



# 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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[www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au](http://www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au)

**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time– YEAR C**

**14 September 2025**

### **First Reading**

**Numbers 21:4-9**

A reading from the book of Numbers

*When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they were healed.*

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

### **The Word of the Lord**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 77:1-2. 34-38. R. v.7**

(R.) Do not forget the works of the Lord!

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching;  
turn your ear to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth in a parable  
and reveal hidden lessons of the past. (R.)

2. When he slew them then they would seek him,  
return and seek him in earnest.  
They would remember that God was their rock,  
God the Most High their redeemer. (R.)

3. But the words they spoke were mere flattery;  
they lied to him with their lips.  
For their hearts were not truly with him;  
they were not faithful to his covenant. (R.)

4. Yet he who is full of compassion  
forgave their sin and spared them.  
So often he held back his anger  
when he might have stirred up his rage. (R.)

**Second Reading Philippians 2:6-11**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*He humbled himself, therefore God had exalted him.*

The state of Jesus was divine,  
yet he did not cling  
to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are;  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### **The Word of the Lord**

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,  
because by your cross you have redeemed the world.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel [John 3:13-17](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The Son of Man must be lifted up.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

‘No one has gone up to heaven  
except the one who came down from heaven,  
the Son of Man who is in heaven;  
and the Son of Man must be lifted up  
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life  
in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much  
that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost  
but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world  
not to condemn the world,  
but so that through him the world might be saved.’

### The Gospel of the Lord

## REFLECTION by Fr Victor

**The Perpetual Day of Remembrance** Sunday has been inscribed in the liturgical calendar of the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese, as a way for us to ‘live in remembrance’ of the pain and suffering caused by the abuse within our community. On this Perpetual Day of Remembrance, we, as Church in the diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, are called to remember those of our brothers and sisters who have been harmed – abused – by some members of our Church, and who were further harmed by having an insensitive and cruel disregard for others who placed the reputation of the Church above the lives and safety of innocents.

This Sunday we celebrate the Exaltation of the Cross. The words ‘exaltation’ and ‘cross’ don’t normally belong together. ‘exaltation’ suggests celebration, achievement, recognition. ‘Cross’ indicates suffering, humiliation, defeat. How could anyone who ended up crucified ever be said to have triumphed. It is hard to think of a greater paradox that the phrase ‘the exaltation of the cross’. Yet, as Christians, we don’t find that phrase in any way strange. When we look on the cross with the eyes of faith, we don’t simply see the tragic ending of a good man’s life. Here was a divine love that became a human love in the life and death of Jesus, a love so powerful that it was in no way diminished by the experience of rejection, hatred, and all that was most sinister and corrupt in the human spirit. The exaltation of the cross is the triumph of love over hatred, of life over death. The triumph of that Good Friday is a triumph in which we all continue to share. The light that shone in that awful darkness continues to shine on all of us. The love that burst forth from the hill of Golgotha two thousand years ago continues to flow into all our lives.

The stories of those who have been abused and harmed, the stories of those who walk that journey with survivors, the stories of those who have had their innocence stolen,

had a direct influence on us. Their pain, their anger, their loss should and must encourage us on to change to a conversion of heart and mind.

The conversion we are called to is to ensure that those who have been harmed are supported and assisted, that we face the truth of our past with honesty, that we commit ourselves to ensure that we do all that we can to make our Church, our communities, places where children and the vulnerable are safe.

We cannot change the past, nor can we ignore it. We cannot pretend that some members of our Church did not abuse children, nor can we nullify our responsibility to provide remedy in ways that are meaningful. So, our task of conversion is not just momentary. It is not only putting safeguarding measures in place and complying with externally set standards but also to commit perpetually for the cause of victims and survivors and never repeat the past again.

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

## PERPETUAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

### Weekend of 13 /14 September 2025

Perpetual Day of Remembrance is an opportunity for our whole faith community to come together in prayer and remembrance—honouring survivors, acknowledging the wrongs of the past, and renewing our commitment to building a Church that is safe and life-giving for all.

Each year in September, our Diocese marks the Perpetual Day of Remembrance. This day stands as a solemn commitment to truth, healing, and accountability. It was established in Maitland-Newcastle as a local enduring response to the failures of the Church to protect children and the ongoing pain of survivors.

