



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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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – YEAR A

28 December 2025

First Reading

Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone amassing
a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with
children of his own,
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.
Long life comes to him who honours his father,
he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience
to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,
do not grieve him during his life.
Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,
do not despise him in your health and strength;
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1*

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in
his ways.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **(R.)**
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life! **(R.)**

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you
and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in
kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear
with one another; forgive each other as soon as a
quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you
must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep
them together and complete them, put on love. And
may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because
it is for this that you were called together as parts of
one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a
home with you. Teach each other, and advise each
other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing
psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and
never say or do anything except in the name of the
Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through
him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in
the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them
with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents
always, because that is what will please the Lord.
Parents, never drive your children to resentment or
you will make them feel frustrated.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation *Colossians 3:15. 16*

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt.

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

Reflection by Fr Victor

As we continue our celebration of Christmas, the Church invites us this Sunday, to contemplate the Holy Family of Nazareth. In Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we see an ordinary family living in an extraordinary faith. Their home was not free from struggle or uncertainty, yet it was rooted in trust in God, love for one another, and obedience to God's will.

The Gospel (Mt 2:13–15, 19–23) reminds us that the Holy Family faced danger, displacement, and fear. Forced to flee to Egypt, they became refugees, trusting God even when the future was unclear. Their journey assures us that God is present not only in peaceful moments, but also in times of disruption and hardship.

The Holy Family teaches us that holiness is shaped in daily life, through patience, forgiveness, sacrifice, listening, and mutual care. Families today may not be perfect, but they are sacred places where faith can be nurtured, values passed on, and love made visible.

The Holy Family also teaches us that every family and school can be a place where God lives—when we are kind, when we forgive, when we help one another, and when we take time to pray together. Parents, teachers, and carers share in the beautiful mission of helping children grow in faith, wisdom and love.

On this feast, we give thanks for our families and our parish and school communities. We pray for children, parents, teachers, and all who care for young people. We also pray for all the families: those filled with joy,

those carrying heavy burdens, and those longing for healing and reconciliation. May the Holy Family inspire our homes to become places of prayer, understanding, and generous love, where Christ is always welcome. May the Holy Family bless our homes and classrooms, making them places of safety, joy and hope, where Jesus is always welcome. May Jesus, Mary and Joseph watch over our families and guide us in peace.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

Mass Venue –

We Are Back in St James Church

Good News, repairs are completed in
St James' Church.

Masses will return to the church from
Saturday 20th November 2025.

Thank you to Aaron Moon, Principal of St James Primary School for graciously allowing us to use the School Hall while the repairs to the church were being completed.

Also, a thank you also needs to go out to Jane Jacobes and Lauren Gehrig for their assistance setting up for the Mass each week over in the hall, while the repairs were being undertaken.



The Lord's Promise Came True

Try and find these words:

Answered

Dream

Egypt

Herod

Hurry

Instruct

Praise

Psalms

Return

Sins

Wife

Wrong

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

Fr Victor is Leaving

the Parish of Muswellbrook

Fr Victor is leaving the Parish of Muswellbrook in early February 2026 to take up a position of Spiritual Director at Vianny College Seminary in Wagga Wagga.

It will be said to see you go Fr Victor, but we wish you well on the next step in your journey.

Fr Sabu Pulimalayil will take up as an Administrator of the Parish.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Christmas offering envelopes are available in the Church foyers. This contribution supplements the First collection which supports the Priests in our Diocese. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will be closed on the following days

Christmas Day –Thursday 25th December 2025, Closed
Boxing Day – Friday 26th December 2025, Closed

Monday 29th December, Open
Wednesday 31st December 2025, Open
Friday 2nd January 2026, Open

Monday 5th January 2026 onwards, times as usual

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 29 Dec	Tuesday 30 Dec	Wednesday 31 Dec	Thursday 1 Jan	Friday 2 Jan	Saturday 3 Jan	Sunday 4 Jan
<i>5th Day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord I-III</i>	<i>6th Day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord I-III</i>	<i>7th Day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord I-III</i>	<i>Mary, the Holy Mother of God</i>	<i>Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishop, doctors</i>	<i>Saturday before the Epiphany</i>	<i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>
		9.00 am Mass St James Church	5.30 pm Mass St James Church	9.00 am Mass St James Church	9.00am Mass St James Church 5.30pm Vigil Mass St James Church	10.00am Mass St James Church
	5.00pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen		8.00 am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen			8.00am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 28 December

1 st Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	R Ross	C Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00 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, Linda Bates, Josefina Flores, Jenelyn Regala, Florentino Mateo and Rodelio Borress.

Anniversary: Luzviminda Abiol

Recently Deceased: Constancio Alesing.

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."