



# 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 Baptism of the Lord – YEAR A

11 January 2026

### First Reading

Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.*

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.  
I have endowed him with my spirit  
that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,  
or make his voice heard in the streets.  
He does not break the crushed reed,  
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;  
he will neither waver, nor be crushed  
until true justice is established on earth,  
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of  
right;

I have taken you by the hand and formed you;  
I have appointed you as covenant of the people  
and light of the nations,

to open the eyes of the blind,  
to free captives from prison,  
and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

the voice of the Lord, full of power,  
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. (R.)

3. The God of glory thunders.  
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'  
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits as king for ever. (R.)

### Second Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

## The Word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

1. O give the Lord you sons of God,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Adore the Lord in his holy court. (R.)
2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,  
the Lord on the immensity of waters;

## The Word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation** Mark 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice  
was heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

## Gospel Matthew 3:13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*When Jesus was baptised, the heavens were opened  
and the Spirit of God came upon him.*

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. A voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

### Reflection by Fr Victor

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord brings the Christmas season to a close and opens the door to Jesus' public ministry. As Jesus steps into the waters of the Jordan, He stands in solidarity with humanity, embracing our weakness and showing us the path of humble obedience. In that sacred moment, the heavens open, the Spirit descends like a dove, and the voice of the Father proclaims, ***"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."***

This feast invites us to remember our own baptism. Through baptism, we are claimed as God's beloved sons and daughters, washed clean, and filled with the Holy Spirit. On the day of our baptism, God called each of us His beloved child too. He promised to be with us always, to forgive us, and to help us grow in love. Parents and godparents promised to help children learn about Jesus and to show them how to live as His followers. It is not merely a past event, but a living call to renew our identity and mission as Christians. We are baptized not only to belong, but to be sent—to live lives of faith, service, and love.

As families, this feast also invites us to talk about baptism at home. You might look at baptism photos, light a candle, or make the Sign of the Cross together and thank God for the gift of faith. Children can remember that whenever they do something kind, forgiving, or loving, they are living their baptism.

For families, this feast is a beautiful reminder that faith begins at home. Children learn about God not only at church or school, but especially by watching how their families pray, forgive, help others, and show love every day. Living our baptism means choosing kindness, honesty, and care for one another.

As we begin Ordinary Time, may this celebration encourage us to renew our baptismal promises, reject all that distances us from God, and courageously witness to Christ in our families, workplaces, schools, and communities. May we live each day knowing that we are deeply loved and called to bring God's light to the world.

***"You are my beloved."*** May these words echo in our hearts and guide our lives throughout the year.

**Stay Healthy, Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!**

## **FAREWELL AND THANK YOU!**

**Invitation to Parishioners of  
St James Parish,  
St James & St Thomas Churches,  
To Farewell our Administrator  
Fr. Victor Babu Doss**



**When: Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026**

**Where: St James School Hall**

**Address: Skellatar Stock Route  
Muswellbrook**

**From: 12pm**

**Attendees are asked to bring a plate to  
share savoury or sweet**

**Tea, Coffee & Cold drinks available**

### 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.

### Sick List

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



Draw Jesus being baptised in the river by John the Baptist.

**Find Out!**

When were you baptised?

Where were you baptised?

Who are your Godparents?

Draw a line to connect each symbol with it's correct meaning.

**Candle**

**Dove**

**Water**

**White Gown**

*Symbolises the Holy Spirit*

*Symbolises life, cleansing and growth*

*Symbolises purity and freedom from sin*

*Symbolises the emergence from darkness into the light*

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22      © Creative Ministry Resources

## 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.

## 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.

**Rite of Election**  
SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2026 | 1:30 PM | Sacred Heart Cathedral

Join us in supporting our RCIA Catechumens in their faith journey

Mission & Evangelisation

For info & catering numbers email [mission@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@mn.catholic.org.au)

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 12 January	Tuesday 13 January	Wednesday 14 January	Thursday 15 January	Friday 16 January	Saturday 17 January	Sunday 18 January
						<b>2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Times</b>
		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 18 January 2026

3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	A Moon J Jacobs	C Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00 am Sunday Aberdeen	K Mason	M Edwards	C Bowen				M Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	C Lumaban	M Kelly	C Kelly		T & J Bristow	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."**