

# 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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**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR A**

**25 January 2026**

### First Reading

Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.*

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

### The Word of the Lord

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

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. 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

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

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

*I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.*

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

### The Word of the Lord

### Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

### Gospel Matthew 4:12-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.*

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!  
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,  
Galilee of the nations!  
The people that lived in darkness  
has seen a great light;  
on those who dwell in the land and shadow of  
death  
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

## The Gospel of the Lord

### Reflection by Fr Victor

This Sunday's readings mark the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and invite us to reflect on the power of God's call in our lives. In the Gospel, Jesus walks along the Sea of Galilee and calls Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John—ordinary fishermen engaged in ordinary work. With simple words, "**Follow me,**" Jesus changes the direction of their lives forever.

What is striking is not only Jesus' call, but the disciples' response. They leave their nets immediately. Their nets represented security, routine, and familiarity. By letting go, they choose trust over certainty and faith over comfort. Their example challenges us today to ask what "nets" we might be holding onto—habits, fears, distractions, or attachments that keep us from following Jesus more fully.

Jesus begins His ministry with a message of hope: "**Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.**" Repentance is not about guilt or punishment, but about transformation—turning our hearts back to God and allowing His light to guide our choices. As Isaiah reminds us, the people who walked in darkness have

seen a great light. That light is Christ, present among us today.

As members of this parish community, we are also called to be disciples and "fishers of people." This happens not through extraordinary actions, but through simple acts of love—listening with compassion, serving those in need, forgiving one another, and living our faith with joy. When we do this, we help others encounter Christ through us.

May this Sunday inspire us to listen attentively to the Lord's call, to let go of whatever holds us back, and to follow Jesus with renewed faith and generosity. Together, as a parish family, may we walk in His light and share His hope with the world.

**May God bless our parish and each one of our families. Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!**

### FAREWELL AND THANK YOU!

**Reminder that the Sunday after this one –  
1<sup>st</sup> February is our  
Farewell to Fr. Victor**

**Donations towards the purchase of a new laptop for Father can still be put in an envelope and placed on the Second Collection this week and next.**

**Father's last Mass in the Parish  
Will be at 10am at St James Church 1 Feb.**

The light luncheon will be shared at St James School Hall, Skellatar Street Muswellbrook. Tea and coffee will be served from 12pm until Fr. Victor arrives around 12.30 for the Celebration.

**Everyone is reminded to please bring a plate to share.**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February,  
St James School Hall  
Skellatar Stock Route Muswellbrook**



## SENIOR WORDSEARCH

The people have seen a great light

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

Try to find these words:

agree  
argue  
broken  
cross  
fishermen  
Galilee  
good  
heaven  
James  
lake  
light  
Peter

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A [NO30RSUA\_2005\_WS3.rtf]

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## 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.



## Sick List

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

Is 64:4  
Ps 27:1  
1 Cor 1:10-13, 17  
Mt 4:18

## 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 f

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.*



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.

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Sunday 25 January
<b>Australia Day</b>		<i>St Thomas Aquinas, priest, doctor</i>			<i>St John Bosco, priest</i>	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Times</i>
	<u>2.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Church <b>Upper Hunter Teachers</b>	<u>9.00 am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Church	<u>11.30 am</u> <b>Adoration &amp; Benediction</b> <u>12.00 pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Church	<u>9.00 am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Church	<u>9.00 am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Church  <u>5.30 pm</u> <b>Vigil Mass</b> St James Church	<u>10.00 am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Church
						<u>8.00 am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

## Minister Roster Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026

1st Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
<b>5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook</b>	R Ross	C Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
<b>8.00 am Sunday Aberdeen</b>	T Hobbs	J Lonergan	C Bowen				M Hamilton
<b>10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook</b>	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, Rodelio Borress and Eunice Benn.

**Anniversary: Alma Selina Dolahenty, Sr Laurel Dolahenty, and Joan Powell.**

**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/)

Muswellbrook Parish Promotor of Safeguarding: Jane Jacobs (Contact via Parish Office).