



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



THE ASCENSION of the LORD – YEAR C

1st June 2025

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

Entrance Antiphon Acts of the Apostles 1:11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?

This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

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

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'



As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth.
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise.
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

Second Reading Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is

the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 24:46-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

The Creed is said.

Communion Antiphon

Matthew 28:20

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age,
alleluia.

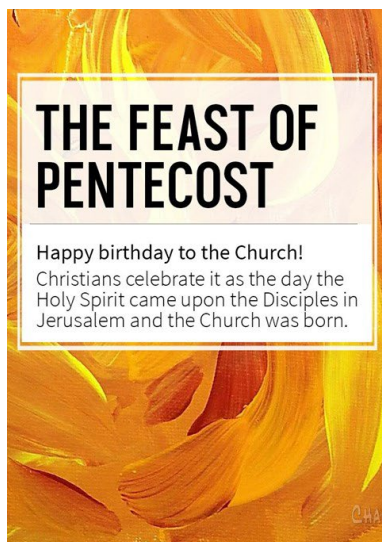
Fr Victor's Reflection

The saying "nothing good lasts forever" might be a good way to start reflecting on the Feast of the Ascension. With his Ascension, the earthly mission of Jesus comes to an end; he has through his life, death and resurrection accomplished the plan and will of God. The Kingdom of God has begun. We can imagine the sadness of the disciples of Jesus, as he

prepares to leave them. It marks the start of the time when they have to live without him being physically with them. They now have to realise that he will never eat, pray or walk with them as he used to; that time is over. He is gone. However, there is another side to his departure. As this part of Jesus' life ends, he now passes his mission onto his friends and followers. While Jesus' earthly ministry ends, theirs is just beginning. One chapter of Jesus' life is ending and another is just beginning. The gospel makes this very clear. Jesus says to his followers that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. As Jesus leaves them, he passes on the huge responsibility of carrying on the work of proclaiming the Kingdom of God. And this is what they did and the Lord was working with them. Today we are expected to continue to carry on the work of proclaiming God's kingdom. Even though these days during this Easter season, we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus, he has not left, deserted or abandoned us. He is with us when we pray for each other and when we hear the scriptures proclaimed. He is with us when we share his Body and Blood together. He is with us when we reach out to care for and support each other. He is with us when we do our best each day to live our lives as his followers and disciples. Just as Jesus was with and working with his first followers, so also today Jesus is with and working with each of us today. **Alleluia! Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!**

Mass Reminder

	Saturday 31/5	Sunday 1/6
Muswellbrook	Jasmine	J. Grenfell
Aberdeen		T. Hobbs



Gracethruffaith.com

Next Sunday, 8th June the Feast of Pentecost The Birthday of the Church

We look forward to sharing a Tea/coffee/ or cordial and Morning Tea in the Convent after 10am Mass. Please bring a plate to share.

We look forward to seeing you, new Parishioners particularly encouraged to come along and meet your fellow Parish family

Happy Birthday to the Catholic Church, next Sunday.

Tax Time is Coming

If you are Planned Giver and require a tax receipt for 2024/2025, could you please send an email to the office so we can be sure you receive a receipt as soon as possible. Thank you.

National Reconciliation Week 2025

National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June) is a time for all Australians to reflect on how we can walk together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to create a fairer and more equitable country.

This year's theme, 'Bridging Now to Next', invites us to consider the next steps in our shared journey of reconciliation and how we will enact real change.

At its heart, reconciliation is about forging meaningful relationships built on truth and trust. Walking together requires all Australians to acknowledge our shared history.

The NSW Government is committed to work in partnership with Aboriginal organisations, communities, and people to Close the Gap.

Our focus is on shared decision-making. We know that when Closing the Gap solutions are designed, led, and implemented by Aboriginal people and communities, in partnership with Government, we get better outcomes.

All of us in NSW have the chance to be a 'bridge from now to next'.

Because reconciliation isn't the work of Aboriginal communities. It's the responsibility of every one of us.

Start where you are and stay committed, because reconciliation is a sustained effort, grounded in respect and accountability.

I encourage people to learn about your local Aboriginal culture and country.

Attend a local reconciliation event in your community. Acknowledge the hurt, along with stories of hope and togetherness from our shared history. And most importantly, listen.

Statement by: Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty (NSW Government website)



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

Bridging Now to Next



Diocese News

Join the aMeN caMiNo in 2025!

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, Mission and Evangelisation are offering two unique local

aMeN caMiNo pilgrimage experiences. One over 2 days and the other over 5 days.

To learn more, attend our physical Walk & Talk Information Session on Saturday 14th June. To register: <https://forms.office.com/r/XFXfcBJ927>

Find out more about aMeN caMiNo via our website: aMeNcaMiNo – Catholic Diocese of Maitland- Newcastle.

NAIDOC Week Prayer Service

Sunday 6 July – 1.30pm for 2pm start.

Sacred Heart Cathedral will host the NAIDOC Week Prayer Service celebrating the theme "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy".

This is the 50th year of NAIDOC Week and will feature the burial of a time capsule, a symbolic gesture preserving this legacy for generations to come. For more information and to register visit 2025 NAIDOC Week Prayer Service – Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Do you want to grow deeper in your knowledge of the Catholic Faith?

MacKillop Parish presents Faith Talks by Dr Robert Haddad who is a renowned Catholic apologist, author and international guest speaker. Dr Haddad is thrilled to come to Newcastle from Sydney to present a series of three especially chosen faith talks for this Jubilee year. You are most welcome to come to this free event.

Friday, June 13- 7:00PM- 8:30PM (Doors open at 6:30pm)

Talk 1: The Jubilee of Hope 2025- How can we benefit? Saturday, June 14

Talk 2: How the early Church was Catholic
Time: 11:00am-12.30pm

Talk 3: We have seen His Glory- How God is always among us

Time: 2:00pm-3.30pm

Venue: Function Room at St Mary of the Cross Parish Hub 7 Milson Street Charlestown.

REGISTER VIA QR CODE
For further information or for help registering please contact Yvone Rego- 0450 323 206



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 2 June	Tuesday 3 June	Wednesday 4 June	Thursday 5 June	Friday 6 June	Saturday 7 June	Sunday 8 June
						Pentecost Sunday
		9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>NO MASS</u>	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 8 th June 2025							
2nd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Counters	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	S. Bernard	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	K. Mason				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	G. Griffin 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, Yolly Catoy, Sheril Theodore Brewty, Jan Toohey, Larry Keegan, Charles Sadgrove and Rollen Borres

Recently Deceased: Alvin Bobadilla and Maricar Bobadilla, Victoria Flory Mewburn

Anniversary:

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."