



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

Email: frvickybabu@gmail.com

Phone: 0484 903 427 or 6543 1167

St James Primary School

Principal: Mr Aaron Moon

Office: 6543 3094

Email: admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au

Parish Administration: Mrs Tracey Marsden

Email: muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Website: muswellbrookparish.org.au

PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Tues and Wed - 9am - 3pm

Friday – 8am – 12noon

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR C

11th May 2025

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

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 32:5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
alleluia.

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is said.

First Reading [Acts of the Apostles 13:14, 43-52](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We are now turning to the gentiles.

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations,
so that my salvation may reach the ends of
the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 99:1-3. 5. R. v.3](#)

(R.) We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. **(R.)**

2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his
flock. **(R.)**

3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. **(R.)**

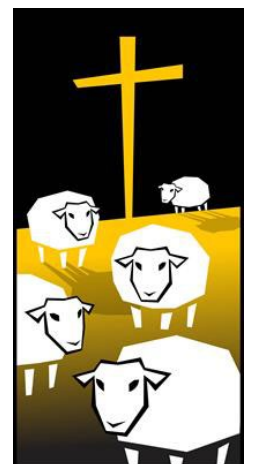
Second Reading

[Revelation 7:9, 14-17](#)

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people



who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

[John 10:14](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

[John 10:27-30](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I give my sheep eternal life.

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,

and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.'

The Creed is said.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Fr Victor's Reflection

On the fourth Sunday of Easter, we celebrate the feast of Christ, our good shepherd who willingly laid down his life for his flock. We celebrate our shepherd because he loves and cares for us in all circumstances. He is willing to lead all who follow and obey him to the spring of eternal life.

This Sunday's gospel is very precise. However, it bears a very powerful message for all of us who according to the psalmist are: "The sheep of God's flock." Naturally, we know that rights go with duties. So, this reading notifies us of our duty as Christ's flock: "**The sheep that belongs to me listens to my voice and they follow me.**" On the

other hand, it also specifies the responsibility of Christ, the Good Shepherd towards us: "I give them eternal life, they will not be lost under my protection, and no one will ever steal them from me." Hence, if we heed the voice of Christ, we are assured of his love, care, and protection. Christ our good shepherd never fails.

So, as the sheep of God's flock, let us heed the daily call of Christ our good shepherd who says: "Behold I stand at the door of your heart and knock. If you open the door, I will come in" (Rev 3:20). Yes, Jesus the good shepherd of all nations stands there patiently knocking. He wants to lead us to the stream of eternal life. So, let us not walk away from Him. The psalmist tells us thus: "Oh that today you will listen to his voice, harden not your hearts" (Ps 95:8). May the Almighty God grant us the wisdom and grace to continue to respond obediently to Christ our Good Shepherd. We are very happy to have a new Shepherd to lead the Church in the person of Pope Leo XIV. Let us thank and praise the Lord for the gift of Pope Leo XIV and pray for him that he may lead the Church effectively in the footsteps of Christ, the Good Shepherd.

Alleluia! Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

Office CLOSED

The office will be closed on Tuesday 13th May as both Tracey and Fr. Victor attend training in Newcastle.

Do you know Roger Mitchell?

Roger Mitchell is a very faithful man in his 80's. He was in a nursing home on the Central Coast however, sometime in the last year Roger told a friend he was relocating to Muswellbrook.

Some of Roger's family are trying to contact him. If you have any information that might help find Roger please contact the parish office.

Keegan/Wood Family Group

Next outing is on 19th May. The group will be going to the Commercial Hotel Aberdeen for lunch. Please RSVP by 17th May to Margaret 6543 1238.

Support Needed for Kairos

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

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

Mass Reminder

	Saturday 10/5	Sunday 11/5
Muswellbrook	S. Bernard	G. Griffin B. Powell
Aberdeen		J. Dallah

Diocese News

Visit our Local Sites of Pilgrimage this Jubilee Year May 16-18

For one long weekend only *Mission & Evangelization* is facilitating a chance to visit all eight churches. This is an opportunity to truly embrace the Jubilee Year and compete with your entire Pilgrim Passport. For more information and to register for one or all stops along the journey visit – [Diocesan Local Churches Pilgrimage - Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle](#)

Cursillo celebrates 55 years in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Cursillo is a movement that focuses on helping each person discover themselves and their relationship with Christ and with others.

You are invited to join us for Mass with Bishop Michael. All are welcome.

Where: Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter Street Newcastle West

When: 18 May 2025 @ 9.30am

Share morning tea with Cursillistas after Mass

RSVP: Claire McWilliam 0413 044 382

or cursillomovement@mn.catholic.org.au

Celebrating the 1700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed May 23

Mission & Evangelisation invites you to this premium formation offering with Associate Professor Joel Hodge, National Head, School of Theology, Australian Catholic University. Choose from one of two sessions at 3:30pm or 6:00pm as he immerses us in the history and theology of the Nicene Creed. This 'deep-dive' into 'what we believe' is not to be missed as we celebrate its 1700 years. This free event, over 2hrs, face to face, will become part of an ongoing formation series hosted at St John the Baptist Shrine, Maitland in 2025. Register now via the Diocesan events page - [Events - Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle](#)

Young People Invited to Explore their Faith

Young people are searching for what really matters – genuine relationships, work that means something, and a sense of purpose in their lives.

Across the weekend, participants will engage in fun, community, dynamic worship, insightful talks, the Sacraments, and moments of reflection – all centred around encountering the person of Christ.

Mission & Evangelisation Partner for Youth Ministry, Dominic Drumore, is beyond excited to see young people from across the Diocese come together.

"I am thrilled to announce our inaugural Young Adults Retreat in 2025, and would love to invite young people from all walks of life," he said.

"Retreats like this always deeply impact my own journey of faith, and I firmly believe that our search for purpose and fulfilment continues to find its answer in consistent encounters with Christ and His Church."

The retreat will take place from 27 to 29 June 2025, kicking off at 6pm on Friday and finishing at 12.30pm on Sunday. People between 18 and 35 are welcome to join us at the Catalina Lakefront Retreat in Rathmines, Lake Macquarie.

The weekend costs \$170 per person with all food and accommodation included; sponsorship opportunities are available for those needing support.

For more information about the retreat, please email mission@mn.catholic.org.au

"Young adults deserve the opportunity to be listened to, engage with their faith, and see what they can become through the Holy Spirit. I'm incredibly excited to see everyone come together for this retreat, ready to grow, connect, and encounter Christ in a new way," Dominic said.

Happy Mother's Day to all our lovely parishioners celebrating this weekend.



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.

Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 12 May	Tuesday 13 May	Wednesday 14 May	Thursday 15 May	Friday 16 May	Saturday 17 May	Sunday 18 May
		St Matthias, apostle				4 th Sunday Easter
		9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	11.30am Adoration and Benediction 12.05pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook 5.30pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	NO MASS					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 18 th May 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	J. Grenfell

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, Chris Cantrall, K.P.Paul, Yolly Catoy, Alvin Bobadilla and Maricar Bobadilla.

Recently Deceased: Shirley Feeney, Pauline Messenger, Josephine Clarke

Anniversary: Del Smith

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

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.

"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."