

# 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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**6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR A**

**15<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

### **Entrance Antiphon** Cf Psalm 30:3-4

Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Open my eyes that I may consider  
the wonders of your law. (R.)

4. Teach me the demands of your statutes  
and I will keep them to the end.  
Train me to observe your law,  
to keep it with my heart. (R.)

### **First Reading**

**Sirach 15:15-20**

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

*He never commanded anyone to be godless.*

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,  
to behave faithfully is within your power.  
He has set fire and water before you;  
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.  
Man has life and death before him;  
whichever a man likes better will be given him.  
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;  
he is almighty and all-seeing.  
His eyes are on those who fear him,  
he notes every action of man.  
He never commanded anyone to be godless,  
he has given no one permission to sin.

### **The Word of the Lord**

### **Responsorial Psalm** Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R.

v.1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless,  
who follow God's law!

They are happy those who do his will,  
seeking him with all their hearts. (R.)

2. You have laid down your precepts  
to be obeyed with care.

May my footsteps be firm  
to obey your statutes. (R.)

3. Bless your servant and I shall live  
and obey your word.

### **Second Reading**

**1 Corinthians 2:6-10**

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

*God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.*

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached  
maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still  
less of the masters of our age, which are coming to  
their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach  
in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined  
to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a  
wisdom that none of the masters of this age have  
ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord  
of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that  
no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things  
beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared  
for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us  
through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of  
everything, even the depths of God.

### **The Word of the Lord**

### **Gospel Acclamation** See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the  
kingdom.

Alleluia!

## Gospel Matthew 5:17-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.'

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.'

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.'

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.'

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.'

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

## The Gospel of the Lord

## Communion Antiphon

*John 3:16*

God so loved the world  
that he gave his Only Begotten Son,  
so that all who believe in him may not perish,  
but may have eternal life.

## Reflection by Fr Sabu

Dearests,

On this sixth Sunday of Ordinary time is the last Sunday before the season of Lent. We begin lent with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a special season in the Church lasting about 40days, to help us to prepare for Easter. It is a time of reflection, repentance and renewal, leading up to the celebration of Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

In the Gospel today, Jesus underscores that He came to fulfill the Law. Unlike the Pharisees, often focused on external observances and ritual purity, Jesus calls for a deeper, heart-centred righteousness that goes beyond mere legalistic observances.

Lent is marked by three key practices: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These practices are rooted in love, mercy and justice. During the season of Lent, we are to take radical measures to avoid sin, maintain inner purity, and guard our thoughts and desires when it comes to interacting with others. Lent invites us to grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the Easter joy. I pray and wish you all a Grace filled Lent and Happy Sunday!

Fr Sabu Pulimalayil RCJ

## 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.

## Parish Bulletin Notice

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding a High Court decision involving historical abuse within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. We recognise this may be distressing for individuals, the broader Catholic community and particularly victims, survivors and their families. Support is available through Zimmerman Service - Healing and Support on 02 4923 0636. Any concerns for the safety of a child or vulnerable adult should be reported to the Office of Safeguarding on 02 4979 1390 or via the Diocese website.

A Statement from the Diocese was released yesterday and can be accessed at this link: [Statement from the Catholic Diocese on the High Court ruling - February 11 2026 - Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle](https://www.catholic.org.au/parishes/maitland-newcastle/maitland-newcastle-diocese/maitland-newcastle-diocese-statement-on-high-court-ruling)

## LENT

Ash Wednesday is on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Stations of the Cross will be conducted 15 minutes prior to every weekend Mass.

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 books are \$10 each and can be paid to the group leader when you collect your book. Starting the week of 16 February 2026. Books are also available from the office.

**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.



**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**

### Project Compassion Sunday 14–15 of February 2026

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



#### 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](https://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

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

### Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)

Following Mass is at 5pm at St Thomas Church Aberdeen, burning of the palms will occur. We then go to dinner at the Commercial Hotel. Please advise Carol on 0438 812 898 if you are joining us for dinner.



### 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.**



## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February
		<i>Ash Wednesday</i>				<i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</i>
		<u>9.00 am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Church  <u>10.15 am</u> <b>Liturgy</b> St James School	<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>5.15 pm</u> <b>Stations of the Cross</b> St James Church  <u>5.30 pm</u> <b>Vigil Mass</b> St James Church	<u>9.45 am</u> <b>Stations of the Cross</b> St James Church  <u>10.00 am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Church
	<u>5.00 pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen	<u>5.30 pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen				<u>7.45 am</u> <b>Stations of the Cross</b> St Thomas Aberdeen <u>8.00 am</u> <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

### Minister Roster Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
<b>5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook</b>	M Carter T Threadgate	C Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
<b>8.00 am Sunday Aberdeen</b>	R Roach	K Mason	C Bowen				M Hamilton
<b>10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook</b>	M Medhurst	M Kelly	C Kelly		J Grenfell	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:** Eric Tanner

**Recently Deceased:** Bernie Callinan

**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).

**"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."**