



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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Office Hours: Tue, Wed and Fri 9.00am – 3.00pm

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NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

10th August 2025

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

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 73:20,19,22,23

Look to your covenant, O Lord,
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

First Reading Wisdom 18:6-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Just as you struck our enemies, you made us glorious by calling us to you.

That night had been foretold to our ancestors,
so that,
once they saw what kind of oaths they had put
their trust in,
they would joyfully take courage.
This was the expectation of your people,
the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their
enemies;
for by the same act with which you took
vengeance on our foes
you made us glorious by calling us to you.
The devout children of worthy men offered
sacrifice in secret
and this divine pact they struck with one accord:
that the saints would share the same blessings
and dangers alike;
and forthwith they had begun to chant the
hymns of the fathers.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:1. 12. 18-20. 22. R. v.12

(R.) Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own. (R.)

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

Second Reading Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

We will look for the city designed and built by God.

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be



counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things that had been promised, but they saw them in the far distance and welcomed them, recognising that they were only strangers and nomads on earth. People who use such terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in search of their real homeland. They can hardly have meant the country they came from, since they had the opportunity to go back to it; but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has founded the city for them.

It was by faith that **Abraham**, when put to the test, offered up **Isaac**. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through **Isaac** that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead, and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back **Isaac** from the dead.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 24:42. 44

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

You know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 12:32-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

See that you are prepared.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.

'Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have

let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, "My master is taking his time coming", and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

'The servant who knows what his master wants but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Psalm 147:12,14

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

Fr Victor's Reflection

When we invite someone very important and close to us for a meal, we begin to prepare to welcome the person in a nice way. We don't leave everything until the last minute. There is a sense of excitement and anticipation as we wait for the arrival of the person. We clean the house, we buy and prepare the food and when the person arrives, we are ready to welcome into our home.

The gospel on the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, speaks of the same sense of preparation, readiness and even a sense of urgency as we wait for Jesus to return. Jesus speaks about the master's absence, but the major concern is what his servants do while he is away. They are meant to be watching and waiting for his return. We do not know the hour or the day when Jesus will return. Jesus is encouraging and challenging us to be ready and prepared to greet him when he does return. As we wait for Jesus, what is the quality of lives, our actions and our speech? Our waiting for Jesus cannot be passive. As we are

called to wait in joyful hope for the return of the Lord, we are also challenged to be joyful disciples and witnesses of Jesus.

It is through the quality of our ordinary daily lives that we show we are not only waiting for the Lord, but that we are actively living for the Lord. Just as the master in the gospel left his servants in charge of his household, so Jesus has left us with the responsibility of carrying on his mission and ministry of proclaiming the good news of the gospel and building the kingdom of God. This is the 'great deal' that has been given to each of us. This is what is expected of us by Jesus. A great deal has been entrusted to us by Jesus as we await his return. We will be held accountable for how we live our daily lives and treat others when Jesus returns.

A question we might prayerfully consider having read this gospel is what is the quality of my waiting as I live in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ?

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe, Stay Joyful and Stay Blessed!

Keegan/Wood Family Group

18 August 2025: Lunch at Hunter Belle Cheese Restaurant 75 Aberdeen St (Ph 6541 5066). Meet at 12 noon. Names to Margaret – 6543 1238 by Friday 15 August

Thank you very much Tracey

- We the Parishioners of St. James, thank you very much dear Tracey for your devoted and dedicated service for 18 months to run the Parish smoothly. We are very grateful to you.
- We are going to miss you. We wish you all the best for your future undertakings. Our prayers are assured for you and your family.

Sacramental Program

24 August – Confirmation and First Holy Communion will be celebrated by Bishop Michael Kennedy. After Mass, morning tea will be held in the convent. Parishioners are asked to bring a plate to share.

Liturgical Life of the Church: Celebrating Revelation – NEWCASTLE WEST

16 & 23 August

All with an interest and desire to learn more about liturgy are invited to join the final unit of the Christian Formation Course 2025. Explore

and reflect on the principles of Catholic liturgy over two consecutive Saturdays with Sr Louise Gannon & Fr Andrew Doohan. For more information and to register visit - <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/the-liturgical-life-of-the-church-celebrating-revelation/>

Praise & Worship Experience – NEWCASTLE WEST - 24 August, 2:30pm

Supported by Mackillop Parish Charlestown, the Catholic Diocese of Maitland Newcastle invites you to come and experience Praise and Worship, a beautiful opportunity to experience and express our Catholic faith through music, led by local worship leaders. All welcome! For more information and to register visit - <https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/praise-worship-experience/>

Children's Formation - The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – BERESFIELD

29-31 August

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is offering a formation opportunity for those interested in facilitating faith formation of children aged 3-12. Level One course is for adults working with young children. It is a pre-requisite for Levels Two and Three that cover training for the formation of 6-12 year old children. Contact Siubhan Sadler on 0432 477 181 or email chisholm.atrium@gmail.com.

Ecumenical Quiet Garden Day – MURRURUNDI

Friday 5 September - 9:30am

Step away from the busyness of life and enter a gentle, reflective space in the spirit of shared Christian friendship. This ecumenical retreat day invites all to pause, listen deeply, and discover anew the presence of God in stillness, nature, and community. Learn more:

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/ecumenical-quiet-garden-day-murrurundi/>

aMeN caMiNo Weekend Experience – MYALL COAST

Saturday 6 / Sunday 7 September

Experience an aMeN caMiNo weekend walk during this year's Season of Creation at the beautiful Myall Coast. Suitable for both beginner and practiced walker, with opportunities for prayer and reflection in nature, set amongst the beautiful wildflowers and gorgeous coastline. Join us for one day or two, walking 5km or 12kms. Start and end point is St Stephen's Catholic Church, Tea Gardens. Learn more:

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/amen-camino-weekend-experience/>

Mass Diary						
MONDAY 11 August	TUESDAY 12 August	WEDNESDAY 13 August	THURSDAY 14 August	FRIDAY 15 August	SATURDAY 16 August	SUNDAY 17 August
				Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary		20 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
	5.00pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 17th August							
3rd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook		C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen							M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook		M. Kelly	C. Kelly			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, Jim Curren and Jeremy Eden

Recently Deceased: Francis Jevin Sevilla, Brain Hammond and Jennie Clayworth

Anniversary: Joyce Tanner, Gavin Casey, Shirley Newell and Bill Hobbs

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."