



# 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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2<sup>nd</sup> 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.'

### 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.)

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

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Times</i>
		9.00 am <b>Mass</b> St James Church	11.30 am <b>Adoration &amp; Benediction</b> 12.00 pm <b>Mass</b> St James Church	9.00 am <b>Mass</b> St James Church	9.00 am <b>Mass</b> St James Church  5.30 pm <b>Vigil Mass</b> St James Church	10.00 am <b>Mass</b> St James Church
	5.00 pm <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00 am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

## Minister Roster Sunday 25 January 2026

4 <sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

The Parish bulletin can be accessed on our website: [muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au](http://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au) or on our Facebook page: **Catholic Parish of St James Muswellbrook**

Please email [muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto: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](http://muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au) Have a complaint or wish to provide feedback? Visit: [officeofsafeguarding.org.au/feedback/](http://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."**