



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

Parish Priest: Fr Victor Babu Doss

Email: frvickybabu@gmail.com

Phone: 0484 903 427 or 6543 1167

St James Primary School

Principal: Mr Aaron Moon

Office: 6543 3094

Email: admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au

Parish Secretary: Natasha Daniels

Email: muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au

PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Mon, Wed and Fri 9.00am – 3.00pm

Website:

www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au

The Epiphany of the Lord – YEAR A

4 January 2026

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)

3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. (R.)
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

We have come from the East to worship the king.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of
Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

Reflection by Fr Victor

The Solemnity of the Epiphany celebrates the beautiful and hope-filled truth that **Jesus Christ is revealed to all nations**. The visit of the Magi shows us that God's saving love knows no boundaries. Guided by a star, these seekers from distant lands set out on a journey of faith, trusting that God would lead them—and they are not disappointed.

The Gospel reminds us that the Magi find the newborn King not in a place of power or comfort, but in simplicity and humility. Their journey teaches us that God often reveals Himself in unexpected ways and ordinary places. What matters most is a heart that is open, searching, and willing to be led.

The gifts they offer—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—are rich in meaning. Gold honours Christ as King, frankincense acknowledges His divinity, and myrrh points to His humanity and future suffering. These gifts also invite us to reflect on what we bring to the Lord today: our faith, our time, our struggles, our hopes, and our willingness to serve.

After encountering Jesus, the Magi "returned by another way." This small detail carries a powerful message. A true encounter with Christ always

changes us. Epiphany challenges us not only to seek Christ, but also to allow His presence to transform the way we live—how we treat others, how we make decisions, and how we witness to our faith.

As we celebrate this feast, may we be attentive to the "stars" God places in our lives—Scripture, prayer, the sacraments, and the needs of those around us. May we follow Christ faithfully and become **reflections of His light**, so that our parish and our world may be filled with hope, peace, and joy.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!



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 sad 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.

Roster for St James

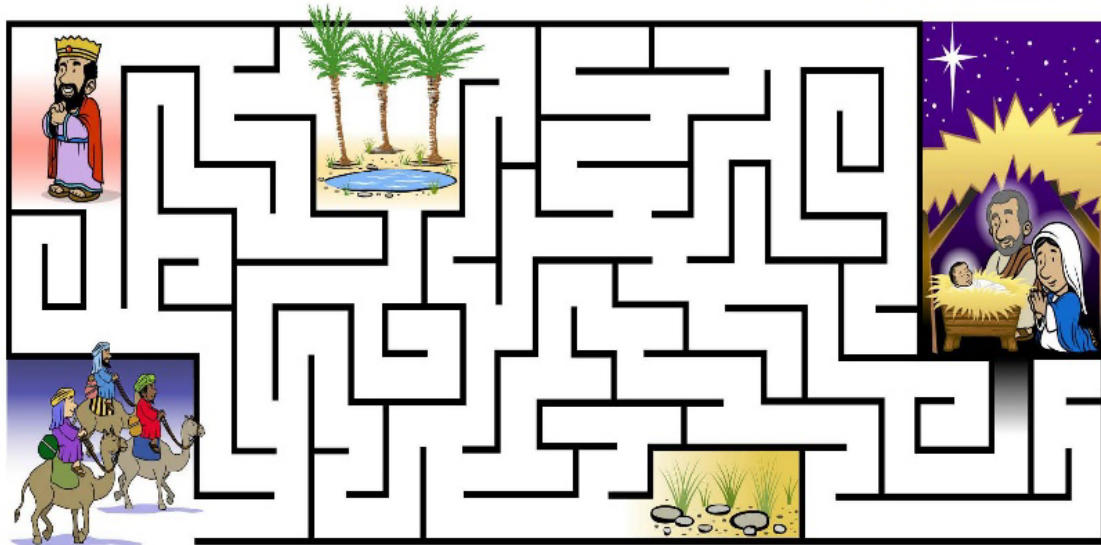
If anyone would like to join the roster for St James Roster and contribute to being a part of Mass, please put your name down on the piece of paper in the foyer, or contact me directly via email. Please do not delay as the roster is being done soon.

Wise men came from the East

The Epiphany of the Lord



Help the wise men find their way to Bethlehem - watch out for King Herod!



The wise men had to search for Jesus.
Where are some of the places we
can find Jesus in our world today?

Draw yourself offering a gift to Jesus



Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 5 January	Tuesday 6 January	Wednesday 7 January	Thursday 8 January	Friday 9 January	Saturday 10 January	Sunday 11 January
						<i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>
		9.00 am Mass St James Church	11.30 am Adoration & Benediction 12.00 pm Mass St James Church	9.00 am Mass St James Church	9.00 am Mass St James Church 5.30 pm Vigil Mass St James Church	10.00 am Mass St James Church
	5.00 pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00 am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 11 January 2026

2 nd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	S.E Bernard	C Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00 am Sunday Aberdeen	J Dallah	T Hobbs	C Bowen				M Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	G Griffin M Shanahan	M Kelly	C Kelly		J & S Thatcher	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: Rita Lorraine Oakes

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."