



# 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: Tues and Wed - 9am - 3pm

Friday – 8am – 12noon

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR C**

**27<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

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

### **Entrance Antiphon**

**1 Peter 2:2**

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

Gloria

### **First Reading**

**Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.*

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

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

**Responsorial Psalm** **Ps 117:2-4. 22-27. R. v.1**

**(R.)** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.' **(R.)**

2. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

3. O Lord, grant us salvation;

O Lord grant success.

Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord; the true God is our light. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading**

**Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19**

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

*I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever.*

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

**The Word of the Lord.**



## **Gospel Acclamation**

**John 20:29**

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;  
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

## **Gospel**

**John 20:19-31**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,  
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.  
For those whose sins you forgive,  
they are forgiven;  
for those whose sins you retain,  
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**The Creed is said.**

## **Communion Antiphon**

**Cf John 20:27**

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,  
and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

## **Fr Victor's Reflection**

On every second Sunday of Easter, we celebrate the Divine Mercy of God. This Sunday was dedicated to celebrate as Divine Mercy Sunday by St. John Paul II. The Gospel tells the story of how the apostles encountered the risen Lord.

The risen lord appeared to his apostles bearing in his body the wounds of the crucifixion. He commissioned them through the power of the Holy Spirit to forgive sins. He said to them: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' The forgiveness of sin is the merit of the passion and death of Jesus. It becomes available to us through the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Asking for forgiveness from God is not difficult if we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us to the father. Although we did not witness the crucifixion like the apostles, it does not deprive us of the grace to be forgiven. Jesus said to Thomas: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Jesus wants us to look at the cross and be convinced that our sins can be forgiven when we ask for forgiveness. The confessional is a place of grace where we can find joy. The apostles were filled with joy when they encountered the Lord in their hiding place with the doors locked. They received the mercy of God and in turn are made ministers of God's mercy.

God's mercy is powerful enough to unlock the closed doors of our hearts. Imagine the genuine feeling of joy that awaits us after every good confession. Only forgiveness can remove from us the fear, guilt, pride and emptiness that is associated with sin. How long are you going to live with guilt of your sin and pretend it doesn't affect you. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to motivate us towards the Divine Mercy of God.

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

## **Easter Blessing of Parish Homes**

**In many parts of the world, it is a tradition for a Priest to take Holy Water that is blessed during the Easter Vigil and bless people's homes.**

**If anyone would like their home to be blessed, please contact Fr Victor or the office to arrange a suitable time.**

## **Thank you Sr. Gaye**

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April Sr. Gaye lead the Lenten Reconciliation at St James Church.



The day was well supported by parishioners, and we thank Sr. Gaye for her time preparing for this event.

## **Office Closure**

The parish office will be closed on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April as it is ANZAC Day and Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> of April as Tracey will be at a training day.

## **Support Needed for Kairos**

Kairos needs your support! Especially during the week of 19<sup>th</sup> May to 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Biscuits, Letters, Prayer, Donations or even a visit on Friday afternoon, 23 May.

Please speak to Stephen Thatcher 0437 673 378. Thank you.

## **Mother's Day Register**

The Mother's Day Register sheets are now available in both churches. Please PRINT CLEARLY when adding names to the list. The names will be all put together for Mother's Day.

## **Project Compassion Donations**

Thank you to those who have already returned their donations for Project Compassion. If you still have donations at home, please return them as soon as possible so we can pass on the donations. Thank you.

## **St Thomas Cuppa After Mass**



There will be a cuppa after Mass this Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> April at St Thomas Church. Organisers this month are Marianne and Cathy.

## **Mass Reminder**

	<b>Saturday 26/4</b>	<b>Sunday 27/4</b>
<b>Muswellbrook</b>	R. Ross M. Carter	M. Medhurst B. Powell
<b>Aberdeen</b>		K. Roach

## **Diocesan Memorial Mass for His Holiness Pope Francis**

Bishop Michael Kennedy extends an invitation to the clergy, religious, and people of the diocesan community, together with members of the broader community, to attend a Memorial Mass for His Holiness Pope Francis on Monday, 28 April at 6.30pm in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West.

As a community of faith, we will come together in prayer to honour his life, give thanks for his faithful service to God and the Church, and commend his soul to the mercy of God. All are welcome.



**THANK YOU!**

Caritas Australia would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your incredible support of Project Compassion this Lent.

If you still have your Project Compassion box or donation envelope at home, please return them next week at Mass.

Your generosity is helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities, enabling them to overcome challenges and lift themselves out of poverty.

Together, we are creating a better tomorrow, helping vulnerable communities build stronger futures for themselves and empowering them to break free from the cycle of poverty. Thank you for standing with us!



## **A Prayer for Pope Francis**

### **Merciful and loving God,**

We entrust to Your eternal embrace our Holy Father, Pope Francis, who walked humbly among us, spreading Your hope and compassion to the world.

Receive him into Your heavenly kingdom, where his heart may rest in Your perfect peace. May his example of mercy, justice, and love inspire the Church to walk ever closer to Your light and truth.

O Lord, hear the voices of Your people. In sorrow, we lift our hearts, grieving the loss of our shepherd, who guided us with wisdom, humility, and love.

We thank You for his vision of a Church that listens, for his unyielding call to hear those at the margins, for his fearless challenge to leaders in times of injustice, for his passionate plea to safeguard Your sacred creation, and for his unwavering example of Christ's mercy in action.

May his legacy of hope and love endure in the hearts of Your faithful, As we seek solace, strength, and renewed purpose, As we carry forth in the days yet to come.

May he be welcomed with delight, By You and Our Holy Mother, Mary, His spirit resting in divine peace, His work fulfilled in Your eternal light.

Through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, our Lord, We offer this prayer in faith,

**Amen.**



Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 28 April	Tuesday 29 April	Wednesday 30 April	Thursday 1 May	Friday 2 May	Saturday 3 May	Sunday 4 May
					Sts Philip & James apostles	<b>3rd Sunday of Easter</b>
		<b>No Mass</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	5.30pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  5.30pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	10.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	<b>No Mass</b>					8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2025							
1st Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Counters	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	Jasmine	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy	White Ladies		R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	T. Hobbs	J. Lonergan	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	J. Grenfell		K. Mason		K & B Mason	Stella Liam	<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, Kym Mason, Anne Hugo James McGrath, David Curran, Beate Shanahan, Rochelle Ashman, Sr. Anne Daley, Glenda Fe Jimenez, Paul Tanner and Yolly Catoy.

**Recently Deceased:** Pope Francis, Sebastiammal

**Anniversary:** Stephen Lambley

**Baptism:** Eli Nathan Daniel

**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.

**"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."**