



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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Safeguarding Promotor: Jane Jacobs

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

27th July 2025

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

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 67:6-7,36

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

First Reading

Genesis 18:20-32

A reading from the book of Genesis

Lord, do not be angry if I speak.

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.'

The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' The Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.'

Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No', he replied 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will only be forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.'

Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 137:1-3. 6-8. R. v.3

(R.) Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of affliction
you give me life and frustrate my foes. **(R.)**
4. You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is
eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Colossians 2:12-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians



He has made you alive with Christ for he has forgiven all our sins.

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins.

He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Romans 8:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have received the Spirit which makes us
God's children,
and in that Spirit we call God our Father.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 11:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Ask, and it will be given to you.

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy,
your kingdom come;
give us each day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive each one who is in
debt to us.
And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for

bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Psalm 102:2

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

Fr Victor's Reflection

Like the last few Sundays, Jesus continues to teach his followers how to be his disciples. The lesson on 17th Sunday, is on the power of prayer and how to pray. In Sunday's gospel, Jesus provides his disciples, and all Christians, with a model for prayer. In keeping with this modelling by Jesus, it is significant that the Lord's Prayer, or Our Father, is the common prayer of all Christians, regardless of their denomination. St Therese of Lisieux described prayer as a "surge of the heart". It is more than just words in our heads. It is truly sharing with God our deepest longings, joys, sorrows, and feelings. This is the type of prayer which Jesus teaches his disciples, giving them the words to what we call the Lord's Prayer. This prayer is a treasury of different forms of prayer.

He tells us to call God "Father", an intimate term, and to remember that God is holy. He tells us to speak to God about his Kingdom and his will for us. We also speak of "our daily bread", our needs. We ask for mercy and the ability to show mercy. And for God's presence in times of trial. Jesus also tells his followers to be persistent. Why? Prayer is not meant to "change God's mind" but to draw us into union with the divine. Not giving up on prayer keeps the line of communication open, allowing God to speak to us also. This can help us see things in a different light, or lead us in a new direction, or soften our hearts. Or maybe we just need to be patient. Prayer is meant to break us out of our closed mindedness. We call to God who is both near enough that we can call him Father and yet so different from us. God is a mystery to us, but through prayer we can gain insight into his nature. And then we can learn to depend on him for all that we need.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

Pray As You Go Gathering

The next gathering for the Prayer Group will be Thursday 7th August following Mass (approximately 12.30pm) in the Convent.

Mass Readers Reminder

	Saturday 26/7	Sunday 27/7
Muswellbrook	M. Carter T. Threadgate	M. Medhurst
Aberdeen		K. Roach



Cuppa after Mass at St Thomas

All parishioners are welcome to stay after Mass this Sunday, 27th July for a cuppa and a chat. The organisers for this moth are Marg and Carol.

Diocese Updates

Formation Film

Where: NEWCASTLE WEST

When: 2 August

Enjoy the August Formation Film, an Italian comedy – God Willing from 11am. Lunch provided. The screening will take place in the Diocesan Resource Centre. Registration required - <https://forms.office.com/r/Ppug3zuLWn>

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

Join the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle official pilgrimage with Bishop Michael

29 November – 3 December 2025

Crossing Cultures, Hidden Histories

CULTURAL AWARENESS DAY

SATURDAY 16 AUGUST 2025 | TORONTO



Image: Wedge-Tail Eagle by Nathan Patterson. Used with permission of the artist @diwanadreaming • Instagram

Time: 8.30 am – 3.30 pm

Where: Awabakal Country, St Joseph's Hall (opp. Church), 140 Wangi Rd Toronto

Cost: \$10 cash – pay on the day. Morning tea & Lunch provided

RSVP: by Monday 11 August via <https://CCHH25.eventbrite.com.au> or QR code

Enquiries: to mission@mn.catholic.org.au



Mission & Evangelisation



mn.catholic.org.au

Lord, when I called for help, you answered me

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

Try to find these words:

ask
destroy
door
evil
friend
good
judge
knock
pray
receive
save

Gen 18:20-32
Ps 138:1-2a. 2b cdef-3. 7abde-8abc R.v. 3a
Lk 11:1-10

MEN RISE UP!

**EVERY FIRST SATURDAY
10.30 AM AT SACRED
HEART CATHEDRAL,
NEWCASTLE**

**COME PRAY THE ROSARY
for family, nation and faith.
We battle against evil—together!**

**DARE TO BE
COURAGEOUS
KNEEL BEFORE GOD**

See you on Saturday.

Mass Diary						
MONDAY 28 July	TUESDAY 29 July	WEDNESDAY 30 July	THURSDAY 31 July	FRIDAY 1 August	SATURDAY 2 August	SUNDAY 3 August
						18 th Sunday Ordinary Time
		9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	11.30am Adoration & Benediction 12.05pm Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook 5.30pm Vigil Mass St James Muswellbrook	10.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook
	NO MASS					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 3 rd August							
1st Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	R. Ross	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	T. Hobbs	J. Lonergan	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10.00am 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, Veronica Chisolm, Bob O'Brien and Adeline Francis.

Recently Deceased: Eric Leyson

Anniversary: Barbara McTaggart, Margaretha Klasen, Adriaan Klasen

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."