



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 Lent – YEAR A

1st March 2026

Entrance Antiphon *Cf Psalm 26:8-9*

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

First Reading *Genesis 12:1-4*

A reading from the book of Genesis

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22*

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

Second Reading *2 Timothy 1:8-10*

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 17:5*

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel *Matthew 17:1-9*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour.

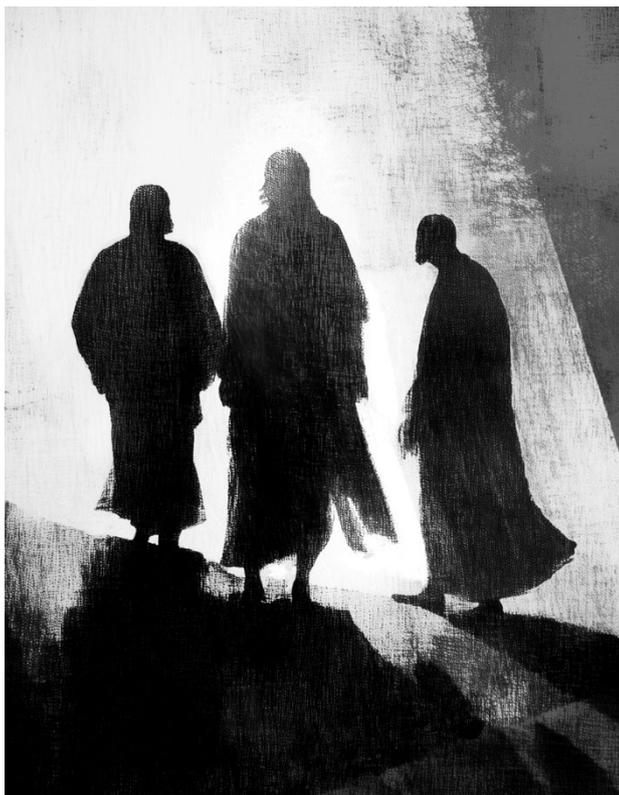
Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon Matthew 17:5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.



Reflection by Fr Sabu

Dearests,

On this second Sunday of Lent we are called to reflect on the transfiguration of Jesus Christ. Through transfiguration, Christ reveals himself and his future glory to us. Most importantly, with the transfiguration, Christ reveals one of the constants of human life to us. There is no life without death, joy without pain, and regeneration without destruction. All take place at the same time. Hence, his future glory is for those who have washed pure in the blood of the Lamb. It is for those who have "suffered" for the sake of the good news (Rev 12:11). As Jesus was transfigured on a mountain, we too are called to be transfigured in our lives. We all need 'Transfiguration Moments' in our lives-to see the way God sees us, to hear what God wants us to, and to look at life in the way God perceives.

Occasionally you read stories about people who have decided to put aside their electronic devices for an hour, a

day, or even a week, and have been astonished to discover the richness of life without incessant interruptions and noise. We've got to the point where a soundless world has practically ceased to exist, and we are the poorer for it. We need to recover the ability to sit in silence and await the gentle whisper. The gift of interior recollection is essential to Christian discipleship.

Today's first reading from the Book of Genesis is one of the key passages from the Old Testament, for from here the story of Abram's journey to follow God and live a life of faith begins. The Lord said to Abram, "**Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you.**" Abram went forth as the Lord had directed him.

God still blesses us, and at the same time calls us to be a blessing to others. Let us, in all humility and gratitude, accept both God's temporal and spiritual blessings to us and in turn, let us be a blessing to others wherever we are. This Lent is a time of blessing for us and those who are related to us. Happy Sunday and a blessed week! God Bless.
Fr Sabu

LENT

Lenten Programme "Compassio." The booklets have arrived. Cost of booklets will be \$10 each.



Lenten Groups

There are two Lenten Groups running again this year. Lenten groups started on 16th February 2026.

