



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: Tue, Wed and Fri 9.00am – 3.00pm

Safeguarding Promotor: Jane Jacobs

SAINTS PETER & PAUL APOSTLES – YEAR C

29th June 2025

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

Entrance Antiphon

These are the ones who, living in the flesh,
planted the Church with their blood;
they drank the chalice of the Lord
and became the friends of God.

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

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Now I know it is indeed true: the Lord has saved me from the power of Herod.

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly.

On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said 'Hurry!' – and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals.' After he had done this, the angel next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went

through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. 'Now I know it is all true,' he said. 'The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33:2-9. R. v.5

(R.) The Lord set me free from all my fears.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**
2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. **(R.)**
3. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. **(R.)**
4. The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him. **(R.)**

Second Reading

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

A reading from the second letter of
of St Paul to Timothy

All that remains now is the crown of righteousness.

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone.



I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You are Peter, and I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

The Creed is said.

Communion Antiphon

Cf Matthew 16:16,18

Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.



Fr Victor's Reflection

This Sunday, we celebrate the Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, the two giants of our Christian faith. Each in their own way carried on the mission and ministry of Jesus as they proclaimed the gospel through their words and actions as missionary disciples in the early church.

The lives of Peter and Paul teach us that God can use anyone to do His work. Peter was an ordinary fisherman, and Paul started as someone who opposed Christians. Both became leaders of the Church. This reminds us that no matter our past or weaknesses, we can serve God if we are willing to follow Him.

Peter's life teaches us about trust and forgiveness. He made mistakes, like when he denied Jesus three times. But Peter repented and accepted Jesus' forgiveness. He went on to lead the early Church with courage. This shows us that failure is not the end. When we turn back to God, He gives us another chance.

Paul's life shows the power of change. He was once an enemy of Christians, but after his conversion, he became one of the greatest missionaries. Paul reminds us that God's grace can change even the hardest hearts. No one is too far away from God to come back to Him. Both Peter and Paul show us how to be brave in our faith. They faced threats, prison, and even death, but they kept preaching the Gospel. Their courage inspires us to stand firm in our beliefs, even when it is not easy.

Another lesson from their lives is the importance of working together. Peter and Paul had different missions and sometimes disagreed. But they worked for the same goal: spreading the message of Jesus. They remind us that unity is more important than differences.

The examples of Peter and Paul teach us to trust God, seek forgiveness, be open to change, and stay strong in faith. Their lives encourage us to live with purpose and to share the message of Jesus with others.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

Parish Updates

Mass Reminder

	Saturday 28/6	Sunday 29/6
Muswellbrook	Jasmine	M. Shanahan
Aberdeen		M. Brown

Readers Needed for St James Church

We are looking for more volunteers to add to our readers roster for Mass at St James Church.

If this is something you could help with, please contact the office or speak to Fr Victor.

Cuppa at St Thomas

This Sunday, 29th June, there will be a cuppa after Mass. All parishioners are welcome to stay for a cuppa and a chat.

Organisers are Marianne and Cathy.

Lunch After Feast Mass on Thursday

After the Feast of St Thomas Mass on Thursday 3rd July parishioners are invited to join Fr Victor for lunch at Aberdeen Sports Club.

Mass App

For anyone using the Mass App, this is a reminder it will not be available after 1st July.

IMPORTANT - Parish Collection Changes

After a long period of consultation between Parish Clergy, Parish Finance Councils and Parish Administration as well as members of the Bishop's staff we are pleased to bring our parishes the following changes to Planned Giving, effective, from 1 July 2025.

- A new modernised monthly levy system, which will significantly reduce the administration burden on our parish staff and allow parishes to manage their finances more effectively.
- 1st and 2nd collections will remain. These are both essential for the sustainability of our parish community.
- Both collections will now support Clergy across the Diocese, our Parishes and the broader Diocesan community.
- The new levy system will provide parishes with increased access to broader Diocesan services and support. The nature of the services **means there will**

no longer be tax deductions available to parishioners for these contributions.

