



# 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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PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

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

Safeguarding Promotor: Jane Jacobs

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

17<sup>th</sup> August 2025

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

### Entrance Antiphon

**Psalm 83:10-11**

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;  
and look on the face of your anointed one;  
one day within your courts  
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

### First Reading

**Jeremiah 38:4-6. 8-10**

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

*You bore me to be a man of strife for the whole world.*

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

### The Word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14**

**(R.)** Lord, come to my aid!

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord  
and he stooped down to me;

he heard my cry. **(R.)**

2. He drew me from the deadly pit,  
from the miry clay.

He set my feet upon a rock  
and made my footsteps firm. **(R.)**

3. He put a new song into my mouth,  
praise of our God.

Many shall see and fear  
and shall trust in the Lord. **(R.)**

4. As for me, wretched and poor,  
the Lord thinks of me.

You are my rescuer, my help,  
O God, do not delay! **(R.)**

### Second Reading

**Hebrews 12:1-4**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*Let us bear patiently the struggle placed upon us.*

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

### The Word of the Lord.



## **Gospel Acclamation**

**John 10:27**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;  
I know them, and they follow me.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel**

**Luke 12:49-53**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*I have come not to give peace, but discord.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

## **Communion Antiphon**

**Psalm 129:7**

With the Lord there is mercy;  
in him is plentiful redemption.

## **Fr Victor's Reflection**

On this twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time, the readings encourage us to fight against evil. In the first reading, Jeremiah was thrown into a cistern—sinking into mud—because he dared to speak God's truth to a people who preferred comfort over change. In the Gospel, Jesus comes as a disruptor, proclaiming a fire that will divide. It's a hard message. But both Jeremiah and Jesus show us that truth isn't always peaceful.

In our world today, whether it's climate change, economic inequality, or the fight for human rights, those who speak out the truth often face resistance. Like Jeremiah, their words fall on ears unwilling to hear the cost of justice. Yet, as the letter to Hebrews reminds us, we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses—those who have endured the struggle.

Jesus, too, endured the cross, despite its shame. He didn't come to bring superficial peace, but a peace that comes through transformation, even if it burns. The fire of truth doesn't always bring instant harmony—it challenges systems, uproots complacency, and invites us into discomfort. The fire Jesus brings

is to purify, transform, and save us from the perils that afflict us. In this fire, we are called to a higher purpose, a deeper commitment to justice. Whether in small acts of kindness or in grand movements of resistance, we're called to bear witness to the truth. Are we ready to let that fire burn within us? To speak out when silence seems easier, to stand firm when the crowd pushes us aside?

Let us pray to the Lord, to kindle in us the fire of truth, and give us the courage to endure the cost of peace.

**Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!**

## **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.

## **Graced Encounters in the Community of Creation: Cultivating Hope in Action**

10 September, 3:30pm or 6pm Join Presenter, Dr Ann-Maree O'Beirne RSM for a Season of Creation Workshop. With a focus on the Ignatian motif of "finding God in all things," this workshop will explore the wisdom of living our lives through a lens of grace that generates hope for all in our community of creation. Choose from one of two sessions as we take time to discover how God is present in all of creation as experienced in our everyday lives. Register:

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/event/graced-encounters-in-the-community-of-creation-cultivating-hope-in-action/>

## **Sisters of Mercy Celebrate 150 Years in the Diocese**

Congratulations to the Sisters of Mercy whose founding Sisters arrived in Singleton from Ireland on 31 August 1875 to begin the Mercies' long years of ministry in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. A Mass prepared by St Catherine's College Singleton which also marks 150 years, will be celebrated at 10am in St Patrick's Church, Singleton on 31 August followed by a cuppa. Following the cuppa, you are invited to share a Ritual of Remembrance in the Convent Chapel and Cemetery to honour the women who gave their lives in service to the Diocese. All welcome.



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN MUSWELLBROOK  
PARISH, ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE  
ABERDEEN, AND ST JAMES' PRIMARY SCHOOL  
MUSWELLBROOK FOR OUR UPCOMING

## JUBILEE MASS



WHERE: ST JAMES' PRIMARY SCHOOL  
HALL  
TIME: 10AM

SUNDAY | 31<sup>ST</sup> | AUGUST

### Sunday Pray as You Go

The Sunday prayer session will be held this  
Sunday 17 August in the Convent at 11am.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying  
heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."  
Matthew 11:28



August 2025

### DELIVERANCE RETREAT

Guided by Fr Sam Samuel VC, Fr John Prince VC & Fr Juby Varghese VC

8th-10th August

Starts on Friday 5.30pm & ends on Sunday 4.00pm

For bookings: 02 4372 1598 or email: [drcretretego@gmail.com](mailto:drcretretego@gmail.com)

3rd Monday, 18th August

Healing Prayer Service, 7:00pm-9:00pm  
at St Patrick's Church, 11 Macquarie street, Wallsend

31st August, 9:00am - 4:00pm

One Day Pilgrimage (Last Sunday)

• Praise and Worship • Preaching the Word  
• Eucharistic Adoration • Divine Mercy Chaplet • Holy Mass  
ALL ARE WELCOME, NO BOOKING REQUIRED, BYO LUNCH



DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE

160 Hensons Road, SOMERSBY, SYDNEY-NSW 2250,  
Tel: 02 4372 1598, email: [drtsydney@gmail.com](mailto:drtsydney@gmail.com)  
• [www.divineretreatcentre.org](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org) • Find us on facebook

The Divine Retreat Centre promotes the safety and protection of children  
and other vulnerable persons in its care.

2025-2026  
SOCIAL JUSTICE  
STATEMENT

## Signs of Hope on the Edges

Serving  
homeless  
people with  
mental  
ill-health



### A Prayer for Pilgrims of Hope

O God, Source of all Life,  
you created earth as our home  
and us in your image, out of love.  
Set our hearts astir with that same love,  
that we might build a culture of encounter  
and systems that justly serve  
those living in homelessness  
and mental ill-health.

Jesus our Brother,  
you noticed those living on the edge,  
listened, healed and served them, out of love.  
Move us from our embarrassment or discomfort  
by those who show us your suffering face.  
Instead, may we be taught by them,  
offer our loving friendship  
and share your good news together.

Holy Spirit, Source of all Hope,  
you inspire our relationships  
with transforming power, out of love.  
Deepen our vision and enlarge our hearts  
so that the fear and isolation  
of homelessness and mental ill-health  
may be countered by love's warmth and certainty,  
that we might walk together as pilgrims of hope.

Amen.



<b>Mass Diary</b>						
<b>MONDAY</b> 18 August	<b>TUESDAY</b> 19 August	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 20 August	<b>THURSDAY</b> 21 August	<b>FRIDAY</b> 22 August	<b>SATURDAY</b> 23 August	<b>SUNDAY</b> 24 August
						21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time
		9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	11.30am <b>Adoration &amp; Benediction</b>  12.05pm <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook  5.30pm <b>Vigil Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook	10.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

<b>Minister Roster Sunday 24th August</b>							
4th 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, Adeline Francis, Jim Curran, Bob O'Brien and Jeremy Eden

**Recently Deceased:** James Reid, Francis Jevin Sevilla, Brian Hammond, Jennie Clayworth and Prakash Jacob

**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](mailto:muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

The Parish bulletin can be accessed on our website: [muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au](http://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au).

or on our Facebook page: **Catholic Parish of St James Muswellbrook**

Please email [muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto: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](http://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au) Have a complaint or wish to provide feedback? Visit:  
[officeofsafeguarding.org.au/feedback/](http://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."**