Group 1 – Held in St Thomas Church in Aberdeen, meeting Monday evenings at 6pm.

Group 2 – Held in the Old Convent in Muswellbrook, meeting Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Contact Colleen Kelly on 0402 242 273 for more information or to join this group.

Volunteer Required During Holy Week and the Easter Liturgy

Are you able to do a reading, people for the washing of the feet on Holy Thursday night, people to help prepare the Garden of Repose etc during Holy Week or at the Easter Liturgy.

Next Week we are putting a roster sheet at the back of both churches for volunteers.

So please consider helping.

Additional Work Around St James

Starts 2nd March – Water Blast

Week of 2nd March – Concrete Repair

Week of 9th March – Stage 3 – Apply cementious membrane to joints in concrete and flexible sealant.

Week starting 16th March – Stage 4 – Apply cementious membrane to fully encapsulate the whole spoon drain and concrete up to the vertical church wall.

While this should not restrict access to and from the Church. Please be mindful of the work being carried out and stay safe.

ST JOSEPH MEN & FULL OF GRACE COLLECTIVE PRESENTS

LENTEN RETREAT

at Belmont

FEATURING INTERNATIONAL GUEST SPEAKERS




Joelle Maryn Charbel Raish

15 MARCH 2026

St. Francis Xavier's Church, 40 Ernest Street, BELMONT | SUN 10AM - 4PM

FREE EVENT

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER



This retreat will include inspiring talks from special guest speakers, Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation led by the Parish Priest Fr. Gerard Mackie, Praise and Worship, and a women's and men's session. Attendees are invited to attend the Parish Mass at 9am.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.
Children's ministry will be available.
Books and devotional items for sale.
Cash donations are welcomed.

Please RSVP by March 12th, for catering purposes.

or PRESS DOWN ON QR CODE AND OPEN IN SAFARI

FOR MORE INFO Bernadette Barlow - 0425 270 613
CONTACT: Curtis Mahoney - 0477 106 108



Second Sunday of Lent 28 February – 1 March 2026

Sisilia is a 13-year-old girl living in remote Tanzania, who had to walk long distances to collect water every day. Thanks to Project Compassion, Sisilia's school and village now have safe clean water close by and she can spend more time studying so she can fulfil her dream of one day becoming a pilot.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

Prayer for Peace in the Middle East (and other wars)

Lord, Jesus Christ, the Holy Land is once again struck by violence, hatred and death. Lord, look with mercy upon the land that was your earthly home. Receive the deceased into your presence; and comfort those who mourn, are wounded, or forced to flee. Be close to all who are full of fear and despair. You are our peace and light of the nations; put an end to the spiral of terror and suffering in the Holy Land and in the whole Middle East. Let peace and justice flourish at the holy sites. You are our refuge. Let the people be safe in your love. Have mercy on us and on our time. Amen.

Stations of the Cross are being held in Church, 15 minutes before weekend Mass times during lent.
5.15 pm Saturday in St James Church, 7.45 am Sunday in St Thomas Church and 9.45 am Sunday in St James Church.



Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 23 rd February	Tuesday 24 th February	Wednesday 25 th February	Thursday 26 th February	Friday 27 th February	Saturday 28 th February	Sunday 1 st March
						2nd Sunday of Lent
		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 5.15 pm Stations of the Cross St James Church 5.30 pm Vigil Mass St James Church	9.45 am Stations of the Cross St James Church 10.00 am Mass St James Church
	5.00 pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					7.45 am Stations of the Cross St Thomas Aberdeen 8.00 am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 8th March 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: Beate Shanahan, Charles Sadgrove, Rollen Borres, Linda Bates, Josefina Flores, Jenelyn Regala, Florentino Mateo, Rodelio Borres, Paul Carey, Eunice Benn and Vhiel Bobadillah.

Anniversary: Jackie Partridge

Recently Deceased: Bernie Callinan and Pamela Kenny

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

"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."