST SUNDAT OF LENT – YEAR C

9th March 2025

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals by appointment. (Instruction sessions required before Baptisms & Weddings)

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 90:15-16

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is not said.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

The confession of faith of the elect.

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 90:1-2. 10-15. R. v.15

(R.) Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' *(R.)*
2. Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. *(R.)*

3. They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. *(R.)*

4. His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.' I will save him in distress and give him glory. *(R.)*

Second Reading

Romans 10:8-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!



Gospel

Luke 4:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you
to guard you,

and again:

They will hold you up on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Creed is said.

Communion Antiphon

Matthew 4:4

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth
of God.

Fr Victor's Reflection

The focus of the First Sunday of Lent is always the temptation of Jesus in the desert. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger, he offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship him, and he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test. In each case, Jesus resists, citing words from Scripture to rebuke the devil's temptation. Grounding himself on the Word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil by his confidence in God's protection and faithfulness.

The Gospel of the 1st Sunday of the Lent highlights for us one of the central themes of the Season of Lent. That is, we are dependent upon God for all that we have and all that we are. Anything that leads us to reject this dependency or to distrust its sufficiency, is a temptation from the devil.

This Sunday's Gospel ends the report of Jesus' temptation in the desert by noting that the devil departs for a time. The implication is that the devil will return. Jesus knows that he will be tempted again in the Garden of Gethsemane. The depth of Jesus' trust in God is shown most fully when Jesus rejects the temptation to turn away from the task God has given to him. Jesus' final rebuke of the devil is his sacrifice on the Cross.

Jesus' responses to the temptations of the devil teach us how we can respond to temptation. As we start our Lenten journey, this Sunday's Gospel calls us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice, God's promise of protection can be trusted, and God alone is God. **Wishing you a very Fruitful Lenten Season.**

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

Parish Updates

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 8/3	Sunday 9/3
Muswellbrook	S. Bernard	G. Griffin B. Powell
Aberdeen		J. Dallah

Informal Book Group at the Convent

Starts Thursday 13 March 2025
10am to 11.45am

All Welcome: bring a book you're reading, share a book you have read, grab a book from the library or just come and have a cuppa and a chat.

Jane Thatcher – Librarian

Jubilee Launch

Our Parish participated in the Jubilee launch on Sunday 2nd March, over 20 parishioners were there on the day.



Lenten Groups

There will be three Lenten Groups running again this year. A very big THANK YOU to Margaret Hamilton, Colleen Kelly, Gerri Griffin and Bob Powell who have volunteered to run the groups.

Lenten books are \$9.00 each and can be paid to the group leader when you collect your book.

Group 1 – Held in St Thomas Church in Aberdeen, meeting Monday evenings at 6pm. Contact Margaret Hamilton on 0408 668 251 for more details or to join this group.

Group 2 – Held in the Old Convent in Muswellbrook, meeting Tuesday mornings at 10am. Contact Gerri Griffin on 0419 628 116 for more information or to join this group.


Group 3 - Held in the Old Convent in Muswellbrook, meeting Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Contact Colleen Kelly on 0402 242 273 for more information or to join this group.

Lenten Reflection Books

There are currently a few spare Lenten Reflection Books.

There are \$9.00 each. Please contact the office or speak to Fr. Victor if you would like one.

Keegan/Wood Family Group

17 March: St Patrick's Day (*Wear something green.*) Lunch at **Thai Restaurant** 91 Bridge St Ph 6543 2088. Meet at 12 noon. Lunch special \$16. Names to Marg D 6543 1238 by **Sat 15th March**. 

Parish Jubilee Candle Procession, 16th March

At both St Thomas and St James Masses on Sunday 16th March, Fr Victor will lead a procession with our Jubilee Candles. All are encouraged to be involved.

Please arrive by 7.15am at St Thomas Church for the procession or for St James please arrive by 9.30am.

Diocese News

Jubilee Art Exhibition – Saturday 31 May

Members of the Diocesan community are invited to create an artwork focusing on the theme - "Hope does not disappoint" (Rom 5:5). Winning entries will travel across the Diocese in a travelling exhibition during the Jubilee Year.

Entry Categories: A. Primary School B. High School C. Adult

Prize for each Category: 1st Prize - \$500, 2nd Prize - \$250, 3rd Prize - \$100

Key dates:

- Friday 9 May - Registration of artworks Jubilee Art Exhibition
- Saturday 31 May - Exhibition Opening: 2pm-4pm, Veritas Centre, San Clement Catholic College, Mayfield

Requirements:

Artworks created on A4 paper (only) leaving a 2cm boarder for framing. Any medium suitable for a 2D artwork on paper can be used. Artist Statement – maximum 250 words –describe how your artwork connects with the theme, 'Hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us (Rom 5:1-2.5)'. **Enquires:**

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au



**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*



First Sunday of Lent 8th and 9th of March 2025

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet **Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) from Samoa, **Lam** from Vietnam and **Irene** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Each of this year's stories reflects diverse challenges, yet they are united by the shared determination to overcome adversity and create better futures for themselves and their communities.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Mass Diary

MONDAY 10 March	TUESDAY 11 March	WEDNESDAY 12 March	THURSDAY 13 March	FRIDAY 14 March	SATURDAY 15 March	SUNDAY 16 March
						2 nd Sunday Lent
		<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>5.30pm</u> Stations of the Cross	<u>9.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook <u>5.30pm</u> Vigil Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.30am</u> Procession <u>10.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook
	<u>4.30pm</u> Stations of the Cross <u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Thomas					<u>7.15am</u> Procession <u>8.00am</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 16 March

3rd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Hayes	Sr Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	K. Mason	M. Edwards	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	C. Lumaban T. Furlong	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		J & T Bristow	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, Sebastiammal, Kym Mason, Anne Hugo, James McGrath David Curran, Beate Shanahan, Rochelle Ashman, Benito Bicol, Sr. Anne Daley and Glenda Fe Jimenez..

Recently Deceased: Michael Dolahenty and John George

Anniversary: Terrance Edward Toohey, Rhonda Minch, Hilda Minch, Joyce Johns.

Baptism:

Reconciliation: 5pm Saturdays in Muswellbrook, 7.30am Sundays in Aberdeen or by request.

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."