



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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29th Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR C

19 October

First Reading

Ex 17:8-13

A reading from the book of Exodus

As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage.

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile, will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses' arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm till sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Ps 120. R. v.2

(R.) Our help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

1. I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth. **(R.)**
2. May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night. **(R.)**
4. The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading

2 Tm 3:14 – 4:2

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

This is how the people of God become equipped and ready for every good work.

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures – from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

1 Thes 5:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of God is living and active;
it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart.
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 18:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

God will see those who cry to him vindicated.

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at

last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death.""

And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'



REFLECTION by Fr Victor

This Sunday is Mission Sunday. Let us pray for all the missionaries all over the world, who face lots of struggles and persecutions. Let us also support them generously through our material resources.

The readings on 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, centre on the power of persistent prayer and the faith that endures even when answers seem delayed. Jesus tells the parable of the persistent widow, a woman who refuses to give up until she receives justice from an unjust judge. Her perseverance becomes a model for discipleship — a reminder that faith is not a one-time act, but a lifelong journey of trust and perseverance.

In the first reading (Exodus 17:8–13), we find Moses standing on the hilltop, his hands raised in prayer while Israel battles the Amalekites. As long as his arms are lifted, the Israelites prevail; when he grows weary and lowers them, the enemy gains ground. So, Aaron and Hur come to his side, supporting his arms until victory is won. This powerful image teaches us that prayer often requires persistence and community. When our faith falters, we lean on others; when others weaken, we lift them up.

The Gospel (Luke 18:1–8) echoes this same lesson — God is not indifferent like the unjust judge. If even a corrupt official can be moved by persistence, how much more will our compassionate Father respond to the cries of His children? Yet Jesus ends with a probing question: "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?" This question invites us to reflect on our own prayer life. Do we continue to pray when answers don't come? Do we trust God's timing even when we don't see results?

Persistent prayer is not about wearing God down; it is about wearing down our own resistance to His will. Through prayer, our hearts are transformed, our faith is strengthened, and our hope renewed. Like the widow, we are called to "pray always and never lose heart."

Let us, then, be steadfast in prayer — for our families, our community, our Church, and our world. And when our arms grow weary, may we find strength in one another, just as Moses did.

May the Lord grant us faith that endures, hope that perseveres, and love that never gives up.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

FR VICTOR ON LEAVE

Fr Victor will be on leave from 18 October to 22 November. ***There will be no Masses celebrated Monday – Friday and Saturday Morning.***

Mass times over the weekend have been changed slightly. ***Please refer to the Mass Diary overleaf. Deacon Kevin Gadd will celebrate Communion Service in Muswellbrook and Fr Grahame Fullick will celebrate Mass in Aberdeen starting at 7.30am.***

For matters of urgency please call the Parish Office or Fr Graham on 0477 720 270.

Parish Christmas Party

All parishioners are warmly invited to attend the Parish Christmas Party on Thursday 27 November 6.00pm at Aberdeen Sport & Rec Club. Cost \$30 per person. Paid in Cash to Joy Dallah, Therese Bristow or to the Office Please pay by the 20th November. Transport can be arranged on request.



Change of Mass Venue

Due to repairs commencing on St James' Church, the venue for Masses will need to change. From the weekend of **18th October 2025** until further notice, weekend Masses will be held at St James' Primary School and weekday Masses will be held in the Convent Chapel.

Thank you for your assistance.



The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

Envelopes of Intention for prayers of the dearly departed are available at the back of the Church / Hall

COLUMBAN CALENDAR, INCARNATE ADVENT DAILY REFLECTIONS, AND DAILY MASS BOOK

If you would like to purchase any of these resources – Columban Calendar, Incarnate Advent Reflections or Daily Mass Book - please place your name and order on the forms that will be available in the Church foyers from this weekend. Calendar cost is approximately \$8.00 each

KEEGAN WOOD FAMILY GROUP

The next outing for the Keegan Wood Family Group is the 20 October 2025: Odeum Restaurant Workers Club. Phone 6543 2011. Meet at 12 noon to enjoy lunch. Senior Specials \$10. Names to Marg D 6543 1238 by Sat 18 October.

PRAY FOR HSC STUDENTS



Please keep all HSC students in your prayers over the coming weeks as they sit their final exams.

May God guide them and give them strength and wisdom during this final stage

of their High School journey.

Thank You Deacon Kevin Gadd

Thank you to Deacon Kevin Gadd for celebrating the Communion Service today with us in St James Parish.

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



October 2025

1st Friday, 3rd Oct
Healing Prayer Service, 6:30pm-8:30pm
at Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church, **Chatswood**

MARIAN RETREAT, 10th-12th Oct
Guided by Fr Sam Samuel VC & Fr Juby Varghese VC
Starts on Friday 5.30pm & ends on Sunday 4.00pm
For bookings: 02 43721598 or email: drcetreteatrego@gmail.com

20th Oct (3rd Monday)
Healing Prayer Service, 7:00pm-9:00pm
at St Patrick's Church, 11 Macquarie street, **WALLSEND**

17th Oct (3rd Friday)
Holy Mass & Adoration, 6:00pm-9:00pm
at Our Lady Help of Christians, Church, 31 Oxford St, **EPPING**

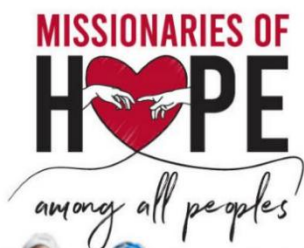
26th Oct, 9:00am - 4:00pm
ONE DAY PILGRIMAGE (Last Sunday)
• Praise and Worship • Preaching the Word
• Eucharistic Adoration • Divine Mercy Chaplet • Holy Mass
ALL ARE WELCOME, NO BOOKING REQUIRED, BYO LUNCH

 **DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE**
160 Hensons Road, SOMERSBY, SYDNEY-NSW 2250,
Tel: 02 4372 1598, email: drcsydney@gmail.com
• 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.



Volunteers are invited to form a Parish Team to assist in realising Parish Council plans and events. If you have any questions, please



In Zambia, many families struggle daily with poverty and limited access to essential healthcare. The Catholic Church stands as a beacon of hope, supporting communities through education, sustainable livelihoods, and healthcare.

This World Mission Month, we invite you to journey with our missionaries, who are bringing Christ's love to those most in need.

Stay tuned to learn how you can be part of this mission and help create a future filled with hope.



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/mission



Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 20 Oct	Tuesday 21 Oct	Wednesday 22 Oct	Thursday 23 Oct	Friday 24 Oct	Saturday 25 Oct	Sunday 26 Oct
						29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
	NO MASS				5.30pm Communion Service St James Primary School	10.00am Communion Service St James Primary School Muswellbrook
						7.30am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 26 October							
3rd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	M Carter T Threadgate	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00am Sunday Aberdeen	Kristy R	K Mason	C Bowen				M. Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	M Medhurst	M Kelly	C Kelly		J Grenfell	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: Barry Blayden

Recently Deceased: Adeline Francis and Chris Campbell

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."