



# 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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4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter – YEAR A

26<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 32:5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;  
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made,  
alleluia.

## First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

**The word of the Lord.**

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22:1-6. 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

1 Peter 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.*

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May
	<i>St Peter Chanel, priest, martyr</i>	<i>St Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor</i>			<i>St Athanasius, bishop, doctor</i>	<i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</i>
		9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Church	11.30 am <b>Mass</b> <b>Adoration &amp; Benediction</b> St James Church	9.00 am <b>Mass</b> St James Church	9.00 am <b>Mass</b> St James Church  5.30 pm <b>Vigil Mass</b> St James Church	10.00 am <b>Mass</b> St James Church
	5.00 pm <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00 am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

### Minister Roster Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	R Ross	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 Borres, Paul Carey, Eunice Benn, Vhiel Bobadillah Anne Hugu, Rochelle Ashman and Kym Mason.

**Anniversary:**

**Recently Deceased: Nigel James Burke.**

**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."

## 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.



 FIRE UP MINISTRIES 



### Behold Your Mother:

Explaining and Defending the 4 Marian Dogmas

**FRIDAYS, 8TH - 29TH MAY**

6:30 PM - HOLY ROSARY  
7:00 PM - TALK

**Mackillop Parish**  
7 Milson Street Charlestown

*NOT COMPULSORY*  
A suggested donation of \$20 per talk is appreciated and includes refreshments

 With Simon Carrington



Scan to Register

## 63<sup>rd</sup> WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



## Prayers for the Vocations

Eternal God...

Bless your Church with holy and faithful priests, deacons, brothers and sisters.

Give those you have called to the married state and those you have chosen to live as single persons in the world, the special graces that their lives require.

Form us all in the likeness of your Son so that in him, with him and through him we may love you more deeply and serve you more faithfully, always and everywhere.

With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

## Keegan Woods Family Group Photo Lunch



## 2026 National Count of Attendance **YOU ARE COUNTED ON**

This May, the Australian Catholic Church participates in the National Count of Attendance.

Every Parish, every Mass, every body.

Help us accurately plan for the future.

his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

## Gospel Acclamation

John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

John 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*I am the gate of the sheepfold.*

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come

are thieves and brigands;

but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:

he will go freely in and out

and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes

only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come

so that they may have life

and have it to the full.'

## Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen,  
who laid down his life for his sheep  
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

### *The Shepherd's Voice*

In Jesus' time, the shepherd lead from the front: the sheep followed the sound of his voice to reach good pasture. Jesus describes other voices who might try to mislead the sheep as 'thieves and brigands'.

In John's gospel, Judas, the *thief* from the common purse of the disciples, led a group of temple guards and Roman soldiers to take Jesus by force.

Barabbas was a *brigand*, a leader of an insurrection. Our Lord knew that armed rebellion against the Romans would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem.

So, Jesus is warning his followers against the seductive voices of those who advocate the use of violence.

In particular, the successor of Peter should echo the voice of Jesus the Good Shepherd and no other. Popes of the modern era seem to be listening more attentively to the Good Shepherd, as successors of St Peter who was instructed: 'Feed my lambs, feed my sheep'.

We could pause for a moment to attune our ears to the sound of the Shepherd's voice and follow Him so that He may lead us to pastures where we can have life, abundantly.

Alleluia!

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