



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

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

2 November 2025

First Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9

A reading from the book of Isaiah

The Lord God will destroy death for ever.

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food.

On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 26:1. 4. 7-9. 13-14. R v.1.

(R.) I believe that I shall see the good things of the
Lord in the land of the living.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? **(R.)**
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. **(R.)**
3. O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face. **(R.)**

4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Having been justified by his blood, we will be saved from
God's anger through him.*

Hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has
been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which
has been given us. We were still helpless when at his
appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not
easy to die even for a good man – though of course
for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared
to die – but what proves that God loves us is that
Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having
died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would
now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were
reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were
still enemies; now that we have been reconciled,
surely we may count on being saved by the life of his
Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled
but because we are filled with joyful trust in God,
through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we
have already gained our reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 6:39

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the will of my Father, says the Lord,
that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to
me,
and that I should raise it up on the last day.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 7:11-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Young man, I say to you, to get up.

Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. When he was near the gate of the town it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her. When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her. 'Do not cry,' he said. Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, 'Young man, I tell you to get up'. And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying, 'A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.' And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.

Reflection by Fr Graham

What is Purgatory? A Catholic Perspective

Purgatory is one of the most distinctive teachings of the Catholic Church, often misunderstood both within and outside Catholic circles. Rooted in the Church's understanding of God's mercy, justice, and the need for purification, purgatory is seen as a state of final purification for those who die in God's grace and friendship but are not yet fully purified. It is a doctrine that emphasizes God's desire for all souls to be completely cleansed and ready to enter into the fullness of heaven.

While the concept of purgatory may raise questions for many, it is deeply connected to the Catholic understanding of salvation, sanctification, and the eternal destiny of the soul. By exploring the biblical foundations, the teachings of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), and the spiritual significance of purgatory, we can gain a clearer understanding of this important doctrine.

The Nature of Purgatory (Edit) The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines purgatory as "the final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned." (CCC 1031) In essence, it is the merciful preparation of the soul for heaven, where nothing impure can enter (Revelation 21:27). The souls in purgatory are those who have died in a state of grace -- meaning they are ultimately destined for heaven-- but who still require purification from the effects of sin. While their sins have been forgiven, there may remain temporal consequences or attachments to sin that need to be cleansed before they can fully enter into the presence of God. Purgatory is thus not a place of punishment or condemnation but one of mercy and hope.

Biblical Foundations of Purgatory

Though the word "purgatory" itself is not explicitly mentioned in the Bible, the doctrine has its roots in Scripture and Tradition. Several passages suggest a process of purification after death:

2 Maccabees 12:46: In this passage from the Old Testament, we read about the practice of praying for the dead. After a battle, Judas Maccabeus offers prayers and sacrifices for the fallen soldiers who had sinned, "that they might be delivered from their sin." This implies that the dead could still benefit from prayers and that purification was possible after death.

1 Corinthians 3:13-15: St. Paul writes about the testing of each person's works through fire: "If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire." This passage is often interpreted as referring to a process of purification, where the soul is cleansed of lesser sins or attachments after death but before entering heaven.

Matthew 12:32: Jesus mentions that certain sins "will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come," implying that some form of forgiveness or purification can occur after death. These passages, together with the longstanding tradition of praying for the dead, provide a biblical foundation for the belief in purgatory.

The Catholic Understanding of Purgatory

The Church's teaching on purgatory is rooted in its understanding of the nature of sin, God's justice, and the necessity of holiness to enter heaven. When we sin, there are two effects: eternal punishment (separation from God, which is forgiven through repentance and God's mercy) and temporal punishment (the ongoing damage sin causes to the soul and to our relationships with others). Even after forgiveness, the temporal effects of sin may remain, and they need to be purified. This is where purgatory comes into play. It is the final purification of the soul that removes any remaining attachment to sin and repairs the damage caused by sin, allowing the soul to enter fully into communion with God in heaven. As the Catechism explains, "The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned." (CCC 1031) The purification of purgatory is understood to be a process of spiritual cleansing. The souls in purgatory are assured of their eventual entrance into heaven, and thus they are in a state of hope and grace. Purgatory is not a second chance at salvation, nor is it a place of eternal suffering like hell. It is, rather, a loving act of God that prepares souls to encounter Him face to face.

Prayers for the Dead and Communion of Saints

One of the key aspects of the Catholic belief in purgatory is the practice of praying for the dead. Catholics believe

that the faithful on earth can assist the souls in purgatory through their prayers, sacrifices, and Mass offerings. This is based on the Church's understanding of the communion of saints, which teaches that all members of the Church -- whether in heaven, purgatory, or on earth -- are united in Christ. The Church encourages the faithful to pray for the deceased, especially through the celebration of the Holy Mass, which is the most powerful prayer offered on behalf of the dead. As the Catechism states, "From the beginning the Church has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God." (CCC 1032)

By praying for the dead, Catholics participate in an act of charity and mercy, helping those in purgatory to reach the fullness of heaven. This practice underscores the Catholic belief that the Church is a family, and just as we care for one another in life, so too we care for the souls of the deceased through prayer.

The Justice and Mercy of Purgatory

Purgatory reflects both the justice and mercy of God. God's justice requires that nothing impure or unholy can enter His presence. At the same time, God's mercy provides a means for souls to be purified and made ready for heaven, even after death. Purgatory is a manifestation of God's desire that all souls be fully prepared for eternal life with Him. This purification process respects the dignity of the human soul by allowing it to be perfected before entering the glory of heaven. In a way, purgatory is a demonstration of how seriously the Church takes both sin and holiness. God's grace forgives sin, but the damage left by sin must be healed so that we can enter fully into communion with Him.

Purgatory as a Path to Holiness

For Catholics, purgatory is not a concept to be feared but rather a hopeful reminder of God's mercy and the promise of eternal life. It assures us that even if we fall short of perfect holiness at the time of our death, God provides a way for our souls to be purified and made ready for the full joy of heaven.

Through the teachings of Scripture, Tradition, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Catholics understand purgatory as part of the journey toward union with God. It emphasizes the importance of living a holy life, seeking God's mercy, and offering prayers for those who have gone before us. Purgatory reflects the profound truth that God desires the salvation of all souls and provides every opportunity for them to be purified and sanctified, ready to enter the eternal bliss of heaven.

**Substantially from Michael Galloway 10/8/2024
Published in "Living Faith".**

/

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 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.



Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 3 Nov	Tuesday 4 Nov	Wednesday 5 Nov	Thursday 6 Nov	Friday 7 Nov	Saturday 8 Nov	Sunday 9 Nov
	<i>St Charles Borromeo, Bishop</i>				<i>Mass of Virgin Mary</i>	<i>The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</i>
	NO MASS				5.30pm Mass St James Primary School	10.00am Mass St James Primary School Muswellbrook
						7.30am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 9 November							
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
7.30 am 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, Jim Curran, Charles Sadgrove and Rollen Borres.

Anniversary:

Recently Deceased:

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."