



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 9.00am – 3.00pm

Fri – 8.00am – 12noon

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

13th July 2025

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

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 16:15

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:10-14

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Let the instruction of the Lord God be near you.

Moses said to the people: 'Obey the voice of the Lord your God, keeping those commandments and laws of his that are written in the Book of this Law, and you shall return to the Lord your God with all your heart and soul.

'For this Law that I enjoin on you today is not beyond your strength or beyond your reach. It is not in heaven, so that you need to wonder, "Who will go up to heaven for us and bring it down to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?" Nor is it beyond the seas, so that you need to wonder, "Who will cross the seas for us and bring it back to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?" No, the Word is very near to you, it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 68:14. 17. 30-31. 33-34. 36-37. R. see v.33

(R.) Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

1. This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favour.
In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me. (R.)

2. As for me in my poverty and pain
let your help, O God, lift me up.
I will praise God's name with a song;

I will glorify him with thanksgiving. (R.)

3. The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants in their
chains. (R.)

4. For God will bring help to Zion
and rebuild the cities of Judah.
The sons of his servants shall inherit it;
those who love his name shall dwell
there. (R.)

Second Reading

Colossians 1:15-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

All things were created through him and for him.

Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God
and the first-born of all creation,
for in him were created
all things in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and everything invisible,
Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers –
all things were created through him and for him.
Before anything was created, he existed,
and he holds all things in unity.
Now the Church is his body,
he is its head.
As he is the Beginning,
he was first to be born from
the dead,
so that he should be first in
every way;
because God wanted all
perfection
to be found in him
and all things to be reconciled
through him and for him,



everything in heaven and everything on earth,
when he made peace
by his death on the cross.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

[See John 6:63. 68](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!

Gospel

[Luke 10:25-37](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke

Who is my neighbour?

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus,
stood up and said to him, ‘Master, what must I
do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What
is written in the Law? What do you read there?’
He replied, ‘You must love the Lord your God
with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your
strength, and with all your mind, and your
neighbour as yourself.’ ‘You have answered
right,’ said Jesus, ‘do this and life is yours.’

But the man was anxious to justify himself and
said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’ Jesus
replied, ‘A man was once on his way down
from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands
of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and
then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a
priest happened to be travelling down the same
road, but when he saw the man, he passed by
on the other side. In the same way a Levite who
came to the place saw him and passed by on
the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who
came upon him was moved with compassion
when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his
wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then
lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the
inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out
two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper.
“Look after him,” he said, “and on my way back I
will make good any extra expense you have.”
Which of these three, do you think, proved
himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the
brigands’ hands?’ ‘The one who took pity on
him,’ he replied. Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do
the same yourself.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

[Cf Psalm 83:4-5](#)

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my
God. Blessed are they who dwell in your
house,
for ever singing your praise.

Fr Victor’s Reflection

On the 15 Sunday in Ordinary time, year C,
Jesus asks us to be neighbours to all people by
treating others with compassion. It does not
matter if the others are enemies or friends, we
are called to treat them with mercy and to help
them in all their needs.

The parable of the good Samaritan teaches us
that compassionate love has no boundary. The
motivation to be compassionate is more than
empathy which is the ability to understand and
share the feelings of another. Compassionate
love is a motivation to action that originates from
picturing the self in another.

The first reading from the book of Deuteronomy
takes us to the heart where compassionate love
is born. It reminds us that the Word of God is
near to us, it is in our hearts. The priest and the
Levite in the gospel, failed to assist the man who
fell into the hands of thieves on his way from
Jerusalem to Jericho because they were mindful
of their religious and social boundaries.

First, they were mindful that the road from
Jerusalem to Jericho is notorious for robbers.
Secondly, their religious offices abhor
contamination prior to temple duties. They failed
to respond to the compassionate love that points
to our common humanity. The boundaries
created by self-defence and work ethics
prevented them from attending to the
unfortunate traveller.

In our contemporary society, the laws and
principles of safeguarding have made it difficult
for compassionate love. While safeguarding
laws protect the vulnerable, it has set a
boundary to genuine compassion. In recent
times, those working with the vulnerable have
been made to undergo serious scrutiny and
documentation that discourages genuine
compassion. We pray that in the midst of a
changing world; the Holy Spirit will continue to
inspire our hearts to show genuine compassion.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

Mass Readers Reminder

	Saturday 12/7	Sunday 13/7
Muswellbrook	S. Bernard	G. Griffin M. Shanahan
Aberdeen		J. Dallah

Office Closure Reminder

The parish office is now CLOSED, reopening at
9am Tuesday 22nd July.

A B H L E Q O T I V Y R Y N C X R
 B I Z G J X X G A X N L P N L Y L
 D T R L P Y Q X S Y M S G I O A K
 X I F A H P O X F Z R N R C I T B
 E V S Z M V H H T U I I F L X V O
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 U C R X V J U E T E R N A L R S T
 R H R D F R Y S N X D W P I T Y S
 J C K U E S V T R M S D I P Z X I
 B C N S H R O R Q V L K L Z L Q I
 X X L K F C Y I L D Y U M N D U F

Try to find these words:

beginning
 church
 cross
 eternal
 heart
 laws
 neighbours
 obey
 pity
 robbers
 Samaria
 Scriptures



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Scriptural context

The 'Rule of Three'

Jesus was a good storyteller. He used a lot of the 'tricks of the trade' of good storytellers. Using a rule of three remains a common device to help storytellers remember the story. (Think of the number of times fairy tales use this device.) In the rule of three, the third repetition of an event or action always holds the key. Jesus used this device to great effect in his parables because he invariably broke the rule! He used the rule to lull his audience into a predictable story and then turned things upside down by having the unexpected occur.

Pray as you Go!

Last Saturday morning 10 Parishioners gathered with Sr Gaye at the Old Convent to explore different ways to pray, not just say prayers.

Sister presented three different Prayer apps and after discussion and inspired by Sister's enthusiasm for the **Pray as you Go App** the group decided to adopt the free Prayer App - which is free to download at prayasyougo.org (suitable for computers, phone or ipad use.)

The Group has scheduled two meetings a month

1 - 3rd Sunday of the month after the 10am Mass (byo lunch) (20 July)

2 - 1st Thursday of the Month after the 12pm Mass (byo lunch) (7 Aug)

Hopefully most interested people will be able to come along at least to one session per month.

Between now and then we will be aiming to open the App regularly (if not daily), click on the calendar for the right date and sit in quiet meditation, reflection and prayer based on the reading for the day.

We look forward to other Parishioners joining us in spirit on the daily journey and meeting together again on Sunday 20th July at the Convent after the 10am Mass.

Mass Diary						
MONDAY 14 July	TUESDAY 15 July	WEDNESDAY 16 July	THURSDAY 17 July	FRIDAY 18 July	SATURDAY 19 July	SUNDAY 20 July
						16 th Sunday Ordinary Time
		9.00am Novena Mass St James Muswellbrook	11.30am Adoration & Benediction 12.05pm Novena Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Novena Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Novena Mass St James Muswellbrook 5.30pm Vigil Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Novena Mass St James Muswellbrook Prayer group after Mass
	5.00pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 20 th July							
3rd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	A. Moon J. Jacobs	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	K. Mason	M. Edwards	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	C. Lumaban	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, Sheril Theodore Brewty, Jan Toohey, Charles Sadgrove and Rollen Borres

Recently Deceased: Eric Leyson, Fr. Eugene Moon Lazarous, Victor Ellis, Dollu and Stephen Smith

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 (Contact via the Parish Office).

"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."