



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

Email: muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Website: muswellbrookparish.org.au

PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

Safeguarding Promotor: Jane Jacobs

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

3rd August 2025

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

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 69:2,6

O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.

Show pity to your servants. (R.)

4. In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands. (R.)

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

What do people gain by all their work?

Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity!

For so it is that a man who has laboured wisely, skilfully and successfully must leave what is his own to someone who has not toiled for it at all. This, too, is vanity and great injustice; for what does he gain for all the toil and strain that he has undergone under the sun? What of all his laborious days, his cares of office, his restless nights? This, too, is vanity.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 89:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. v.1

(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

1. You turn men back into dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. (R.)
2. You sweep men away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades. (R.)
3. Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Seek the things that are above where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

That is why you must kill everything in you that belongs only to earthly life: fornication, impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as worshipping a false god; and never tell each other lies. You have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self, and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its creator; and in that image there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised or the uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free man. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything.

The Word of the Lord.



Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

To whom will all this wealth of yours go?

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied, 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do; I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Wisdom 16:20

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven,
endowed with all delights and sweetness in
every taste.

Fr Victor's Reflection

On eighteenth Sunday of ordinary time, we are called to remain focused on our quest for heaven. It is a call to live a Christ centred life. We are urged to focus our attention on the heavenly realities more than on the earthly shadows. The rich man in this Sunday's gospel thinks that having more possessions and building bigger barns will make him happy and give him enough security so that he can 'eat, drink and be merry'. However, when his life is 'demanded' of him, his store of grain and other possessions prove not to be as important and valuable as he thought. He has put his trust and faith in the wrong place and in the wrong things. His reality is everyone's concern; to have enough so that we won't have

to worry about tomorrow. There is no harm in providing for ourselves and our families, but this gospel asks us to reflect on what we value most in life.

Where do we put our energies and what are our priorities? If we were honest with ourselves, we would admit that the pressures of everyday life tend to take up most of our time. We are all concerned about work, paying bills, our family, deadlines and calendars. Our lives tend to be so busy that our immediate goal is to get through one day at a time.

Perhaps this gospel is asking us to think about what we possess and what possesses us. Are we busy trying to maintain a lifestyle rather than create a quality of life for ourselves? This may mean that we buy and accumulate less and settle for fewer possessions. Rather than just ask what we own and what belongs to us, we could ask to whom we belong. We come from God and belong to God. Our true happiness, sense of meaning and true worth comes from our relationship with God. If we could really appreciate this fundamental truth and make more room in our lives for God and then we would gain everything – the fullness of life.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

Book Club Reminder

Reminder that Book Club is held on the second Thursday of each month in the Convent.

The next meeting will be Thursday 14th August.

Please speak to Jane Thatcher for more information.

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 Readers Reminder

	Saturday 2/8	Sunday 3/8
Muswellbrook	R. Ross	J. Grenfell
Aberdeen		T. Hobbs

150 Years of St Catherine's Catholic College Singleton

From humble beginnings founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1875 to a thriving K–12 college, St Catherine's Catholic College proudly honours a rich legacy of faith, learning, and community. Join us as we commemorate this incredible journey and look forward to a future grounded in tradition and inspired by excellence. Please use the link to access information about our 150 Year Celebrations 31st August-5th September.

Celebrations will commence with a parish mass on Sunday 31st August at 10am in St Patrick's Church, Queen Street, Singleton. Everyone will join for a shared morning tea after Mass in the College grounds.

For more information about the events of the week, please use this link

<https://www.singleton.catholic.edu.au/media/1628/150-years-program.pdf>



Goodbye Message from Tracey

I would just like to thank all the parishioners and especially Fr Victor for welcoming me into St James Parish. I have enjoyed working in the parish office for the last eighteen months. Thank you for all your kindness and well wishes.

VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

3–8 AUGUST, 2025

God has a particular vocation in life just for you

- Priesthood
- Diaconate
- Matrimony
- Religious life
- Single

What's yours?

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/catholic-life/live/vocation/>

Please pray for vocations.

Light a candle for Gaza

God of light,

You meet us in the darkest places.

Every year, when we light our Easter candle, we pray 'may the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our minds and hearts.'

We pray today that all people may work with you to dispel the darkness of violence and war.

May this fragile light be a sign of our hope for the people of Gaza.

May they find healing and lasting peace.

Amen.



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Caritas AUSTRALIA



SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Do not worry

This parable and teaching about the love of wealth is followed up by Jesus telling his disciples not to worry about what they will eat and what they will wear. He invites them to look to the birds of the air and flowers of the fields. God provides them with all that they need. Jesus tells his disciples to seek the kingdom and all the other necessities of life will be given to them as well. Rather than focusing on accumulating wealth as the rich man in today's parable, Jesus reassures his disciples that if they focus their lives on the kingdom they will have all that they need.

Mass Diary						
MONDAY 4 August	TUESDAY 5 August	WEDNESDAY 6 August	THURSDAY 7 August	FRIDAY 8 August	SATURDAY 9 August	SUNDAY 10 August
		Transfiguration of the Lord		St Mary of the Cross		19 th Sunday Ordinary Time
		9.00am Mass St James Muswellbrook	11.30am Adoration & Benediction 12.05pm Mass St James Prayer Group after Mass	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
	5.00pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 10th August							
2nd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	S. Bernard	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	K. Mason				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	G. Griffin M. Shanahan	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, Charles Sadgrove, Rollen Borres, Veronica Chisolm, Bob O'Brien and Adeline Francis.

Recently Deceased: Eric Leyson and Francis Jevin Sevilla

Anniversary: Noleen Swift

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."