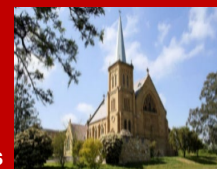




# ST JAMES' PARISH

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

**Parish Priest: Fr Victor Babu Doss**

[frvickybabu@gmail.com](mailto:frvickybabu@gmail.com)

Phone: 0484 903 427 or 6543 1167

**St James Primary School** Office: 6543 3094

Principal: Mr Aaron Moon

Email: [admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au)

**Parish Administration: Mrs Tracey Marsden**

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

Website: [muswellbrookparish.org.au](http://muswellbrookparish.org.au)

PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9am – 3pm

Friday 8am – 12 noon

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – YEAR C**

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

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

### Entrance Antiphon

**Cf John 12: 1, 12-13; Ps 23: 9-10**

Six days before the Passover,  
when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem,  
the children ran to meet him;  
in their hands they carried palm branches  
and with a loud voice cried out:

\* Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your  
abundant mercy!

O gates, lift high your heads;  
grow higher, ancient doors.  
Let him enter, the king of glory!  
Who is this king of glory?

He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

\* Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your  
abundant mercy!

### First Reading

[Isaiah 50:4-7](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I did not cover my face against insult and I  
know I will not be ashamed.*

The Lord has given me  
a disciple's tongue.

So that I may know how to reply to the  
wearied

he provides me with speech.

Each morning he wakes me to hear,  
to listen like a disciple.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,  
neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me,  
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;

I did not cover my face  
against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,

so that I am untouched by the insults.  
So, too, I set my face like flint;  
I know I shall not be shamed.

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

### Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2](#)

(R.) My God, my God, why have you  
abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me.  
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.  
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;  
let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)

2. Many dogs have surrounded me,  
a band of the wicked beset me.  
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.  
I can count every one of my bones. (R.)

3. They divide my clothing among them.  
They cast lots for my robe.

O Lord, do not leave me alone,  
my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)

4. I will tell of your name to my brethren  
and praise you where they are assembled.  
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;  
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.  
Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

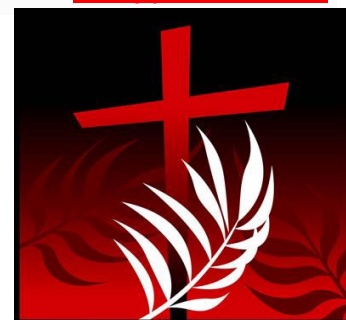
### Second Reading

[Philippians 2:6-11](#)

A reading from the  
letter of St Paul to the  
Philippians

*He humbled  
himself to  
become like us  
and God raised  
him on high.*

His state was divine,  
yet Christ Jesus did not cling



to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are,  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the  
underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

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

#### **Gospel Acclamation**                      [Philippians 2:8-9](#)

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of  
endless glory!  
Christ became obedient for us even to death  
dying on the cross.  
Therefore God raised him on high  
and gave him a name above all other names.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of  
endless glory!

#### **Gospel**    [Luke 22:14 – 23:56](#)

**\*\*Please see the full Gospel on screens  
around the church.**

#### **Communion Antiphon**                      [Matthew 26:42](#)

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my  
drinking it,  
your will be done.

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

This Sunday, we begin the week of weeks in  
the liturgical calendar: the Holy Week. A lot is  
going to happen this coming week. Jesus is  
going to do and say things that will annoy and  
anger the Jewish and Roman leaders. He is  
going to do and say a lot of things that will  
confuse and challenge his closest friends,  
followers and even his family.

