



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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23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time— YEAR C

7 September 2025

First Reading

Wis 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Who can comprehend the will of God?

What man can know the intentions of God?

Who can divine the will of the Lord?

The reasonings of mortals are unsure
and our intentions unstable;

for a perishable body presses down the soul,
and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.

It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth,
laborious to know what lies within our reach;

who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?

As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you
not granted Wisdom

and sent your holy spirit from above?

Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened
and men been taught what pleases you,
and saved, by Wisdom.

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?
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.)**

Second Reading

Phlm 9-10, 12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon

Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more,
still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a
child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these
chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you,
and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should
have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a
substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that
the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want
to do anything without your consent; it would have been
forcing your act of kindness, which should be
spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus
for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back
for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much
better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me,
but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as
a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common
means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

Gospel Acclamation

Ps 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 14:25-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he
turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me
without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers,
sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple.
Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me
cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a
tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to

see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

REFLECTION by Fr Victor

The invitation from Jesus is: 'always follow me', and the decision to follow him is not to be taken very lightly. Jesus makes this very clear right at the beginning of 23rd Sunday's gospel, when he spells out the cost of being his disciple that if anyone comes to me without hating their father and mother, wife, children, brothers and sister and even his own life, they cannot be my disciple! Jesus says that we have to work it out for ourselves to see if we have what it takes to live with demands of being his follower. This means that first we have to figure out what being a follower of Jesus will cost us and then decide whether we have the energy and resources to meet that cost. The cost of being a disciple of Jesus? Everything we have and are! The reward of being a disciple? Everything God has and is!

The danger is that if we are overly worried and concerned about the cost of following Jesus, we might never set out on this path. It will cost us much and everything in fact. But we have already started this journey at our baptism. The reward is priceless; the fullness of life which begins here and now and which we will inherit fully in the life to come. We begin this journey of being the disciple of Jesus in faith, but not on our own. The first reading from the Book of Wisdom says that we are given the gift of wisdom and the Holy Spirit to guide and lead us on our journey. The challenge, then, is not to look at the cost, but to keep our eyes on Jesus who is walking with us showing us the way. In faith and hope, let us take up our cross and follow where Jesus leads us.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

Perpetual Day of Remembrance

On 14 September we observe Perpetual Day of Remembrance.

This day is a public acknowledgement of the deep harm caused by the Church in the past, particularly the pain and suffering endured by survivors of abuse, their families, and those that have been lost. It is an occasion to re-commit ourselves to remembering what happened so as not to allow those things to be repeated.

Our Parish will commemorate this day in our masses on Saturday 13 September and Sunday 14 September.

HISTORY OF FATHER'S DAY

A day to honour fathers has traditionally been celebrated on March 19 in Catholic countries of Europe since the Middle Ages. The Feast Day of Saint Joseph is a solemnity to honour Joseph as the father of baby Jesus and his example of ideal fatherhood. The Catholic Church supported celebrations of fatherhood during a customary day as early as the 14th century. These traditions were brought to America by Spanish and Portuguese immigrants.

The idea of celebrating Father's Day Festival was given by Ms Sonora Dodd, a loving daughter from Spokane. Her father Henry Jackson Smart single-handedly raised Sonora and five of her siblings after the death of her mother during childbirth. When Sonora attended a Mother's Day Sermon in 1909, she thought that if there is the day to honour mother then there should also be a corresponding day to honour fathers. Sonora worked relentlessly for years to ensure that the idea of Father's Day becomes a reality. In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge first recognized Father's Day. In view of the massive popularity of the festival, in 1972, President Richard Nixon established a permanent national observance of Father's Day in the USA. Over the years, the concept of celebrating Father's Day spread beyond geographical boundaries. Today, millions of children across the world express gratitude for their dads as they celebrate Father's Day.

☺Happy Father's Day!☺



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

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JUBILEE MARCH AND MASS – 31 AUGUST 2025

Thank you to all of the parishioners who participated in our Jubilee march and Mass last weekend. The weather was perfect and made the walk very enjoyable for everyone.

Thank you to the staff from St Joseph's Aberdeen and St James' Muswellbrook for their assistance with the preparations and to the students who performed the music on the day. A special thank you to Colleen Kelly for liaising with the schools and making this celebration all come together. Thank you to Veronica Rolfe and Aaron Moon for encouraging the staff and students to attend and to Aaron for allowing the use of the St James' school hall.



POSITION VACANT

Muswellbrook and Scone parishes are seeking a Secretary for both parishes. Permanent Part Time position of 34 hours a week, working: 3x6 hours (18 hours) 3 days at Muswellbrook; and 2x8 hours (16 hours) 2 days at Scone Parish Offices.

Please see:

<https://www.seek.com.au/job/86826868>

Applications close 11.59pm Sunday 14 September 2025.

Caritas Australia – Season of Creation

The Season of Creation's call for *Peace with Creation* aligns powerfully with the Turn Debt into Hope campaign, as communities burdened by debt are often those facing the worst environmental challenges.

This Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October), Caritas Australia is inviting parishes to stand in solidarity with vulnerable communities in need of sustainable development and ecological renewal by:

- signing the **Turn Debt into Hope** petition – caritas.org.au/debt
- committing to practical, everyday actions that promote ecological sustainability and care for creation by registering to become a **Catholic Earthcare Household** - caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare/



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

The Catholic agency
for international aid
and development

Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 8 Sept	Tuesday 9 Sept	Wednesday 10 Sept	Thursday 11 Sept	Friday 12 Sept	Saturday 13 Sept	Sunday 14 Sept
<i>Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>					<i>St John Chrysostom</i>	24th Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Perpetual Remembrance Day</i>
	<u>9.15am Mass</u> St Thomas Aberdeen for Year 9 St Joseph's students	<u>5.30pm Mass</u> St James Muswellbrook	No Mass this week Fr Victor at Safeguarding Meeting	<u>9.00am Mass</u> St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am Mass</u> St James Muswellbrook <u>5.30pm Vigil Mass</u> St James Muswellbrook	<u>10.00am Mass</u> St James Muswellbrook
	<u>5.00pm Mass</u> St Thomas Aberdeen					<u>8.00am Mass</u> St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 14 September							
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	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	G. Griffin M. Shanahan	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		J & S Thatcher	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, Jim Curran, Charles Sadgrove and Rollen Borres

Anniversary:

Recently Deceased: 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

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."