



# 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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PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Tue, Wed and Fri 9.00am – 3.00pm

Safeguarding Promotor: Jane Jacobs

## SECOND SUNDAT OF LENT – YEAR C

16<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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

### Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 26:8-9

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;

hide not your face from me.

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

### First Reading

[Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18](#)

A reading from the book of Genesis

*God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.*

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

### The Word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R. v.1](#)

**(R.)** The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life before whom shall I shrink? **(R.)**

2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face.' **(R.)**

3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek, hide not your face.

Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help. **(R.)**

4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**

### Second Reading

[Philippians 3:17 – 4:1](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.*

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.



## Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:  
this is my beloved Son, hear him.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## Gospel

Luke 9:28-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.*

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

### **The Gospel of the Lord.**

*The Creed is said.*

## Communion Antiphon

Matthew 17:5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;  
listen to him.

## Fr Victor's Reflection

The story of the transfiguration is a reminder of the transformation that is proper to authentic Christian living. Every day is a transfiguration in the life of a true Christian. The transfiguration of Jesus took place within the context of prayer in the company of Moses and Elijah. According to the gospel this Sunday, 'As he prayed, the appearance of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem'. The presence of Moses and Elijah represent the importance of the scripture and the teachings of the church. St. Paul reminds us in the second reading that Jesus will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. Our

transfiguration will be achieved the same way as that of Jesus. Through listening to the beloved son of God that is always speaking to us through the words of scripture and the teachings of the church. Whenever we prayerfully listen to the Lord through the church and the scriptures, transfiguration takes place in us.

In the first reading from the Book of Genesis, Abram was transformed through the covenant God made with him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. He believed everything he heard from God; thus, he was transformed. Today the challenge before us is to allow ourselves to be transformed by what we hear and are asked to do by the church. God speaks to us today through the church. The teachings of the church and the words of scripture are capable of achieving in us the same transfiguration of Jesus.

**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.

	<b>Saturday 15/3</b>	<b>Sunday 16/3</b>
<b>Muswellbrook</b>	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Lumaban T. Furlong
<b>Aberdeen</b>		K. Mason

### St Thomas Cuppa After Mass

Please join us for a cuppa after Mass next Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> March. Organisers are Marg & Carol.

### Parish Jubilee Candle Procession, 16<sup>th</sup> March

At both St Thomas and St James Masses on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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 15<sup>th</sup> March.**

### Sacramental Program Information Session

There will be an information session held in St James Church on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 4.00pm. Please come along if your children are interested in doing the program.

## Lenten Group Information

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

## Diocese News

### Way of the Cross

This year's Way of the Cross will continue our pilgrimage experience that began with the Jubilee Launch. Come and walk with fellow pilgrims and build relationships as we share our responses to Pope Francis' invitation to become agents of hope within our own communities.

Join us at 3pm on Sunday 6 April (you can gather from 2pm)

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, TORONTO - 140 Wangi Road, Toronto NSW 2283

**ENQUIRIES:** [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au)

**REGISTER:** [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-way-of-the-cross-a-pilgrimage-of-hope-tickets-1250877762059](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-way-of-the-cross-a-pilgrimage-of-hope-tickets-1250877762059)



The poster features a purple background with a white cross in the center. To the left is an illustration of a priest holding a chalice, and to the right is an illustration of a person kneeling in prayer. Below the cross, the text reads: "Sacramental Program Muswellbrook 2025". Underneath, it asks: "IF YOU HAVE A CHILD WHO WOULD LIKE TO COMPLETE THEIR SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION, CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST?". At the bottom, it says: "PLEASE CONTACT TRACEY AT ST JAMES PARISH OFFICE ASAP ON PH: 65431167". A small illustration of a leafy branch is also present.



**Second Sunday of Lent**  
15th and 16th of March 2025

**Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) a primary school student from Samoa faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her primary school now has a 10,000 L water tank. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education.



Photo credit: Caritas Australia

**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](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

**Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

We provide free and confidential advice, aged care advocacy and support, and legal advice to seniors across New South Wales.

**02 9281 3600**

[SeniorsRightsService.org.au](http://SeniorsRightsService.org.au)



Seniors Rights Service





## Mass Diary

MONDAY 17 March	TUESDAY 18 March	WEDNESDAY 19 March	THURSDAY 20 March	FRIDAY 21 March	SATURDAY 22 March	SUNDAY 23 March
St Patrick		St Joseph, Spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary				3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Lent
		9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	11.30am <b>Adoration &amp; Benediction</b>  12.05pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  5.30pm <b>Stations of the Cross</b>	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  5.30pm <b>Vigil Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	10.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	4.30pm <b>Stations of the Cross</b> 5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Thomas					8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

## Minister Roster Sunday 23 March

4th Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	M. Carter	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	K. Roach	K. Mason	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	M. Medhurst B. Powell	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		J & S Thatcher	Stella Liam Cyrus	<b>VOLUNTEER NEEDED</b>

### 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, and Sr. Anne Daley.

**Recently Deceased:** Michael Dolahenty, John George, Rita Pushaparaj, Fr. Arul Joseph, George West

**Anniversary:** Frank Bowen

**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](mailto:muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

The Parish bulletin can be accessed on our website: [muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au](http://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au).

or on our Facebook page: **Catholic Parish of St James Muswellbrook**

Please email [muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto: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](http://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au)

Have a complaint or wish to provide feedback? Visit: [officeofsafeguarding.org.au/feedback/](http://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."**