



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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First Sunday of Advent – YEAR A

30 November 2025

First Reading

[Isaiah 2:1-5](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz,
concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it; and they will
say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.
Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war.
O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9. R. see v.1.](#)

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing

within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)

2. It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. (R.)

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!' (R.)

4. For love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. (R.)

Second Reading

[Romans 13:11-14](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now:
our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were
converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight
soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under
the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear
in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the
daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or
licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your
armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

[Psalm 84:8](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel

[Matthew 24:37-44](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Reflection by Fr Victor

This Sunday, we enter the beautiful and grace-filled season of **Advent**, the Church's invitation to slow down, to listen more deeply, and to ready our hearts for the coming of Christ. Advent is a season of **hopeful expectation**, not only for the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas, but also for His coming to us in our daily lives and His final coming in glory. The readings this Sunday set the tone for our spiritual journey over the next four weeks.

In the first reading, Isaiah offers a powerful vision of a renewed world—one where nations stream toward the Lord's holy mountain, seeking His wisdom and peace. It is a reminder that God's plan for humanity is one of harmony, unity, and transformation. Advent invites us to lift our gaze from fear, division, and discouragement, and to trust again in God's promise: **a promise that light is stronger than darkness, and hope is stronger than despair.**

Saint Paul urges us to "wake from sleep," calling us to spiritual vigilance. Advent is the time to examine the distractions, habits, or worries that dull our awareness of God's presence. Paul encourages us to "put on the armour of light," letting Christ reshape our attitudes, relationships, and priorities.

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks plainly: "**Stay awake.**" His words are not meant to frighten, but to awaken. Christ comes to us in ways both great and small—in the people we meet, the opportunities to love, the moments of quiet prayer, the needs of the poor, and

the whispers of the Holy Spirit. Advent invites us to become more attentive to these encounters so that His presence does not pass us by unnoticed.

As we light the first candle of the Advent wreath, the **Candle of Hope**, we acknowledge our longing for God's guidance, mercy, and peace. This small flame stands as a sign that even the smallest act of faith can dispel great darkness. May it remind us that God is always at work—often quietly, gently, unexpectedly—bringing light into places we least expect.

Let us begin this Advent season with renewed openness, making space in our hearts and homes for Christ. May our parish community enter this journey together with hope, prayerfulness, and joyful anticipation.

Come, Lord Jesus—renew our hearts and our world.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

WELCOME FR VICTOR BACK FROM HOLIDAYS

Fr Victor has returned for his holidays. **Mass times have return to normal. Alternate venues still in place for services.**

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

Our books have arrived.

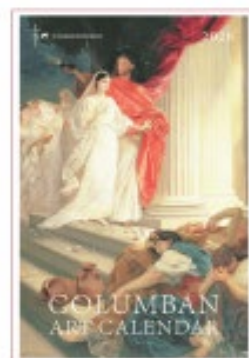
Those who have put there' names down for Calendars, Advent Daily Reflections and 2026 Daily Mass books, they are at the back of the church with your names on them.

Columban Calendars are \$8.00
Advent Daily Reflections are \$6.00
2026 Daily Mass Books are \$33.00

Please put your money in an envelope and put your name on it.

If you haven't put your name down but would like to purchase one of these items, there are a few still available, but remember - first in best dressed.

2026



COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

The Lord will gather us in eternal peace

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

Try to find these

field
flood
guard
light
mountain
night
Noah
swords
taken
thief
wake
worship



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.

1st Sunday of Advent, Year A [N01ADSUA_2004_WS3.rtf]

Christmas Party

On Thursday 27 November 2025, we had our Christmas Party at Aberdeen Sports and Rec Club. An enjoyable night had by all. Photos will follow in future Bulletins.



We Will be celebrating Mission Sunday on the weekend of 6-7 December 2025.

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.



MISSIONARIES OF

HOPE

among all peoples



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 1 Dec	Tuesday 2 Dec	Wednesday 3 Dec	Thursday 4 Dec	Friday 5 Dec	Saturday 6 Dec	Sunday 7 Dec
		<i>St Francis Xavier, Priest</i>				<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>
		9.00am Mass Convent	5.30pm Mass Convent	9.00am Mass Convent	9.00am Mass St James Primary School 5.30pm Vigil Mass St James Primary School	10.00am Mass St James Primary School Muswellbrook
	5.00pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 30 November							
1st 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, Rollen Borres and Linda Bates.

Anniversary: Colin Carter and Doreen Ayre.

Recently Deceased: Patrick Farrell, Therese Furlong and Aileen Shaw.

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/

"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."