



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

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St James Primary School

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PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

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

Friday - 8am - 12noon

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR C

18th May 2025

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

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 97:1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

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

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 14:21-27

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them.

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1

(R.) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**
2. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God, to make known to men your mighty deeds and the glorious splendour of your reign. **(R.)**
3. Yours is an everlasting kingdom; your rule lasts from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-5

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

He will wipe away all the tears from their eyes.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.'

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

The Word of the Lord.



Gospel Acclamation

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 13:31-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I give you a new commandment: love one another.

When Judas had gone Jesus said:

‘Now has the Son of Man been glorified,
and in him God has been glorified.
If God has been glorified in him,
God will in turn glorify him in himself,
and will glorify him very soon.
My little children,
I shall not be with you much longer.
I give you a new commandment:
love one another;
just as I have loved you,
you also must love one another.
By this love you have for one another,
everyone will know that you are my
disciples.’

The Creed is said.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf John 15:1,5

I am the true vine and you are the branches,
says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit
in plenty, alleluia.

Fr Victor's Reflection

In the gospel of 5th Sunday of Easter, Jesus puts before each of us the great command; love one another, just as I love you. And this is more challenging and difficult than it sounds. We are not asked to simply like each other; we are to love each other as Jesus showed us.

Although we are now celebrating the season of Easter, there is no harm in reminding ourselves the lengths Jesus went to physically demonstrate his love for each of us. On Holy Thursday he got down on his knees to wash our feet. On Good Friday he was lifted up on the cross for us and on Easter Sunday he burst out of the tomb with the gift of new life.

As followers of Jesus today, we are called not simply to believe in the resurrection, we are called to live it through the quality of our daily lives, through how we treat each other and speak to each other. Our actions will speak louder than our words. As John of the Cross reminds us, ‘at the end of our lives, God will not judge us on our

earthly possessions and our human achievements but on how much we have loved.’

Alleluia! Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

Parish Updates

Office Hours

Please be advised on Wednesday 21st May, the office will close at 12.30pm. Sorry for any inconvenience.

St Thomas Cuppa after Mass

Please join us this Sunday 25th May for a cuppa following Mass at St Thomas Church.

This month's organisers are Marg & Carol.

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.

Thank you for supporting Kairos!

A very big thank you to all those who have already shown their support for Kairos. It's not too late to offer support through prayer, supplying biscuits or letter writing. Especially during the week of 19th May to 23rd May. Please speak to Stephen Thatcher 0437 673 378 for more information. Thank you.

Mass Reminder

	Saturday 17/5	Sunday 18/5
Muswellbrook	S. Bernard J. Jacobs	C. Lumaban T. Furlong
Aberdeen		K. Mason

Diocese News

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](#)

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.

A Prayer for **Pope Leo XIV**

AND HIS INSTALLATION AS BISHOP OF ROME

Gracious and loving God,

we thank you for the blessing of Pope Leo XIV,
chosen to shepherd your Church in these times.
Guide him as he walks in the footsteps of St. Peter,
that he may lead with humility, wisdom, and strength.

You have called him to a sacred task—
To shepherd your people ,
to serve with tenderness and compassion,
and to proclaim the Gospel boldly and with joy.

Guide him as he builds your Church
into a sacrament of unity, love, and peace for all the world,
by governing with fidelity,
those entrusted to his care.

Strengthen him with grace and courage,
right judgement, knowledge, and truth,
inspired by your Holy Spirit,
and by the maternal care of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
and the prayers of all the saints.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 19 May	Tuesday 20 May	Wednesday 21 May	Thursday 22 May	Friday 23 May	Saturday 24 May	Sunday 25 May
					Our Lady, Help of Christians	^{6th} 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
	5.00pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 25 th May 2025							
4th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Counters	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	R. Ross M. Carter	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	K. Roach	K. Mason	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	M. Medhurst B. Powell	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		J & S Thatcher	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, and Yolly Catoy.

Recently Deceased: Pauline Messenger, Josephine Clarke, Maricar Bobadilla, Alvin Bobadilla

Anniversary: Milly 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

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."