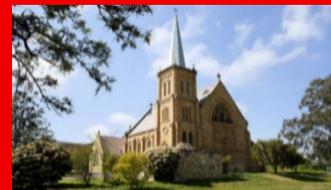




ST JAMES' PARISH

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

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Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – YEAR A

29th March 2026

Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem.

Matthew 21:1-11

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"

The Gospel of the Lord

Entrance Antiphon Cf John 12: 1, 12-13; Ps 23: 9-10

Six days before the Passover,
when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem,
the children ran to meet him;
in their hands they carried palm branches
and with a loud voice cried out:

* Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant
mercy!

First Reading Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not
be ashamed.*

The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.

So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.

Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,

so that I am untouched by the insults.

So, too, I set my face like flint;

I know I shall not be shamed.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)

2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. (R.)

3. They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)

4. I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

Second Reading Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*He humbled himself to become like us and God raised
him on high.*

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to
his equality with God but emptied himself to assume
the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and
being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to
accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised
him high and gave him the name which is above all
other names so that all beings in the heavens, on
earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at
the name of Jesus and that every tongue should
acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the
Father.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation Philippians 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Communion Antiphon Cf John 11:26

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

Homilette. REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate **Lowly Prince of Peace**

Jesus entered Jerusalem, not as a warrior in the tradition of King David as many had hoped for, but riding simply on a donkey. The disciples and the crowd applauded him, but they proved fickle in their support.

On the other hand, Jesus remained steadfast in his commitment to non-violent revolutionary change of the religious and political systems so as to establish the reign of God. Why did he renounce marshalling human and angelic warriors to further his cause?

First, Jesus embodied God-for-us, and God does not want the destruction of those he has created out of love. Second, Jesus had a premonition that an armed revolt would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersal of the Jewish people (as occurred in 70AD).

Third, another Gospel (Luke) recounts that as Jesus laboured up Mount Calvary he turned to some wailing women and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep rather for yourselves and for your children.' He knew that they suffer grievously in armed uprising. This is seen in barbaric reality in our own time with women being tortured and raped in campaigns of terror, trafficked into sexual slavery, suffering the loss of sons, husband and lovers.

We could take a moment to pray that the Church of the 21st century, successor of the pacifist Church of the first three centuries, may enter on a new period of reflection on these issues, grappling with the desire to protect the innocent, yet always challenged by the man on a donkey, Divine Prince of Peace.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Rosters Over Easter

Holy Thursday Washing of Feet 2nd April 2026 at 6pm	
1	Aaron Moon
2	Jane Jacobs
3	Dennis Flanagan
4	Peter Griffin
5	Trish Hobbs
6	Jim Cala
7	Katie Michalopoulos
8	Darryl Marshall
9	Jeff Brown
10	Joseph Brown
11	Selwin Coats
12	Stephen Thatcher

Palm Sunday 29th March 2026 at 9.45 am	
Readers	
Commentator	
1	Trish Hobbs
2	Jessica Gtenfell
Narrator	Martin Shanahan
Altar Server	
	Liam
Holy Thursday Readers 2nd April at 6 pm	
1	Trish Hobbs
2	Monica Brown
Good Friday Readers 3rd April at 3pm	
1	Gerri Griffin
2	
Narrator	Aaron Moon
Holy Saturday Vigil Mass 4th April 26 at 7.30pm	
Readers	
1	Chris Hayes
2	Jessica Grenfell
3	Aaron Moon
4	Gerri Griffin
Altar Servers	
	Liam

There Will be a

Good Friday Collection

will be for the **Holy Land**

HOLY WEEK 2026 @ SJM

30 KINDERGARTEN PRESENTS
PALM SUNDAY
MAR COURTYARD | 9:30 AM

31 STAGE 1 PRESENTS
THE LAST SUPPER &
WASHING OF THE FEET
MAR COURTYARD | 2:15 PM

01 STAGE 2 PRESENTS
THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE
APR SCHOOL HALL | 9:30 AM

01 STAGE 3 PRESENTS
THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS,
THE CRUCIFIXION
& THE RESURRECTION
APR SCHOOL HALL | 12:00 PM



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Easter Sunday
4 – 5 April 2026

Happy Easter from all of us here at Caritas Australia!

Thank you for your continued support through Project Compassion. Your generosity is helping to empower the world's most vulnerable communities, enabling them to overcome challenges and lift themselves out of poverty. There is still time to donate!



**UNITE 
AGAINST
POVERTY**

this Lent

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.*

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.

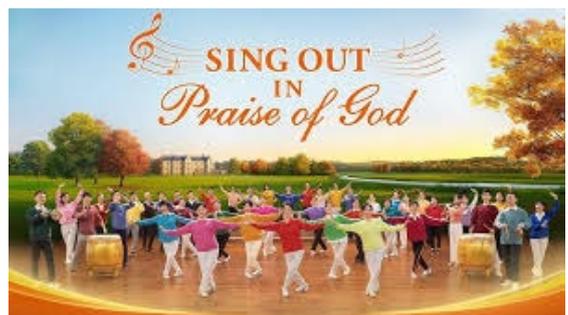
We will have two rehearsals in the Church:

Monday 30th 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

Divine Mercy Novena

The Divine Mercy Novena commences on Good Friday and finishes the Sunday after Easter Sunday, known as Divine Mercy Sunday. This is a blessed opportunity to reap the extraordinary graces obtained by this powerful Novena. There are even more graces obtained if you also attend a Confession during this time. The Novena finishes on Divine Mercy Sunday. Come to Jesus, trust in His Divine Mercy whilst also praying for our world and your family. A booklet will be available from Good Friday, at the back of the Church, guiding you through this beautiful novena to do at home.

Divine Mercy Sunday (April 12) is the conclusion of the Novena. Starting at 2.30pm at St James Church we will have Adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet and time for reflection and prayer. Fr Sabu will also be available for Reconciliation (Confession). All welcome to attend.



The Original Divine Mercy Image

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 30 th March	Tuesday 31 st March	Wednesday 1 st April	Thursday 2 nd April	Friday 3 rd April	Saturday 4 th April	Sunday 5 th April
			<i>Thursday of the Lord's Supper (Maundy Thursday)</i>	<i>Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)</i>	<i>Holy Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday of the Resurrection (Easter Day)</i>
	6.30pm Chrism Mass Sacred Heart Cathedral	9.00am Mass St James Church	6.00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper St James Church 7.30-10.00pm Garden of Repose Chapel Hall (Convent)	8.00 am Stations of the Cross St Thomas Aberdeen 10.00 am Stations of the Cross St James Church 3.00 pm The Passion of Lord St James Church	7.30 pm Easter Vigil St James Church	10.00 am Mass St James Church
	5.00 pm No Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00 am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 5th April 2026

1 st Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook		C Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00 am Sunday Aberdeen	T Hobbs	J Lonergan	C Bowen				M Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	J Grenfell		K Mason		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."