Thank you for joining us in prayer.



### JOIN US FOR A NATION-WIDE ROSARY CHAIN!

WHERE:	Ken Lambkin Reserve 690A Pacific Hwy Belmont South
WHEN:	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2025

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

NAME:	Joan Carter
CONTACT DETAILS:	0476 636 750

Coordinated nationally by Australian TFP Inc.  
and its AUSTRALIA NEEDS FATIMA Campaign

T: (02) 9715 2324 | E: [PublicRosary@Fatima.org.au](mailto:PublicRosary@Fatima.org.au) | W: [fatima.org.au/public-rosary](http://fatima.org.au/public-rosary)  
FB: <http://www.facebook.com/AustraliaNeedsFatima> | Instagram: [@australianeedsfatima](https://www.instagram.com/australianeedsfatima)

## 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

The Catholic agency  
for international aid  
and development

### 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](https://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/](https://caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare/)

Try to find these words:

die  
eternal  
everyone  
heaven  
lifted  
Man  
Moses  
Nicodemus  
only  
save  
Son  
world



## The Parish of Jesus the Good Shepherd invites you to A REFLECTION DAY with FR KEVIN DANCE CP

Father Kevin is a Passionist priest who resides at Marrickville. Over his 60 years as a priest, he has had various ministries encompassing, teaching, parish, leadership, political and missionary.



Let us take time in this Jubilee Year to reflect on our faith journey and how we extend hope to others in our family and community during these challenging times.

DATE	Tuesday 30 September 2025
TIME	9:00AM – 4:30PM (Arrive at 8:30AM for sign in and a cuppa)
VENUE	Jesus the Good Shepherd Parish St Francis Xavier Hall 40 Ernest Street Belmont (parking is available on the church grounds) BYO lunch – morning tea provided
COST	Donation
REGISTRATIONS	Please phone Jan 0438 252 657
& ENQUIRIES	<a href="mailto:elmparish@mn.catholic.org.au">elmparish@mn.catholic.org.au</a>
RSVP	Tuesday 23 September 2025

Come sit for a while



### JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

The Son of Man must be lifted up

O	V	K	N	P	G	N	E	P	D	Z	B	X	M	S
M	Q	H	S	H	N	Q	I	G	R	S	T	O	J	O
Y	X	D	L	I	B	D	T	V	V	F	M	R	W	E
U	L	I	F	T	E	D	J	V	I	H	F	F	O	I
F	D	I	E	M	L	C	X	Z	X	L	J	J	R	E
A	B	U	O	F	Y	G	U	S	A	V	E	U	L	V
E	T	E	R	N	A	L	B	N	X	D	I	O	D	E
Z	M	O	X	A	Q	R	K	K	O	I	Z	N	Z	R
A	O	W	N	I	C	O	D	E	M	U	S	L	N	Y
B	T	R	A	M	A	N	Q	G	O	X	O	Y	C	O
W	Q	F	K	L	V	V	S	P	Y	R	L	T	D	N
M	I	T	L	D	S	O	N	R	H	B	W	E	S	E
D	W	M	N	V	T	C	G	C	N	X	Y	V	L	D
H	G	E	T	T	E	H	E	A	V	E	N	N	F	Z
H	U	M	O	S	E	S	R	T	J	A	N	K	M	I

Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 15 Sept	Tuesday 16 Sept	Wednesday 17 Sept	Thursday 18 Sept	Friday 19 Sept	Saturday 20 Sept	Sunday 21 Sept
<i>Ou Lady of Sorrows</i>	<i>Sts Cornelius and Cyprian</i>				<i>Sts Andrew Kim, Paul Chong and companions</i>	<b>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
		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

Minister Roster Sunday 21 September							
3rd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	A Moon J Jacobs	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	K Mason	M Edwards	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	C Lumaban	M. Kelly	C. Kelly		T & J Bristow	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, Jim Curran, Charles Sadgrove and Rollen Borres.

**Anniversary:**

**Recently Deceased:** Jan Toohey

**Baptisms:** Danielle Rensburg

**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."**