



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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5th Sunday in Lent – YEAR A

22nd March 2026

Entrance Antiphon *Cf Psalm 42:1-2*

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading *Ezekiel 37:12-14*

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 129. R. v.7*

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. *(R.)*
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. *(R.)*
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak

and Israel on the Lord.) *(R.)*

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. *(R.)*

Second Reading *Romans 8:8-11*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation *See John 11:25. 26*

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel *Shorter form*

John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.
I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak
for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon Cf John 11:26

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Fifth Sunday of Lent 21–22 March 2026

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.



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.*

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

As a metaphor, death can stand for many things. The prophet Ezekiel witnessed the death of the nation. The gospel reports the death of Lazarus. Although Paul refers to the mortal character of our physical bodies, he is more concerned with spiritual life and death. Death attacks each one of us in all three of these ways. We are all mortal and subject to physical death; we are all sinners and must deal with the implications of spiritual death; we are all subject to the consequences of social sins such as terrorism, violence, group hatred, greed and ecological exploitation. The question before us is whether or not we are going to allow death to reign in our lives and in our communities.

All three readings for this Sunday, as well as the psalm response, point out our inability to raise ourselves out of the deaths that afflict us. In the passage from Ezekiel, it is God who promises to open the graves of the people; the people are helpless to do anything. The psalmist cries to God from out of the depths of pain and helplessness. Acknowledging human propensity to sin, Paul credits the Spirit of God with transforming death into life. Finally, it is Jesus who calls Lazarus out of the grave and returns him to his life. We can see that God does not leave us to languish in our various deaths. Instead, God offers us new life out of the tombs. All of this is accomplished through the mercy and compassion of God.

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Easter Services in the Parish

Date	Service	Venue	Time
Tuesday 31/3/2023	Chrim Mass	Sacred Heart Cathedral	6.30 pm
Thursday 3/4/2026	Mass of the Lord's Supper	St James Church	6.00 pm
Thursday 3/4/2026	Garden of Repose	St James Chapel Hall (Convent)	7.30 – 10 pm
Friday 3/4/20256	Stations of the Cross	St Thomas Church Aberdeen	8.00 am
Friday 3/4/20256	Stations of the Cross	St James Church	10.00 am
Friday 3/4/20256	The Passion of the Lord	St James Church	3.00 pm
Saturday 4/4/2026	Easter Vigil	St James Church	7.30 pom
Sunday 5/4/2026	Easter Sunday	St Thomas Church Aberdeen	8.00 am
Sunday 5/4/2026	Easter Sunday	St James Church	10.00 am

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



Chrim Mass

31st March 2026, 6.30 pm

Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle

Volunteer Required During Holy Week and the Easter Liturgy

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

Roster sheet at the back of church.

Thank you!

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

SINGERS - PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING EASTER SERVICES.

Holy Thursday - 2nd April, 6pm,
Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday - 3rd April, 3pm,
Passion of the Lord

Easter Saturday - 4th April, 7.30pm,
Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday - 5th April, 10am,
Easter Sunday Morning Mass

As many of our Sunday Choir members work shift work, we find ourselves short of voices to sing God's Praise over Holy Week.

Are you able join us at any of the above Services – especially Good Friday and Easter Vigil?

Love to see some new faces or returning singers.

We will have two rehearsals in the Church:

NEXT TUESDAY 24th March

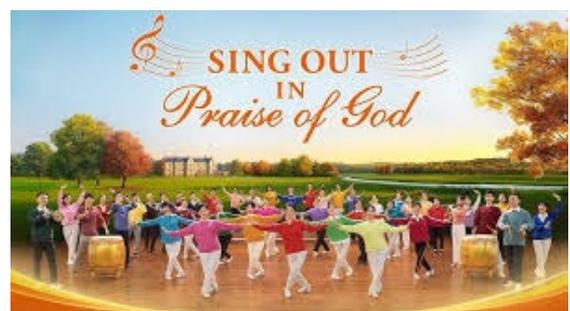
7pm and the following week

TUESDAY 31st March

7pm in the Church

Please help us sing God's praise this Easter.

Call Colleen for further info – 0402 242 273



Thanks for considering this. Hope to see you there

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 23 rd March	Tuesday 24 th March	Wednesday 25 th March	Thursday 26 th March	Friday 27 th March	Saturday 28 th March	Sunday 29 th March
		<i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>				<i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i>
		9.00am 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 Blessing of the Palms St James Church Foyer 5.30 pm Vigil Mass St James Church	9.45 am Blessing of the Palms Gather at the Convent Verandah 10.00 am Mass St James Church
	5.00 pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					7.45 am Gather under the portico St Thomas Aberdeen 8.00 am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 29th March 2026

5 th Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	Jasmine	C Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00 am Sunday Aberdeen	M Brown	C Wykes	C Bowen				M Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	M Shanahan	M Kelly	C Kelly		K & B Mason	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 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."