



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

Parish Priest: Fr Victor Babu Doss
Email: frvickybabu@gmail.com
Phone: 0484 903 427 or 6543 1167
St James Primary School
Principal: Mr Aaron Moon
Office: 6543 3094
Email: admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au

Parish Secretary: Natasha Daniels
Email: muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au
PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333
Phone: 6543 1167
Office Hours: Mon, Wed and Fri 9.00am – 3.00pm
Website:
www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR C

26 October

First Reading

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

The prayer of the humble will penetrate the heavens.

The Lord is a judge
who is no respecter of personages.
He shows no respect of personages to the detriment
of a poor man,
he listens to the plea of the injured party.
He does not ignore the orphan's supplication,
nor the widow's as she pours out her story.
The man who with his whole heart serves God will be
accepted,
his petitions will carry to the clouds.
The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds,
until it arrives he is inconsolable
nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of
him,
acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement.
And the Lord will not be slow,
nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:2-3, 17-19, 23. R. v.7

(R.) The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The just call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress. (R.)
3. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.
(R.)

Second Reading

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

All that remains is the crown of righteousness reserved for me.

My life is already being poured away as a libation,
and the time has come for me to be gone. I have
fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to
the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come
now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on
that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have
longed for his Appearing.

The first time I had to present my defence, there was
not a single witness to support me. Every one of them
deserted me – may they not be held accountable for
it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so
that through me the whole message might be
proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was
rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue
me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely
to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and
ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

2 Corinthians 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted
to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 18:9-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The publican returned to his home justified; the pharisee did not.

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people
who prided themselves on being virtuous and

despised everyone else, 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

REFLECTION by Deacon Kevin

Who is your God? Paul refers to the Lord, the just judge, the one who sees and knows all through the eyes of mercy. Is this a judge that looks upon us with pitiful eyes as the judge who sees nothing but unworthiness and sinfulness? No, if this is our image we have misunderstood mercy. Mercy is the abundant generosity that gives life and love and healing to all who open and surrender themselves to receive, to accept, to take hold of being transformed and restored into the image of God in, with and through Jesus the Christ. We and all creation exist for the Glory of God but we tend to want to steal the glory for ourselves. With this in mind Paul reminds us that he and the Christian community experienced the resurrected life of Jesus through the activity of the Holy Spirit manifest with in their lives. This is a truth he cannot deny without denying who he had become. It is a truth they are prepared to die for. So he warns us to be careful that we too do not become judgemental against those about us for we may be denying the truth of who they really are before God which may be the point of Jesus' story in the gospel. Humility is not sitting in the back seats of the church but rather presenting the truth of who you are before the God we worship and his community. Stand up, come forward and be counted as one who is enlivened through the mercy of God who heals, strengthens and send you forth to bring the kingdom of God to our world of today.

Deacon Kevin Gadd

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

Reflection by Fr Graham

Homilette The Publican and the Pharisee GCF Lk 18 9 14

Beyond whatever we name the Pharisee's sins: the sin of pride, self-righteousness and self-justification, or a personal sin, there is another graver sin. It is born of pride to be sure. It is the sin of **presumption**. The Pharisee **presumed** that because he was observant in religious practice, going to the Temple and successful—that he was justified before God. He was contracting with God on selfish human terms. He presumed he was at rights with God, even to the scorn of his truly repentant neighbour, the tax

collector. What a hell-filled realisation the Pharisee in all of us will have when we encounter the final justice, the resurrected fire of the Lord's Holy Spirit at the end of time!

If a raping, druggie bkie has true repentance on his deathbed despising his sins; and we scorned the Church for giving him a Christian burial, who would be more at rights with God? A priest came to him in hospital and offered him salvation at his deathbed. What about the hundreds of so-called "Christians" who came to him in life? Did they offer Pharisee judgment, or loving help to salvation?

Years ago at Windale, I spoke during Mass about Police Criminal History and Working With Children checks for our parish volunteers. After Mass, a man I noticed come and sit in the back pew, just like the tax collector came and spoke to me in the exit vestibule. He was middle aged, thin and wiry beyond his years and covered in "gaol" tattoos. He said "Does that mean that I can't come to Mass because I have lots of criminal convictions and have done time." I said "No. Not at all. You are the most welcome person here. The Church is full of sinners, especially me. You have more right to be here than anyone else. Jesus loves you to be here with him more than anyone else. You are always welcome in Jesus' house." Brothers and sisters, if we come to God's house, we have to be willing to change. To take on God's will, not ours.

We who are forgiven by God must forgive others. We are all sinners. More is expected of us who go to Mass for we have **knowledge**. We need **wisdom** and the **fear of the Lord** too, to discern our need for God faithfully. If we **presume** that we are saved, we become self-satisfied. We will not persevere to keep on the path of personal *metanoia*, turning ourselves to God--and we will not bring others to God. Jesus' mission was to bring all to his Father. We can be satisfied only when we have achieved that. We can only achieve that when we empty ourselves and let God do it in us and around us. Lord Jesus have mercy on me a sinner. Jesus mercy. Mary help.

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 Graham 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

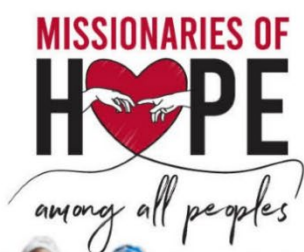
If you would like to purchase any of these resources – Columban Calendar, Incarnate Advent Reflections or Daily Mass Book - please place your name and order on the forms that will be available in the Church foyers from this weekend. Calendar cost is approximately \$8.00 each.

Thank You Deacon Kevin Gadd

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



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



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 27 Oct	Tuesday 28 Oct	Wednesday 29 Oct	Thursday 30 Oct	Friday 31 Oct	Saturday 1 Nov	Sunday 2 Nov
	<i>Sts Simon and Jude, apostles</i>				<i>All Saints</i>	All Souls' Day
	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 2 November							
4th Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	R Ross	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
7.30 am Sunday Aberdeen	T Hobbs	J Lonergan	C Bowen				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, 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."