On Holy Thursday, he will share a meal with  
his Apostles. He will offer himself to them  
through bread and wine. He will take the place  
of a slave and do the unthinkable; he will wash  
the feet of those who are at table with him.  
After this meal his closest friends will turn their  
backs on him. Judas will betray him, and Peter  
will deny that he even knows him. A few hours  
later Pilate will condemn him to death. The  
soldiers will beat him and make him carry his

own cross. On the way to Calvary, Simon will  
be forced to help him carry this cross. Veronica  
will push her way through the crowd and wipe  
his face in a daring act of tender compassion.  
I think the danger is that because we read and  
hear this story every year, we can become  
used to it and a bit overly familiar with it and  
what it means to us. The invitation and  
question that Passion or Palm Sunday puts  
before us is where am I as Jesus is going  
through all of this? At the beginning of Lent  
Jesus said to each of us 'Take up your cross  
and follow me.' Am I still walking with him or  
am I hiding safely at the back of the crowd  
keeping my distance? Where am I as Jesus  
carries his cross?

The journey of Holy Week does not end nor  
stop at Calvary. But before we can stand at the  
empty tomb with Mary Magdalene we have to  
travel with Jesus as he carries his cross and  
stands on the Hill of Calvary. There is no  
resurrection without crucifixion. We are not  
asked to stay at the cross, but we are asked to  
experience the cross. Then and only then can  
we share in and experience the joy and new  
life that God freely offers each of us through  
the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. If we  
die with him, we shall live with him. If we hold  
firm, then we shall reign with him. (2 Tim 2.11)  
Perhaps Holy Week offers each of us the  
opportunity to hear that invitation that Jesus  
gave us at the beginning of Lent; 'Take up your  
cross and follow me.' This is the invitation that  
Jesus gives to each of us. However, each of us  
has to make our own response. What's yours?  
**Have a Fruitful and Meaningful Holy Week!  
Stay Healthy, Stay Safe, Stay Joyful and  
Stay Blessed!**

#### **Parish Updates**

##### **Keegan/Wood Family Group**

**\*28<sup>th</sup> April:** (*\*Please note change from 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Monday to 4<sup>th</sup> Monday because of Easter*)

Lunch **12 noon** at **Hunter Belle Restaurant**  
75 Aberdeen St. Ph 6541 5066. Please give  
names to Margaret (6543 1238) by **Sat 26  
April.**

##### **Office Days and Bulletin Update**

Due to next Friday being Good Friday and the  
following Friday being ANZAC Day, the office  
will be CLOSED for the next two Fridays. The  
bulletin will be sent out on Wednesday  
afternoon. If you have any notices for the  
bulletin, please send them to the office  
BEFORE 3pm TUESDAY, thank you.



## 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**



**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



**Palm Sunday**  
12-13th of April 2025

As Project Compassion 2025 draws to a close for another year, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support throughout this Lenten Season.

This year, we shared the inspiring stories of 3 individuals whose lives have been transformed through your compassion and generosity.

*But the work isn't done yet.* There is still time to donate! Together, we can *Unite Against Poverty* and help transform lives this Lent.



**UNITE AGAINST POVERTY**

this Lent

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

## 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.

## Mass Readers Reminder

	<b>Saturday 12/4</b>	<b>Sunday 13/4</b>
<b>Muswellbrook</b>	S. Bernard	G. Griffin B. Powell
<b>Aberdeen</b>		T. Hobbs

## **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

9AM 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

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 14 April	Tuesday 15 April	Wednesday 16 April	Thursday 17 April	Friday 18 April	Saturday 19 April	Sunday 20 April
			Lord's Supper	Passion of the Lord	Easter Saturday	Resurrection Of the Lord
	7pm  <b>Chrism Mass</b>  <b>Sacred Heart Cathedral</b>	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	6.00pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  7pm-10pm <b>Garden of Repose</b>	11.00am <b>Stations of the Cross</b> St James Muswellbrook  3.00pm <b>Passion of the Lord</b> St James Muswellbrook	8.00pm <b>Easter Vigil Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	10.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	<b>No Mass</b>			9.00am <b>Stations of the Cross Aberdeen</b>		8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

### Minister Roster Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025

3rd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Counters	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	K. Mason	M. Edwards	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	C. Lumaban T. Furlong	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		T & J Bristow	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, Sr. Anne Daley, Glenda Fe Jimenez, Yolly Catoy and Chris Cantrall.

**Anniversary:**

**Baptisms:**

**Reconciliation: 5pm Saturday in Muswellbrook, 7.30am Sunday 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.”**