



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 and Wed 9.00am – 3.00pm

Friday 8.00am – 12 noon

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

23rd March 2025

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

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

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

First Reading

Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.' Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your

fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. 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 does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. **(R.)**
4. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

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

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all



passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

Gospel Acclamation [Matthew 4:17](#)

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel [Luke 13:1-9](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Creed is said.

Communion Antiphon [Cf Psalm 83: 4-5](#)

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:

by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

Fr Victor's Reflection

Each year the first two Sundays of Lent are linked with specific events in the life of Christ: the temptations he endured in the Judean desert and the Transfiguration on the mountain. The third Sunday of Lent, though, is not so much centred on an event in Christ's life, but is concerned with Jesus' teaching on the patience, mercy and love of our God.

The parable of the fig tree in the gospel of 3rd Sunday, helps us to see that God is very patient. He is, as the psalm says, "slow to anger and rich in kindness." The Lord calls us to repentance and to produce fruit. Repentance is essential to fruitfulness. We cannot be like the people of Israel who grumbled and complained and decided to rest on their own designs. God is patient, but the Gospel is clear. Jesus does not mince his words, "I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish ..."

Simply to say that we know Christ but fail to follow him is foolish. The second reading says that we should not assume that we are standing secure. A fig tree may be a tree, but it is as useless as a pile of wood if it doesn't produce. Reconciliation is a part of being Christian. When we take the Lord for granted, or assume that we are safe, it is then when we must turn back to God. Only in God are we safe. Only in Christ are we saved! This is why Jesus tells us, "Remain in me!" Remaining in Christ is the only way to be a Christian. To know him and to follow him will help us bear fruit.

Am I producing fruit? Would people be able to recognize that I am a Christian? In what way?

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

Parish Updates

Office Closed

The parish office will be **closed on Tuesday 25th March** for Tracey and Fr Victor to attend training in Newcastle. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Change to Office Opening Hours

The office hours will be changing slightly beginning next week. See new hours below.

Tuesday	9.00am – 3.00pm
Wednesday	9.00am – 3.00pm
Friday	8.00am – 12 noon



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.

Mass Readers Reminder

	Saturday 22/3	Sunday 23/3
Muswellbrook	M. Carter	M. Medhurst B. Powell
Aberdeen		K. Roach



Parish Jubilee Candle Procession

Thank you to all the parishioners who participated in the **Jubilee Walk** last Sunday. It was lovely to see so many people come together for this special occasion. Special thanks to those who sent in these wonderful photos.



St Thomas Cuppa After Mass

Please join us for a cuppa after Mass this Sunday, 30th March. Organisers are Marg & Carol.

Diocese NEWS!

Formation Films

Formation Films – Ordinary Angels – 5 April 2025 – 11am
Join us as we watch the 2024 release film “Ordinary Angels”, share lunch and discuss the messages of hope in this film.
Bookings: <https://forms.office.com/r/6PpRW0QfUy> Or call 0409 033 449.

Venue: Diocesan Resource Centre (corner of Tudor and Parry Streets, Newcastle West)

Formation Fridays

Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2025 – 4 April 2025 – 1pm – In Person or via Zoom
Meet with other community members via Zoom or in the Diocesan Resource Centre (Corner of Tudor & Parry Streets, Newcastle West) Library for a chance to reflect and discuss Pope Francis’ 2025 Lenten Message
Bookings: <https://forms.office.com/r/9SpfLiWRBw> or call 0409 033 449.



Third Sunday of Lent
22nd and 23rd of March 2025

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.



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
Or by calling: 1800 024 413 413.

Mass Diary

MONDAY 24 March	TUESDAY 25 March	WEDNESDAY 26 March	THURSDAY 27 March	FRIDAY 28 March	SATURDAY 29 March	SUNDAY 30 March
	Annunciation of the Lord					4 th Sunday Lent
	OFFICE CLOSED & NO MASSES DUE TO MEETING OUT OF TOWN	OFFICE CLOSED & NO MASSES DUE TO MEETING OUT OF TOWN	<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>10.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook
	No Mass					<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 30th March 2025

5th Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	Jasmine R. Ross	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	White Ladies		Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	M. Brown	C. Wykes	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	T. Furlong B. Powell	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		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, Sebastiammal, Kym Mason, Anne Hugo James McGrath, David Curran, Beate Shanahan, Rochelle Ashman, Benito Bicol, Sr. Anne Daley and Glenda Fe Jimenez.

Recently Deceased: Rita Pushaparaj, Fr. Arul Joseph, George West.

Anniversary:

Baptism: Layla Payne, Luca Dunn, Elijah Dunn.

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."