



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

Sunday of the Resurrection – YEAR A

5th April 2026

Easter Vigil

Epistle

Romans 6:3-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee.

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the

stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

Easter Day

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 138:18,5-6

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.
You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.
Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia,
alleluia.

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10:34. 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 6 th April	Tuesday 7 th April	Wednesday 8 th April	Thursday 9 th April	Friday 10 th April	Saturday 11 th April	Sunday 12 th April
						Second Sunday of Easter
		9.00am No 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 No Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00 am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 12th April 2026

2 nd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	S.E. Bernard	C Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00 am Sunday Aberdeen	J Dallah	T Hobbs	C Bowen				M Hamilton
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	G Griffin M Shanahan	M Kelly	C Kelly		J & S Thatcher	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: Rhonda, Michael Joseph Dolahenty, John Joseph Storer and Dustin Lonergan.

Recently Deceased: Kurt Stallworthy and Pam Kenny

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.

There are envelopes available for Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land and Easter Day Offerings for Parish.

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."

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

Love has the final word

Each year, Easter draws us back to the empty tomb. We come as we are, carrying the realities of our lives, the responsibilities we shoulder, the people we love and the concerns that weigh on us. In the quiet of that first Easter morning, we hear again the words that changed everything: *He is not here. He has risen, just as he said.*

The Resurrection of Jesus is not simply a beautiful conclusion to a tragic story. It marks the beginning of something entirely new, the quiet but decisive triumph of love over hatred and mercy over violence. Easter reminds us that neither death nor sin has the final word. God does. At the heart of Easter is this love, a love that does not remain distant from suffering but steps into it and opens a way through to new life.

The Risen Christ still bears his wounds. When he appears to the disciples, he does not conceal the marks of crucifixion. Instead, those wounds become signs of glory. In a world that so often hides weakness, Easter reveals something very different: that love offered in sacrifice is never wasted but holds the power to redeem. For all of us who mark this season, Easter is not only a moment of celebration but an invitation to live differently. If we truly believe that Christ is risen, then that belief must shape the way we think, speak and act, forming us into people marked by resurrection hope.

That hope becomes visible in the way we stand beside those who are struggling and in the quiet faithfulness with which we carry one another's burdens. The Resurrection does not remove us from the realities of life; it sends us into them with restored courage.

In that same exhortation, Pope Leo speaks of the Church as a sign of Christ's tender love in the world. He reminds us that our credibility rests not in our words alone, but in the authenticity of our witness. When we serve quietly, forgive generously and remain faithful in difficult times, we become signs of the Risen Lord. That witness does not come from our own strength. It is nourished each time we gather at the altar, where we encounter the Risen Lord and receive the grace to begin again.

That hope is not naive or detached from reality, and Easter does not remove the challenges we face. Our world still carries division and suffering, and many people shoulder burdens that are unseen by others. Yet the Resurrection assures us that darkness is never the final chapter, and that God continues to bring new life from places that once seemed closed.

As we celebrate Easter this year, perhaps the invitation is simply to trust that God is quietly at work in our lives, even when we cannot yet see the full picture. In the end, this occasion reminds us that we are loved, and that love has the power to change us.

Wishing you and your loved ones every blessing this Easter.

Bishop Michael Kennedy is the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Parish General Assembly

We will be conducting a Parish Assembly, Saturday 18th April, 10am – 1pm at St James Primary School Hall. Please consider attending this gathering as your input is valued. At this meeting, the future of Parish resources will be presented and discussed. This will help in the development of a long-term plan for our Parish. An information flyer will follow next week with further information.



Wish you all a Happy Easter! May your Easter be filled with love, happiness, and the warmth of family and friends. The Peace and light of Resurrected Christ shine brightly in your life, bringing love, peace, and endless hope.

Fr Sabu

the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R. v.24

(R.) This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)

Second Reading Colossians 3:1-4

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The Word of the Lord

Sequence

The sequence is said on this day.

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!
The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Gospel Acclamation 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 20:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia;
therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread
of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

