



# 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: Tuesday & Wednesday 9am – 3pm

Friday 8am – 12 noon

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C**

**30<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

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

### **Entrance Antiphon**

**Cf Isaiah 66:10-11**

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

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

### **First Reading**

**Joshua 5:9-12**

A reading from the book of Joshua

**The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.**

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

### **The Word of the Lord.**

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9**

**(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**
2. Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free. **(R.)**
3. Look towards him and be radiant;

let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called; the Lord heard him  
and rescued him from all his distress. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading**

**2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

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

**God reconciled us to himself through Christ.**

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

### **The Word of the Lord.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Luke 15:18**

Praise and honour to  
you, Lord Jesus  
Christ!  
I will rise and go to my  
Father and tell him:  
Father, I have sinned  
against heaven  
and against you.  
Praise and honour to  
you, Lord Jesus  
Christ!



## **Gospel**

**Luke 15:1-3. 11-32**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**Your brother here was dead and has come to life.**

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. 'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed

your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**The Creed is said.**

**Communion Antiphon**

**Luke 15: 32**

You must rejoice, my son,  
for your brother was dead and has come to life;  
he was lost and is found.

**Fr Victor's Reflection**

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is called *Laetare Sunday* (Rejoice Sunday). Anticipating Easter joy, this Sunday's readings invite us to rejoice by being reconciled with God through repentance and the confession of our sins and by celebrating our coming home to be with our loving and forgiving God.

In the first reading, the Chosen People of God are portrayed as celebrating, for the first time in their own land, the feast of their freedom, by using wheat that had grown in the Promised Land. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 34), a rejoicing Psalmist invites us, "*Glorify the Lord with me; let us together extol His Name!*" In the second reading, St. Paul invites the Corinthian Christian community to rejoice because Jesus has reconciled them with God by his suffering and death.

The Gospel celebrates the joy of the prodigal son on his "*homecoming*" where he discovers his father's forgiving and overflowing love. It is also the story of the joy of a loving and forgiving father who celebrates the return of his prodigal son by throwing a big party in his honour, a banquet celebrating the reconciliation of the son with his father, his family, his community, and his God.

At the same time, in his self-righteous elder brother's angry reaction to the prodigal's return, Jesus invites us to avoid self-righteousness and self-justification by imitating the repentant younger brother. Let us admit the truth that we are an assembly of repentant, sinful people, who are now ready to receive God's forgiveness, to experience Jesus' Personal Presence in the Holy Eucharist as our loving and forgiving God and so to love and forgive each other making, generous and lasting peace.

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



## Parish Updates

### Parish Office Closed

The Parish office will be closed on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April due to Tracey being away. The office will be open Wednesday Thursday and Friday next week.

### Mass Readers Reminder

	<b>Saturday 29/3</b>	<b>Sunday 30/3</b>
<b>Muswellbrook</b>	Jasmine R. Ross	T. Furlong B. Powell
<b>Aberdeen</b>		M. Brown

## Pilgrims of Hope Passport

If you are interested in going on a pilgrimage to 8 different churches for Mass and having a Passport to document your journey, please contact the office. We have a few Passports available.

### Book Club at the Parish Library - 10<sup>th</sup> April

Book Club is on the Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April in the Parish library. Everyone is welcome to come for a cuppa and a chat!

## Diocese News

### Chrism Mass

Please join us on Tuesday 15 April for our Chrism Mass with Bishop Michael Kennedy. The mass will start at 7pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Everyone is welcome.

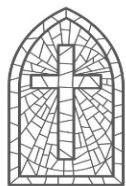


### Easter Services Singers/Musicians Required.

With only two weeks till Palm Sunday and the commencement of Holy week we are seeking Singers and Musicians for the Liturgies from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday.



As many of our Sunday singers work afternoon shifts we urgently need more singers to attend two rehearsals and be available especially for the:



3pm Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ Service Good Friday -18th April and 7pm Easter Vigil Easter Saturday - 19th April.

If you sing or play an instrument and would like to join us please contact

**Colleen Kelly urgently  
on 0402 242 273.**



## HOLY WEEK 2025

### @ SJM

**07** KINDERGARTEN PRESENTS  
APR PALM SUNDAY  
COURTYARD | 9:30 AM

**07** STAGE 1 PRESENTS  
APR THE LAST SUPPER &  
COURTYARD | 12:00 PM  
WASHING OF THE FEET

**08** STAGE 2 PRESENTS  
APR THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE  
SCHOOL HALL | 9:30 AM

**09** STAGE 3 PRESENTS  
APR THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
SCHOOL HALL | 9:30 AM  
& CRUCIFIXION

**09** STAGE 3 PRESENTS  
APR THE RESURRECTION  
SCHOOL HALL | 12:15 PM

PLEASE BOOK YOUR SEATS VIA THE  
HUMANITIX LINKS ON COMPASS

## JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE EASTER LITURGIES

### PALM SUNDAY 13TH APRIL

8AM ST THOMAS - 10AM ST JAMES

### TUESDAY 15TH APRIL

CHRISM MASS SACREDHEART  
CATHEDRAL 7PM

### WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL

10AM ST JAMES

### HOLY THURSDAY 17TH APRIL

6PM ST JAMES - THE LORDS SUPPER

### GOOD FRIDAY 18TH APRIL

STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
9AM ST THOMAS - 11AM ST JAMES  
PASSION OF OUR LORD - 3PM ST JAMES

### HOLY SATURDAY 19TH APRIL

7PM EASTER VIGIL - ST JAMES

### EASTER SUNDAY 20TH APRIL

8AM ST THOMAS - 10AM ST JAMES

St James Church Muswellbrook - St Thomas Church Aberdeen



Caritas  
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT  
COMPASSION

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
29th and 30th of March 2025

**Irene** lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.



Photo credit: Ariette Bashizi/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](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)  
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

## Mass Diary

MONDAY 31 March	TUESDAY 1 April	WEDNESDAY 2 April	THURSDAY 3 April	FRIDAY 4 April	SATURDAY 5 April	SUNDAY 6 April
						5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent
		<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>11.30am</u> <b>Adoration &amp; Benediction</b>  <u>12.05pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  <u>5.30pm</u> <b>Stations of the Cross</b>	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  <u>5.30pm</u> <b>Vigil Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	<u>10.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	<u>4.30pm</u> <b>Stations of the Cross</b> <u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

## Minister Roster Sunday 6 April

1st Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
<b>5.30pm</b> <b>Saturday</b> <b>Muswellbrook</b>	Jasmine	C. Hayes	Sr Dorothy	White Ladies		Ryan	C. Hayes
<b>8.00am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Aberdeen</b>	T. Hobbs	J. Lonergan	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
<b>10.00am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Muswellbrook</b>	R. Ross J. Grenfell		K. Mason		K & B Mason	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, Sr. Anne Daley and Glenda Fe Jimenez.

#### Recently Deceased:

**Anniversary:** Reg Shanahan, Rayar

**Baptism:** Ifediiche Chikambili Muonanu

**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."**