



# 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

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C**

**31<sup>st</sup> August 2025**

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

### First Reading

**Sir 3:17-20, 28-29**

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

*Humble yourself and you will find favour with the Lord.*

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business,  
and you will be better loved than a lavish giver.

The greater you are, the more you should  
behave humbly,

and then you will find favour with the Lord;  
for great though the power of the Lord is,  
he accepts the homage of the humble.

There is no cure for the proud man's malady,  
since an evil growth has taken root in him.

The heart of a sensible man will reflect on  
parables,  
an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 67:4-7. 10-11. R.**

**v.11**

**(R.)** God, in your goodness, you have made a  
home for the poor.

1. The just shall rejoice at the presence of God,

they shall exult and dance for joy.

O sing to the Lord, make music to his name;  
rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence. **(R.)**

2. Father of the orphan, defender of the widow,

such is God in his holy place.

God gives the lonely a home to live in;  
he leads the prisoners forth into freedom. **(R.)**

3. You poured down, O God, a generous rain:  
when your people were starved you gave  
them new life.

It was there that your people found a home,  
prepared in your goodness, O God, for the  
poor. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

**Heb 12:18-19, 22-24**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*You have to come to Mount Zion and to the city  
of the living God.*

What you have come to is nothing known to the  
senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to  
total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder  
or the great voice speaking which made  
everyone that heard it beg that no more should  
be said to them. But what you have come to is  
Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the  
heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels  
have gathered for the festival, with the whole  
Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and  
a citizen of heaven. You have come to God  
himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed  
with spirits of the saints who have been made  
perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a  
new covenant.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Mt 11:29**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Take my yoke upon you;

learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

**Lk 14:1. 7-14**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Luke

*All who exalt themselves shall be humbled and  
all who humble themselves shall be exalted.*

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to  
the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and  
they watched him closely. He then told the  
guests a parable, because he had noticed how  
they picked the places of honour. He said this,  
'When someone invites you to a wedding feast,  
do not take your seat in the place of honour. A  
more distinguished person than you may have

been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

### **The Gospel of the Lord.**

#### **Communion Antiphon**

**Ps 30:20**

How great is the goodness, Lord,  
That you keep for those who fear you.

### **REFLECTION by Fr Victor**

In the gospel on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Year C, Jesus very clearly warns us about the attitude of self – importance. Being a follower of Jesus is not about power, prestige or demanding the best seats wherever we go. In God's eyes, we are all invited to the table of the Lord as equals. None of us can really demand the best seat or to expect a special treatment; we all come before God just as we are.

When we gather around the table of the Lord, it is not only as invited guests, but as the family of God, as brothers and sisters of Jesus. Being a follower of Jesus is about humility. This is not confused with weakness. Humility speaks of an inner quality of recognizing and appreciating who we are, the place of God in our lives and our relationship to other people.

Jesus uses the symbol of the meal to teach something about the true 'place of honour' at his 'wedding banquet.' This place of honour is not reserved for the selected few. We are all invited to sit at the table with Jesus as his honoured guests. We are also called to live and act as Jesus. He is our host who gently calls us to deepen our friendship with him and each other. Every time we accept his most generous

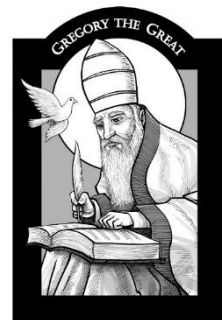
invitation, he seats us at his 'place of honour.' How blessed and honoured we are! To be a follower of Jesus is to try our best to live like him. He came to serve not to be served. To be a disciple of Jesus is to put others first and serve them.

Each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we are not only fed and nourished ourselves, but we are also called to share the richness of God's life by reaching out to others, especially those in need. We sit at the table with Jesus so we can be generous and gracious to others.

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

### **SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT, Pope and Doctor of the Church Feast on 3 September**

Gregory the Great was born in Rome in 540 AD. He used his own money to establish monasteries in Rome and Sicily, and became a monk at the age of 35. In 590 he became the first monk to be elected pope and the first pope to take the name Gregory. He was known as a great statesman and is accounted the fourth of the great Latin doctors of the church. His influence on church music gave rise to plainsong becoming known as Gregorian chant. Gregory was the father of the medieval papacy and was instrumental in helping Western Europe rise from the ashes of the fallen Roman Empire. He referred to himself as 'the servant of the servants of God', a term which popes have used ever since.



#### **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/>



## St Mother Teresa

**Feast day:** September 5

**Patron:** World Youth Day

**Birth:** 1910, Skopje,  
Macedonia

**Death:** 1997, Calcutta

**Beatified:** Pope John Paul II

**Canonised:** Pope Francis



Mother Teresa was a Catholic nun and missionary famous for founding the Missionaries of Charity and leading charitable work for the poor, sick, and dying, particularly in India. She established homes for orphans, lepers, and the terminally ill, and provided aid to the destitute and marginalized globally, becoming a revered humanitarian and eventually a Catholic saint.

Along with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, she was honoured with 15 other prestigious awards.



### Sharing Homes, Enriching Lives.

Are you willing to offer someone the dignity and security of a safe and welcoming place to live by sharing your home?

In return your life could be enriched through companionship, connection and some practical help.

Hunter Homeshare is a local initiative that bridges the gap between compassionate homeowners and those seeking a safe home.

#### Learn More

Scan the QR code below and visit the website and find out how Hunter Homeshare could work for you.



**Embrace**  
PEOPLE & PLACE

Nissa Phillips

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ABN 65 668 889 272

## 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 astray 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.



## Art and Spirituality Workshop

12 September 2025



Creation of art provides an opportunity for a deepening awareness of oneself and the world and can act as a catalyst for evoking the Spirit.

Art is a means to see-to-re-search and find the living meaning of what it means to open the heart. Everyone has the ability to create art, but in order for it to be theological, the artist needs to explore ways that it makes sense of faith. Opening the heart through art involves making meaning through the creation, then reflecting on the art itself and the unfolding the moment-to-moment direct experience of the process.

This workshop will provide an opportunity to awaken the Spirit through the beauty of God's creation, prayer, and reflection. Participants will engage in art making experiences which will nourish their faith.

For further information contact the Mission & Evangelisation team at [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au)



**Time**  
9.00am – 3.00pm

**Where**  
St Joseph's Community Centre  
140 Wangi Rd, Kilaben Bay

**Cost**  
\$25 per person  
Please bring a packed lunch  
Morning tea provided

**Registration**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/1235249708129>



[www.mn.catholic.org.au](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au)

Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 1 Sept	Tuesday 2 Sept	Wednesday 3 Sept	Thursday 4 Sept	Friday 5 Sept	Saturday 6 Sept	Sunday 7 Sept
		<i>St Gregory the Great</i>				<b>23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <i>Father's Day</i>
		5.30pm <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
	<b>No Mass this week</b>					8.00am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 7 September							
5th 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							M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	J Grenfell		K Mason		K & B Mason	Stella Liam	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, Jan Toohey, Charles Sadgrove and Rollen Borres

**Anniversary:**

**Recently Deceased:** Sheril Theodore Brewty, Pat Keegan, Joyce Dunn

**Baptisms:**

**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."**