



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

Friday - 8am - 12noon



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR C

25th May 2025

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

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Isaiah 48:20

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

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

First Reading **Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2. 22-29**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and ourselves not to burden you beyond what is essential.

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 66:2-3. 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. **(R.)**
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

He showed me the holy city coming down out of heaven.

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-



clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

Gospel Acclamation

[John 14:23](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come
to them.

Alleluia!

Gospel

[John 14:23-29](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him
and make our home with him.
Those who do not love me do not keep my
words.

And my word is not my own:
it is the word of the one who sent me.
I have said these things to you
while still with you;
but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all I have said to you.
Peace I bequeath to you,
my own peace I give you,
a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift
to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.
You heard me say:

I am going away, and shall return.
If you loved me you would have been glad
to know that I am going to the Father,
for the Father is greater than I.
I have told you this now before it happens,
so that when it does happen you may
believe.’

Communion Antiphon

[John 14:15-16](#)

If you love me, keep my commandments, says
the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send you
another Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

Fr Victor's Reflection

In the gospel on the 6th Sunday of Easter, Jesus promised to give us the Holy Spirit and the kind of peace the world cannot give us. This peace the world cannot give us is his own peace. He said: ‘Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you’.

Having experienced the pain and sorrow of the crucifixion, then the joy and new life of the resurrection, the followers of Jesus now have to face the reality of the Risen Lord’s departure – again. Jesus senses their confusion, pain and sense of loss. But before he leaves them, he gives two parting gifts: The Holy Spirit and his own Peace.

He doesn’t give them all the answers to the questions they have. He knows that they will have to face difficulties, disagreements and differences. So, he prepares them for the road ahead by strengthening and encouraging them with His risen life through the gifts of the Holy Spirit and his own inner Peace. He is sending them out to proclaim the good news, but he does not expect them to do it on their own.

Encouraged by His presence they will never be alone or helpless and neither are we, who are the community of believers today. We are asked to face our daily reality and lives not just with optimism but with faith and hope in the risen Jesus and each other. Through celebrating and sharing in the resurrection, each of us also shares in and experiences the Peace of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. As we continue our journey through Easter, we trust that we will be blessed with the gifts of Christ’s Peace and encouraged by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

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.

Mass Reminder

	Saturday 24/5	Sunday 25/5
Muswellbrook	R. Ross M. Carter	M. Medhurst B. Powell
Aberdeen		K. Roach

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.

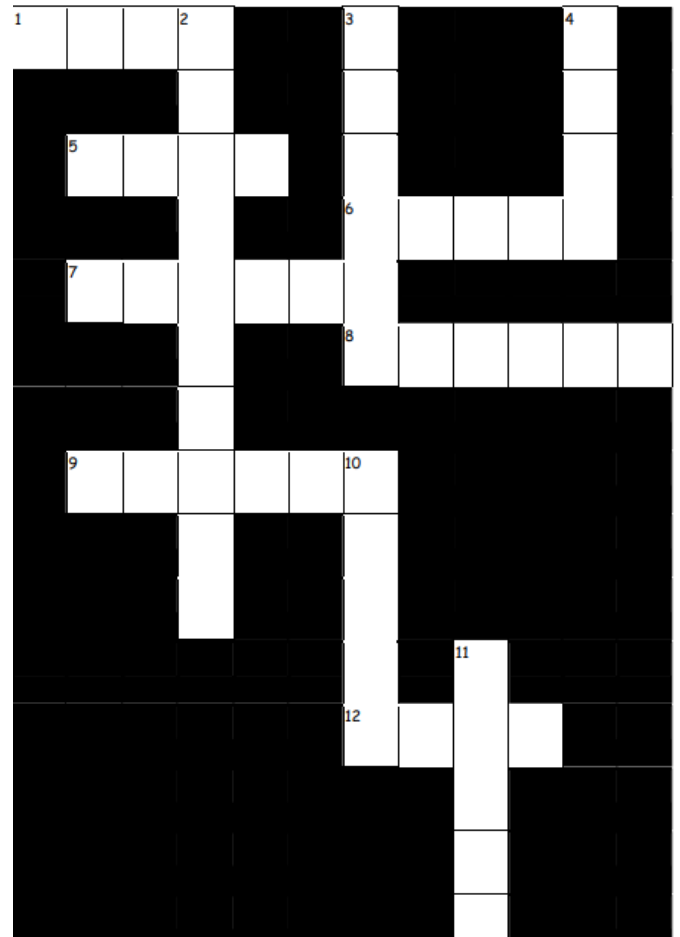
Diocese News

Celebrating the Heart of Our Community: National Volunteer Week 2025

This week marks National Volunteer Week (19–25 May), a time to celebrate and thank the incredible individuals who generously give their time and talents to help others. With the 2025 theme “Connecting Communities,” we recognise the vital role volunteers play in strengthening relationships, fostering inclusion, and making a real impact in people's lives.

Across our Diocese, we are lucky to have nearly 5,000 volunteers contribute to our schools, CatholicCare support services, and parishes—bringing compassion, energy, and dedication to every role. Their support is not only appreciated—it is essential. Volunteers help create welcoming environments, provide practical care, and support our mission to serve all.

To every volunteer, we say a BIG thank you. Your commitment is deeply valued, and your impact is life-changing for many in the community.



Across

- 1: to have life
- 5: follow orders
- 6: to have listened
- 7: any person
- 8: to help somebody remember
- 9: The Holy _ _ _ _ _
- 12: devoted to the service of God

Down

- 2: all things
- 3: another word for dad
- 4: to order something to go to a place
- 10: pass knowledge onto others
- 11: Jesus told his disciples, "the Father will send the Spirit to take my p _ _ _ _".



Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 26 May	Tuesday 27 May	Wednesday 28 May	Thursday 29 May	Friday 30 May	Saturday 31 May	Sunday 1 June
						Ascension of the Lord
		NO MASS	NO MASS	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 1 st June 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 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, Sheril Theodore Brewty, Jan Toohey and Larry Keegan.

Recently Deceased: Alvin Bobadilla and Maricar Bobadilla

Anniversary: Eileen Best, Pamela Keegan

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."