



# 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

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C**

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

### Entrance Antiphon

**Cf Psalm 42:1-2**

Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is  
faithless.

From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

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

### First Reading

**Isaiah 43:16-21**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

***I am doing a new thing and I will give drink  
to my people.***

Thus says the Lord,  
who made a way through the sea,  
a path in the great waters;  
who put chariots and horse in the field  
and a powerful army,  
which lay there never to rise again,  
snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past,  
no need to think about what was done  
before.

See, I am doing a new deed,  
even now it comes to light; can you not see  
it?

Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,  
paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me,  
jackals and ostriches,  
because I am putting water in  
the wilderness  
(rivers in the wild)  
to give my chosen people  
drink.

The people I have formed for  
myself  
will sing my praises.

**The Word of the Lord.**



### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 125. R. v.3**

**(R.)** The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from  
bondage,  
it seemed like a dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What  
marvels  
the Lord worked for them!'  
What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage  
as streams in dry land.  
Those who are sowing in tears  
will sing when they reap. **(R.)**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,  
carrying seed for the sowing;  
they come back, they come back, full of  
song,  
carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

**Philippians 3:8-14**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Philippians

***Because of Christ I look upon everything  
else as useless in order to gain him.***

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh  
the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus  
my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of  
everything, and I look on everything as so much  
rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a  
place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection  
by my own efforts, the perfection that comes  
from the Law, but I want only the perfection that  
comes through faith in Christ, and is from God  
and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ  
and the power of his resurrection and to share

his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

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

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

[Joel 2:12-13](#)

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

With all your heart turn to me,  
for I am tender and compassionate.

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

#### **Gospel**

[John 8:1-11](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

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

*The Creed is said.*

### **Communion Antiphon**

**When read:** [John 8:10-11](#)

Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord.

Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

### **Fr Victor's Reflection**

The story of the woman caught in adultery on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of lent, gives us hope. The woman accused of adultery, brought before Jesus Christ by the Scribes and Pharisees, was given a second chance. He used the opportunity to demonstrate the beauty of forgiveness. In that story, it was the woman alone who was humiliated and made to stand in the middle of the crowd. The Law of Moses said both the man and the woman should get the same punishment, but the man is nowhere to be seen. Secondly, the religious leaders care nothing for the woman she is treated as an object. Their only aim was to use her to push Jesus into a no-win situation, to trap him into setting the law aside or finding a way around it. Jesus was aware of their intentions. He doesn't stare at the woman; he bends down, and he writes in the dust. And when he is pushed, he says, let the one without sin cast the first stone! And one by one, they go away.

Jesus is left alone with the woman. He looks up to her, has no one condemned you? No, no one! Neither do I condemn you, says Jesus gently, go away and sin no more. Jesus treats her with respect. He is understanding and merciful. He invites her to start a new life. He calls her to conversion of heart. She is given a second chance.

In Lent, we examine our conscience. We recognise our guilt; we confess our sin. When we do this, we experience mercy! We encounter the Lord who loves us even while we are doing wrong, who is waiting to forgive and to heal, to set a new heart in us. That is the overwhelming message of Lent. Not that we toughen up by our own works of penance. But that we are embraced unconditionally in the arms of God's mercy.

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

### **Mass Readers Reminder**

	<b>Saturday 5/4</b>	<b>Sunday 6/4</b>
<b>Muswellbrook</b>	Jasmine	R. Ross J. Grenfell
<b>Aberdeen</b>		T. Hobbs

## Rehearsal for Easter Choir

There will be two rehearsals in the lead up to Easter.

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm at St James Church.**

We will only be rehearsing the music for GOOD FRIDAY (3pm, 18<sup>th</sup> April) and EASTER VIGIL (7pm, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April).

Looking forward to seeing some new faces – all welcome!

**Colleen Kelly 0402 242 273**

## Holy Land Collection 2025

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 18th. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing, Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Due to the ongoing war, the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world. In 2024 Australian Catholics were once again extremely generous and we were able to send to the Holy Land nearly \$1.5 million (\$1.4 million [2023], \$1.4 million [2022] and \$1,126,098 [2021]). The reality for the Holy Land mission is that they will continue to face challenges, financial and spiritual, and so we again ask Catholics around the world again to be as generous as possible, with their financial support as well as the spiritual support. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday. Thank you.

## LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Following the success last year there will be a Lenten Day of Reflection.

Please join us

**WHEN:** NEXT SATURDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> April

**WHERE:** ST JAMES CHURCH

9am Mass in St James Church followed by 9.30 Morning Tea in the Convent – please bring a small plate to share.

10am Sr. Gaye will lead us in a Lenten

Recollection in the Convent Chapel

11am we will return to Church for Exposition and quiet prayer.

The morning will end with Reconciliation back in the Church with Fr. Victor and Fr. Graham.



**Saturday: 5.30 Vigil Mass:** Blessing of the Palms – please gather before Mass on the Lawn under the Olive Tree outside the Church.

**Sunday:**

**Aberdeen 8.00am**

Blessing of the palms outside the church and then procession into the Church for Mass.

**Muswellbrook 10am**

Blessing of the palms on **Convent Verandah** please **gather at the Convent BEFORE MASS.**

Congregation will form a Guard of Honor for Fr Victor & Altar Servers as they process into the Church

# HOLY WEEK 2025

## @ SJM

07

APR

**KINDERGARTEN PRESENTS  
PALM SUNDAY**

COURTYARD | 9:30 AM

07

APR

**STAGE 1 PRESENTS  
THE LAST SUPPER &  
WASHING OF THE FEET**

COURTYARD | 12:00 PM

08

APR

**STAGE 2 PRESENTS  
THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE**

SCHOOL HALL | 9:30 AM

09

APR

**STAGE 3 PRESENTS  
THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
& CRUCIFIXION**

SCHOOL HALL | 9:30 AM

09

APR

**STAGE 3 PRESENTS  
THE RESURRECTION**

SCHOOL HALL | 12:15 PM

PLEASE BOOK YOUR SEATS VIA THE  
HUMANITIX LINKS ON COMPASS



Caritas  
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT  
COMPASSION

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
5th and 6th of April 2025

The life-changing work of Caritas Australia is only made possible by the unwavering generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our local partners on the ground.

Our partners are the true heroes, working tirelessly on the frontlines every day to transform lives and build brighter, more hopeful futures for their communities.



**UNITE** ♥  
**AGAINST**  
**POVERTY**  
this Lent



## Mass Diary

MONDAY 7 April	TUESDAY 8 April	WEDNESDAY 9 April	THURSDAY 10 April	FRIDAY 11 April	SATURDAY 12 April	SUNDAY 13 April
						Palm Sunday
		<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 13 April

2nd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
<b>5.30pm</b> <b>Saturday</b> <b>Muswellbrook</b>	S. Bernard		Sr Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
<b>8.00am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Aberdeen</b>	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	K. Mason				M. Hamilton
<b>10.00am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Muswellbrook</b>	G. Griffin B. Powell	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		J & S Thatcher	Stella Liam Cyrus	

### 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, Sr. Anne Daley and Yolly Catoy.

**Recently Deceased:** Margaret Newsome

**Anniversary:** Adam Tanner, Dustin Lonergan, John Storer, Bill Hobbs

**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). All notices Must be received by 3pm on Wednesday.

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."**