



ST JAMES' PARISH

St James Muswellbrook
St Thomas Aberdeen



Additional owners who cared for this land for thousands of years and their
maintained these spiritual connections and traditions

PARISH CONTACTS

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Website:

www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au

The Ascension of the Lord – YEAR A

17th May 2026

Entrance Antiphon

Acts of the Apostles

1:11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus
has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything
Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until
the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he
had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up
to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after
his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days
he had continued to appear to them and tell them
about the kingdom of God. When he had been at
table with them, he had told them not to leave
Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had
promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard
me speak about: John baptised with water but you,
not many days from now, will be baptised with the
Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has
the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom
to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times
or dates that the Father has decided by his own
authority, but you will receive power when the Holy
Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my
witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout
Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the
earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on,
and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still
staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white
were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you
men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky?
Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven,
this same Jesus will come back in the same way as
you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

**(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 18 th May	Tuesday 19 th May	Wednesday 20 th May	Thursday 21 st May	Friday 22 nd May	Saturday 23 rd May	Sunday 24 th May
<i>Monday of the 7th Week of Easter</i>	<i>Tuesday of the 7th Week of Easter</i>	<i>Wednesday of the 7th Week of Easter</i>	<i>Thursday of the 7th Week of Easter</i>	<i>Friday of the 7th Week of Easter</i>	<i>Saturday of the 7th Week of Easter</i>	<i>Pentecost Sunday</i>
		9.00am No Mass St James Church	11.30 am No Mass Adoration & Benediction St James Church	9.00 am Mass St James Church	9.00 am No 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 24th May 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	Danielle	T Hobbs	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, Eunice Benn, Vhiel Bobadillah, Anne Hugo, Rochelle Ashman and Kym Mason.

Anniversary: Millie Hobbs

Recently Deceased: Sr Therese Connolly vsj

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

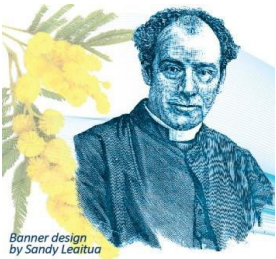
BULLETIN Please contact the Parish Office on 6543 1167 if you have any notices for the bulletin, or alternatively email: muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au. The Parish bulletin can be accessed on our website:

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."



The Sisters of St Joseph Lochinvar

Invite you to come and celebrate with us

The Launch of ...

Julian Tenison Woods, the Human

Journey:

Priest, Founder, Friend.

By Sister Janice Tranter rsj...

By Most Reverend Michael Kennedy

Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

On Sunday, 31 May, at 2.00 pm.

In the Diocesan Resource Centre
Cnr. Tudor & Parry St, Newcastle West.



RSVP: 25 May, 2026. PH: 4948 4062 or office@ssjl.org.au

A Prayer for the Ascension



Lord Jesus,
You have conquered the grave and risen in glory!
As You ascend to Your throne in Heaven, fill our hearts with the joy of Your eternal victory.
Guide us by Your Spirit until we meet You face to face in Your kingdom.
Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Eternal God,

through the life of your son, you invited all people to "come and see"

and to make a home with you.

Through the gift of baptism, you have opened our ears that, through word and sacrament, we may hear your call on our lives.

We pray that young people may answer this call

to ordained priesthood and shepherd your people,

to the permanent diaconate and proclaim your Gospel,

to religious life and witness poverty, chastity, and obedience,

to marriage and embody Christ's love for the Church,

to single life and serve you more completely.

Inspire our lives so that we may have the courage to respond,

"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening".

We make this prayer through your son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

18 May: Muswellbrook Chinese Restaurant

55 Sydney St. Lunch at **12 noon**. Phone 6543 2636.

Cost of lunch \$16. Please give names to Margaret **(6543 1238)** by **Fr 15 May**.



2026
Magdalene
AWARDS



NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Nominations close Monday 8 June 2026

Scan QR code for more info



You may not always see the results of your kindness... but every bit of positive energy you contribute to the world makes it a better place for all of us.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right

hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon Matthew 28:20

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.



HOMILY by Richard Leonard

When I was a boy, Sir Edmund Hillary came to speak at my school. I can remember the fuss surrounding the visit of the first person to scale Mt Everest. And

though there is now a school of thought that holds that he was beaten to the summit by Tenzing Norgay, his Tibetan colleague, there was an aura around this New Zealander who had been to the top of the world.

Some of my usually dour teachers were in awe of Sir Edmund. There was more than a little hero worship going on that day. Rather surprisingly in his address Sir Edmund did not say very much about his adventure to the peak. He was much more interested in what we do to each other on the plains than what he did on the mountain top. He spoke about justice, peace and the dignity of humanity. I can vividly remember him sending us out at the end of his speech to create a better world for all people everywhere. When questions came, there were several about whether he felt closer to God at the top of Mt Everest, and although he said he did, he mentioned there were life and death moments on the way up and down, where God's presence and companionship were much more real to him.

Hillary's visit to my school is not far from what happened to the disciples in today's Gospel. Matthew tells us that the eleven men who worshipped Jesus were commissioned by him to go out to the world and they were promised that he would stay with them until the end of time.

Worship is a word Catholics don't use all that often. While other denominations describe their liturgy as 'worship', we tend to use it only in a more secular way like in 'hero worship' or 'not an altar at which I worship'. The concept behind this word, however, is an important one. To worship God is to admit that we are not God. We are creatures and our worship is directed toward our Creator, Saviour and Sustainer.

Whether we realise it or not we are commissioned to go out to the world at the end of every liturgy, 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.' This changes our worship. We are not here just for ourselves. Mass, which comes from a word meaning 'to be sent', indicates that our liturgy is about celebrating what God has done in the world in and through us, and is a preparation for what God still wants to accomplish.

Finally, we continue to experience the abiding presence of Christ in our daily lives or else we wouldn't be here. God, as revealed in Jesus Christ, is not distant to our lives or impervious to our needs; we believe in a Companion-God who seeks our company as much as we need his.

In this Mass, then, let's thank God for the mountain top of Christ's Ascension that lifts us up out of our everyday life to celebrate that we are creatures, not the Creator. Let us hear again Christ's call to each of us to move away from the complacency of a spiritual cafeteria to a church moving out to change the world. And let's rejoice in Christ's presence which abides before us, behind us, over and in us, within and without, now and forever. Amen.

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