



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

St James Primary School

Principal: Mr Aaron Moon

Office: 6543 3094

Email: admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au

Parish Secretary: Natasha Daniels

Email: 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

4th Sunday in Lent – YEAR A

15th March 2026

Entrance Antiphon *Cf Isaiah 66:10-11*

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading *1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13*

A reading from the first book of Samuel

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 22 R. v.1*

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading *Ephesians 5:8-14*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation John 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Shorter form

John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon Cf John 9:11,38

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.

Reflection by Fr Sabu

Dearests,

We are on the fourth Sunday of Lent. This fourth Sunday called 'Laetare' Sunday or rejoicing Sunday. It's a reminder that only two more weeks to go in our preparation for the holy week. In today's gospel the disciples of Jesus asked him about a blind man "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" From this question, it is evident that the notion was that all suffering was caused by sin. However, Jesus' response proved otherwise. God permits something to happen for the manifestation of his glory. In other words, this miracle remarkably revealed the power and glory of God. We are challenged to reflect on the direction of our spiritual life. Are we embracing the light that leads to deeper faith, or are we retreating into darkness? My dear friends let us choose the path of illumination and transformation.

In our second reading, Paul reminds us of our former dark state before Christ illuminated and liberated us. Hence, Paul gives a warning: "Live as children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth." Paul means that Christ is the light that illuminates our life. Living outside Him means abiding in darkness. Therefore, in this season and beyond, we must strive to remain in Christ, the light of our salvation. Wish you all a blessed week!

Fr Sabu



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.

Keegan/Wood Family Group

16 March Lunch at Eaton's Hotel Restaurant
Ph 6543 7147. Names to Margaret (6543 1238) by **Friday 13 March**



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Friday 20th March at 5.30 pm

Thank you to St Joseph's Catholic College for the restoration of the bench at the convent.



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



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Fourth Sunday of Lent
14-15 March 2026

Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.



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.*



**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

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 16 th March	Tuesday 17 th March	Wednesday 18 th March	Thursday 19 th March	Friday 20 th March	Saturday 21 st March	Sunday 22 nd March
	<i>St Patrick, bishop</i>		<i>St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>			<i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>
		No Mass St James Church	11.30 am Adoration & Benediction 12.00 pm Mass St James Church	9.00 am Mass St James Church 5.30 pm Reconciliation 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 15th March 2026

3 rd 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: 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: Rhonda, Michael Joseph Dolahenty.

Recently Deceased:

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 Promoter

"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."