

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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2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR A

18 January 2026

First Reading

Isaiah 49:3. 5-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

The Word of the Lord

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9.**

(R.) Here I am, Lord;
I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. **(R.)**

2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. **(R.)**

3. In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. **(R.)**

Gospel Acclamation **John 1:14,12**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.
He enabled those who accepted him
to become the children of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel **John 1:29-34**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he

existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

Reflection by Fr Victor

On the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Word of God gently shifts our focus from celebration to discipleship. In the Gospel (John 1:29–34), John the Baptist points away from himself and toward Jesus, proclaiming, "**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.**" These words invite us not only to recognize who Jesus is, but also to reflect on how we respond to Him in our daily lives.

The first reading from Isaiah reminds us that God calls us by name and gives each of us a mission. We are not chosen for ourselves alone, but to be a light to others. St Paul echoes this in his letter to the Corinthians, reminding the Church that we are called to be holy—not because we are perfect, but because God is faithful.

Together, these readings challenge us to ask: **Do we point others to Christ by the way we live?** Like John the Baptist, our role is not to draw attention to ourselves, but to witness—through kindness, humility, forgiveness, and service—that Jesus is alive and present among us.

When we gather for the Eucharist, where we once again hear the words "Lamb of God," may we recognise Jesus in the breaking of the bread and commit ourselves anew to follow Him. May our parish community become a living sign that helps others encounter Christ, the Lamb who brings hope, healing, and peace to the world.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

Keegan Wood Family Group

19 January 2026: Planning Meeting at Amici Italian Restaurant RSL Club. Meet at 12 noon to enjoy lunch and share ideas for the next 6 months (Feb 2026 – July 2026). Names to Margaret by Friday 16 January 2026.

Sick List

For those who wish to be added or removed from the sick list, please advise the Parish Office.

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU!

Invitation to Parishioners of

St James Parish,

St James & St Thomas Churches,

To Farewell our Parish Priest

Fr. Victor Babu Doss



Fathers last Mass in the Parish

Will be at 10am at St James Church

Farewell lunch is at the St James School Hall

When: Sunday 1st February 2026

Where: St James School Hall

**Address: Skellatar Stock Route
Muswellbrook**

From: 12pm

Roster for St James

If anyone would like to join the roster for St James Roster and contribute to being a part of Mass, please put your name down on the piece of paper in the foyer, or contact me directly via email. Please do not delay as the roster is being done next week.



Sr. Gaye Lennon: 2026 Mission Planning.

Offering 2026: Sister Gaye would like a conversation with any parishioners interested in looking at **what Pope Leo is saying and writing about our mission in the world as Catholics today. Perhaps you have a thought or idea?** Please email Sr. Gaye on gaye.lennon@mn.catholic.org.au. As a starting point we have three options outlined on the Offerings 2026 sheets which are now available.

Option 1—Conversations with Pope Leo XIV, 6 sessions just discussing and reflecting on homilies, speeches. Sessions approximately 1 hour with the possibility of an online program for those who cannot meet face to face.

Option 2—Called for this time—discovering our purpose, 4 sessions with 2 optional sessions. The first 4 focus on call can possible ways to be, serve within family, parish or community. The last 2 are parish focused. Sessions 60-75 minutes.

Option 3—Everyday Retreat from Home—We are called to be a symphony of Grace. The purpose is to grow in awareness of how God graces me in each day ...and to respond with love.

Option 4—Do you have a suggestion what we can be doing as a parish?

Please fill in the sheet and return it today so we can gauge feedback on what we would like to do as a parish.



Rite of Election 2026

The Rite of Election on Sunday 22 February 2026 is an opportunity to welcome all catechumens who will be baptised in their parishes at the Easter Vigil. A catechumen is an unbaptised person whose search for meaning has brought them to the Catholic Church. Please join in witness and prayerful support of those who choose to be Catholic. 1.30pm Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West, followed by afternoon tea. RSVP for catering to mission@mn.catholic.org.au. Flyer is available as you come into the church for those who are interested.

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 19 January	Tuesday 20 January	Wednesday 21 January	Thursday 22 January	Friday 23 January	Saturday 24 January	Sunday 25 January
		<i>St Agnes, virgin, martyr</i>			<i>St Francis De Sales, bishop, doctor</i>	<i>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Times</i>
		<u>9.00 am</u> Mass St James Church	<u>11.30 am</u> Adoration & Benediction <u>12.00 pm</u> Mass St James Church	<u>9.00 am</u> Mass St James Church	<u>9.00 am</u> Mass St James Church <u>5.30 pm</u> Vigil Mass St James Church	<u>10.00 am</u> Mass St James Church
		<u>5.00 pm</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen				<u>8.00 am</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 25 January 2026

4 th 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
8.00 am Sunday Aberdeen	K Roach	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, Rollen Borres, Linda Bates, Josefina Flores, Jenelyn Regala, Florentino Mateo, Rodelio Borress and Eunice Benn.

Anniversary:

Recently Deceased: Valerie Diputado

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."