



# 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

**Administrator:** Fr Sabu Pulimalayil RCJ

**Email:** [sabu.pulimalayil@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:sabu.pulimalayil@mn.catholic.org.au)

**St James Primary School**

**Principal:** Mr Aaron Moon

**Office:** 6543 3094

**Email:** [admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au)

**Parish Secretary:** Natasha Daniels

**Email:** [muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

**PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333**

**Phone:** 02 6543 1167

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

**Website:**

[www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au](http://www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au)

**3rd Sunday in Lent – YEAR A**

**8<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

### Entrance Antiphon *Cf Psalm 24:15-16*

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

### First Reading *Exodus 17:3-7*

A reading from the book of Exodus

*Give us water to drink.*

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

### The Word of the Lord

#### Responsorial Psalm *Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8*

*(R.)* If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. *(R.)*

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. *(R.)*
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'  
*(R.)*

#### Second Reading *Romans 5:1-2. 5-8*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.*

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

### The Word of the Lord

#### Gospel Acclamation *See John 4:42. 15*

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;  
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

## Gospel Shorter form

John 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.*

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you:  
Give me a drink,  
you would have been the one to ask,  
and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water  
will get thirsty again:  
but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give  
will never be thirsty again:  
the water that I shall give  
will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to  
eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth:  
that is the kind of worshipper  
the Father wants.  
God is spirit,  
and those who worship  
must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he

spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

## The Gospel of the Lord

### Communion Antiphon John 4:13-14

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.



### Reflection by Fr Sabu

Dear friends,

On this Third Sunday of Lent, we reflect on the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman. This encounter reveals the depth of God's love and mercy. Jesus breaks down barriers, showing that no one beyond the reach of His grace. Our soul thirsts for the Divine - a yearning often mistaken as desire for worldly satisfactions yet fulfilled only in Christ. Each of us, deep within, is thirsty and hungry wanting to drink water that will quench the longing forever. Jesus's encounter with the Samaritan woman reminds us that temporary pleasures and fleeting joys never satisfy our deepest needs. Like her, we are called to find life-transforming fulfillment in the Lord alone, the source of eternal life. When we seek Christ sincerely, He offers us not just comfort but lasting joy, filling us with 'a spring of water welling up to eternal life'. Let us return to Him, quenching our thirst in His endless love and divine peace.

Let us pray for a swift end to the conflict between the US and Israel and Iran that began with strikes on Tehran on Saturday. Let us earnestly pray also for the protection of innocent lives, for comfort to those who are suffering and wisdom and guidance for world leaders to seek dialogue, reconciliation and lasting peace. Wish you all a Blessed week! God bless.

Fr Sabu Pulimalayil

# HOLY WEEK 2026 @ SJM

30

MAR

KINDERGARTEN PRESENTS  
PALM SUNDAY

COURTYARD | 9:30 AM

31

MAR

STAGE 1 PRESENTS  
THE LAST SUPPER &  
WASHING OF THE FEET

COURTYARD | 2:15 PM

01

APR

STAGE 2 PRESENTS  
THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

SCHOOL HALL | 9:30 AM

01

APR

STAGE 3 PRESENTS  
THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS,  
THE CRUCIFIXION  
& THE RESURRECTION

SCHOOL HALL | 12:00 PM

PLEASE BOOK YOUR SEATS VIA  
THE HUMANITIX LINKS ON COMPASS

## LOST AND FOUND

We have a growing collection of items in St James Church. So if you are missing something, please have a look.

## 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.

## LENT

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

### Lenten Groups – have started

**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.

## Additional Work Around St James

Starts 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Water Blast

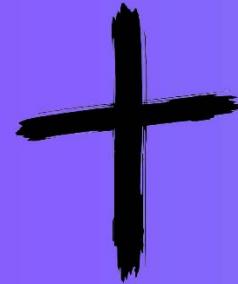
Week of 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Concrete Repair

Week of 9<sup>th</sup> March – Stage 3 – Apply cementitious membrane to joints in concrete and flexible sealant.

Week starting 16<sup>th</sup> March – Stage 4 – Apply cementitious 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.

**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.



## Sacramental Program Muswellbrook 2026

If you have a child who would like to complete their sacraments of  
Reconciliation &  
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



please contact St James parish office asap on PH:  
65431167 or St James Primary School on 6543 3094

## Weekly Mass Diary

| Monday<br>9 <sup>th</sup> March | Tuesday<br>10 <sup>th</sup> March            | Wednesday<br>11 <sup>th</sup> March       | Thursday<br>12 <sup>th</sup> March   | Friday<br>13 <sup>th</sup> March          | Saturday<br>14 <sup>th</sup> March   | Sunday<br>15 <sup>th</sup> March  |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|
|                                 |  |   |  |   |  | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>  |
|                                 |  | 9.00 am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James Church | 11.30 am<br><b>Adoration &amp; Benediction</b><br><br>12.00 pm<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James Church | 9.00 am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James Church | 9.00 am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James Church<br><br>5.15 pm<br><b>Stations of the Cross</b><br>St James Church<br><br>5.30 pm<br><b>Vigil Mass</b><br>St James Church | 9.45 am<br><b>Stations of the Cross</b><br>St James Church<br><br>10.00 am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James Church  |
|                                 | 5.00 pm<br><b>Mass</b><br>St Thomas Aberdeen |   |  |   |  | 7.45 am<br><b>Stations of the Cross</b><br>St Thomas Aberdeen<br>8.00 am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St Thomas Aberdeen |

## Minister Roster Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026

| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Month    | Readers            | Cantors   | Musician    | Gifts | Counters         | Altar Server   | Sacristan   |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------|-------|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 5.30pm<br>Saturday<br>Muswellbrook | A Moon<br>J Jacobs | C Hayes   | Sr. Dorothy |       |                  | Ryan           | C. Hayes    |
| 8.00 am<br>Sunday<br>Aberdeen      | K Mason            | M Edwards | C Bowen     |       |                  |                | M Hamilton  |
| 10.00am<br>Sunday<br>Muswellbrook  | C Lumaban          | M Kelly   | C Kelly     |       | T & J<br>Bristow | Stella<br>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, James McGrath, Mick Chisolm, Charles Sadgrove, Rollen Borres, Linda Bates, Josefina Flores, Jenelyn Regala, Florentino Mateo, Rodelio Borress, 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](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."