

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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Website:

www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR A

8th February 2026

First Reading

Isaiah 58:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Your light will shine like the dawn.

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,
clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

His head will be raised in glory. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

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

I came to you to proclaim Christ crucified.

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any
show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you
what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you,
the only knowledge I claimed to have was about
Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far
from relying on any power of my own, I came among
you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches
and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the
arguments that belong to philosophy; only a
demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this
so that your faith should not depend on human
philosophy but on the power of God.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 5:13-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You are the light of the world.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the
earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it
salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be
thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.'

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top
cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 111:4-9. R. v.4

(R.) A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

1. He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour. (R.)
2. The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. (R.)
3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.

a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection by Fr Sabu

Dearests,

On this fifth Sunday in ordinary time we are called to reflect the impact and influence that we believers are called to have on the world as the 'salt of the earth' and the 'light of the world'. Just as the salt, even in small amounts, influences the taste of the food, we are to have positive and noticeable influence on the world. This requires maintaining integrity and living out our faith authentically and consistently. If salt loses its saltiness, it becomes useless; similarly, if we lose our distinctiveness by compromising our values, we fail our mission. Just as light provides visibility and guidance, we have the responsibility to illuminate the truth and guide others towards God. When we truly fulfill our role as salt and light, the beneficiaries of our words and actions will be led to praise and glorify God.

As we said farewell to Father Victor, who has been a light and salt for our parish community, we continue accompany him with our prayer support so that he could be a real guiding light for the future priests of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. I hope all goes well in Wagga and he will be appreciated for the quality man and priest that he is. St. John Chrysostom once said that 'Synod is the name of the Church' - a journey we make together. The church must therefore be like a choir, in which the members relate to each other in harmony and order, and are united by love that transcends differences. Thanks for the kind welcome you have given me, and I look forward to be part of this parish community sharing the light and saltiness.

God bless! Your priest, Fr Sabu Pulimalayil RCJ

Keegan / Wood Family Group

16 February: Lunch 12 noon at **Hunter Belle Restaurant 75 Aberdeen St Ph 6541 5066.**
Please give names to Margaret (**6543 1238**) by **Fri 13 February.**



Bishop's Prayer for the Jewish Community

Let us pray together for peace: O God, creator of the world, Who first revealed Your love and salvation for humankind in and through the Jewish community, and Who has revealed that peacemakers are to be called Your children, grant we pray, that we may work without ceasing to establish that justice which alone ensures true and lasting peace. Amen.

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.

LENT

Ash Wednesday is on 18th February 2026. Mass times will be announced soon.

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



Lenten Groups

There will be possibly three Lenten Groups running again this year. Lenten books are \$10 each and can be paid to the group leader when you collect your book. Starting the week of 16 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 Tuesday mornings at 10 am (To Be Confirmed)

Group 3 – 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.

Lent 2026 with the Catholic Guy,

Bruce Downes

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed! For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE and you can sign up here:

<https://brucedownes.org/lent-2026-sign-up/>

Go to BruceDownes.org for more information.



Some Photos from Fr Victor's Farewell/ Welcome Fr Sabu

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.

Flyer is available as you come into the church for those who are interested



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 Sabu.



Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 9th February	Tuesday 10 th February	Wednesday 11 th February	Thursday 12 th February	Friday 13 th February	Saturday 14 th February	Sunday 15 th February
	<i>St Scholastica, virgin</i>				<i>Sts Cyril, monk, and Methodius, bishop</i>	<i>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		<u>9.00 am</u> Mass St James Church	<u>11.30 am</u> Adoration & Benediction <u>12.00 pm</u> Mass St James Church	<u>9.00 am</u> Mass St James Church	<u>9.00 am</u> Mass St James Church <u>5.30 pm</u> Vigil Mass St James Church	<u>10.00 am</u> Mass St James Church
	<u>5.00 pm</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					<u>8.00 am</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 15th February 2026

3 rd 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, Rodelio Borress, Paul Carey, Eunice Benn and Vhiel Bobadillah.

Anniversary:

Recently Deceased: Verlee Bea Bobadillah.

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).