



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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3rd Sunday in Easter – YEAR A

19th April 2026

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 65:1-2

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,
for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.

So my heart was glad
and my tongue cried out with joy:
my body, too, will rest in the hope
that you will not abandon my soul to Hades
nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.
You have made known the way of life to me,
you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is

the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v.11

(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.' (R.)
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)
4. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as

Weekly Mass Diary

| Monday 20 th April | Tuesday 21 st April | Wednesday 22 nd April | Thursday 23 rd April | Friday 24 th April | Saturday 25 th April | Sunday 19 th April |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | | ANZAC DAY | 4TH Sunday of Easter |
| | | 9.00am Mass St James Church | 11.30 am Mass Adoration & Benediction St James Church | 9.00 am Mass St James Church | 9.00 am Mass St James Church 5.30 pm Vigil Mass St James Church | 10.00 am Mass St James Church |
| | 5.00 pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen | | | | | 8.00 am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen |

Minister Roster Sunday 26th April 2026

| 4 th Sunday of Month | Readers | Cantors | Musician | Gifts | Counters | Altar Server | Sacristan |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|-------------|-------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| 5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook | M Carter T Threadgate | C Hayes | Sr. Dorothy | | | Ryan | C. Hayes |
| 8.00 am Sunday Aberdeen | K Roach | K Mason | C Bowen | | | | M Hamilton |
| 10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook | 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: Beate Shanahan, James McGrath, Mick Chisolm, Charles Sadgrove, Rollen Borres, Linda Bates, Josefina Flores, Jenelyn Regala, Florentino Mateo, Rodelio Borress, Paul Carey, Eunice Benn, Vhiel Bobadillah Anne Hugo, Rochelle Ashman and Kym Mason.

Anniversary: Adam Tanner.

Recently Deceased: Kurt Stallworthy, Pam Kenny and Peter Dolahenty.

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.

Prayer for Peace – 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 the light of the nations; put an end to the spiraof 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.

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."

Keegan/Wood Family Group

20 April Lunch at the **Commercial Hotel Aberdeen** 63 Macquene Street. (Ph 6543 7196). Arrange transport. Names to Marg D by **Fri 17 April**.



PRAYER FOR RAIN

Dear God, we ask You with humble hearts, seeking Your divine intervention for rain to nourish our parched land. We recognize that all creation depends on Your mercy and grace. As we face the drought, we ask that You send rain to replenish our crops, fill our rivers, and restore our ecosystem. Help us to trust in Your timing and remain steadfast in faith, knowing that You provide for all our needs. We pray that this rain may be a blessing, not just for us but for all living beings. Let it remind us of Your unfailing love and provision. We ask this through Risen Christ our Lord, Amen.



You are invited ...

The Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea and the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle invite you to a

Handover Ritual of the Singleton Mercy Convent

10am Wednesday, 22 April

Singleton Convent
30 Queen Street, Singleton

Join us for this joyous occasion as we celebrate the gifting of a legacy of mercy and hospitality.



Called to Know More - Stories of a Catholic Military Chaplain

Friday 24 April 2026, 10:30am,
Diocesan Resource Centre,
Newcastle West

In preparation for ANZAC Day, hear from Fr Greg Barker, who will share his personal experience serving as a Military Chaplain on the realities of service, faith, and accompaniment among those affected by war. Following the talk and morning tea, all are invited to join in midday Mass at the Cathedral. Register on the [Diocesan Website](#).

Listen to the Heart: Moving Forward Team

Saturday 02 May 2026,
8:30am – 12:30pm,
Therry Centre - East Maitland

Join Fr Darryl Mackie and Auntie Wanda Smith in an informative morning to increase our knowledge and understanding of the deep spirituality of First Nations people, connection to Country and relationships with Faith. Register on the [Diocesan Website](#).

Prayer from Pope John Paul II for Seafarers

Mary, Star of the Sea, light of every ocean,
guide seafarers across all dark and stormy seas
that they may reach the haven of peace and light
prepared in Him who calmed the sea.
As we set forth upon the oceans of the world
and cross the deserts of our time, show us, O Mary,
the fruit of your womb, for without your Son we are lost.

Pray that we will never fail on life's journey,
that in heart and mind, work and deed, in days of turmoil and in days of calm, we will always look to Christ and say, "Who is this that even wind and sea obey him?"
Our Lady of Peace, pray for us!
Bright Star of the Sea, guide us!
Our Lady, Star of the Sea, pray for seafarers, pray for us.



long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation See Luke 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter

into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

Communion Antiphon Luke 24:35

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Companionable Breaking of Bread

This story is the story of each one of us at Mass. Each Mass is structured on the Road to Emmaus travelogue.

Two men set off on a journey of their own making. At the beginning of Mass we confess that we have gone off course.

The traveller helps the men on the road to Emmaus understand what had happened to Jesus of Nazareth by showing God's plan revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Liturgy of the Word, we hear Scriptures expounded, revealing more fully the true identity of Jesus of Nazareth. Every so often you will experience the burning sensation in your heart as something that is said hits home.

The traveller takes bread, blesses it, and gives it to them to eat. In that moment of bread-sharing, the two men recognised their travelling companion as the Risen Lord. Eat the bread consecrated at Mass, and we receive into our very being the Divine Companion for our journey through life.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the privilege at every Mass of having our eyes opened so that we recognise Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ in the breaking of the bread.

Alleluia!