- By removing the tax-deductible component of planned giving, we seek to further ease the administrative burden of our Parishes. The current practice of issuing tax receipts has become increasingly onerous in comparison to the tax deduction benefit for parishioners.

Your valued contributions will continue to benefit the Parish and the work of the Church and we foresee these changes to Planned Giving to be overwhelmingly positive for our parish communities.

There are no immediate changes to the way your planned giving is collected. However, for those who used the mass app, please note that this will be no longer be available from July.

We thank you for your ongoing financial support. If you have any questions regarding these changes, please speak with your Parish Priest or Parish Secretary who have more detailed information.

Diocese Updates

NAIDOC Week Prayer Service 6 July – 1:30pm

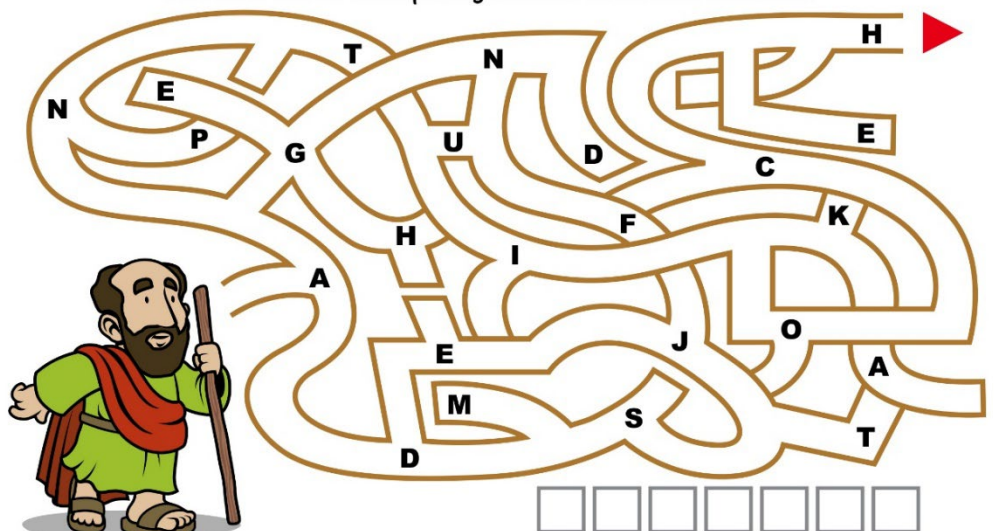
Sacred Heart Cathedral will host the NAIDOC Week Prayer Service celebrating the theme "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy". This is the 50th year of NAIDOC Week and will feature the burial of a time capsule, a symbolic gesture preserving this legacy for generations to come. For more information and to register visit - [2025 NAIDOC Week Prayer Service - Catholic Diocese of Maitland- Newcastle](#)

NAIDOC Week Festival

Monday 7 July – 9am

Be a part of this year's NAIDOC Week celebrations, which coincides with its 50th anniversary. Hosted by Awabakal Ltd, and sponsored by the Catholic Diocese Maitland-Newcastle, the event starts at Civic Park, with a flag raising ceremony at 9am before a united procession to Foreshore Park where the festival is held.

The apostle Paul is best known as a great traveller who spread the message of Jesus and established communities of faith wherever he went. Help Paul find his way to the next city on his travels - enter each letter into the corresponding box below to reveal the destination.



Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 30 June	Tuesday 1 July	Wednesday 2 July	Thursday 3 July	Friday 4 July	Saturday 5 July	Sunday 6 July
			St Thomas apostle			14 th Sunday Ordinary Time
				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 Novena Mass St Thomas Aberdeen	5.00pm Novena Mass St Thomas Aberdeen	5.00pm Novena Mass St Thomas Aberdeen	11.00am Feast Mass St Thomas Aberdeen			8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 6 July 2025							
1st Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Counters	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	R. Ross	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			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, Charles Sadgrove, Rollen Borres and Veronica Chisolm.

Recently Deceased: Nayomi, Fr Maria Francis, Garry Blowes

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."