



ST JAMES' PARISH

St James Muswellbrook
St Thomas Aberdeen



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

PARISH CONTACTS

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Website:

www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR A (National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday) 5th July 2026

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 47:10-11

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

First Reading

Zechariah 9:9-10

A reading from the prophet Zechariah

See how humbly your king comes to you!

The Lord says this:

'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!
See now, your king comes to you;
he is victorious, he is triumphant,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will banish chariots from Ephraim
and horses from Jerusalem;
the bow of war will be banished.
He will proclaim peace for the nations.
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,
from the River to the ends of the earth.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14 R. v.1

(R.) I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God.

1. I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**
3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. **(R.)**
4. The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 8:9.11-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 6 th July	Tuesday 7 th June	Wednesday 8 th July	Thursday 9 th July	Friday 10 th July	Saturday 11 th July	Sunday 12 th July
					<i>St Benedict, abbot</i>	15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
		9.00am No Mass St James Church	11.30 am Mass 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
	5.00pm Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00 am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 12th July 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 O'Driscoll	T O'Driscoll	C Bowen			Wes	
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	G Griffin M Shanahan	M Kelly	C Kelly		O & N Payton	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, Mick Chisolm, Charles Sadgrove, Rollen Borres, Linda Bates, Jenelyn Regala, Florentino Mateo, Rodelio Borress, Eunice Benn, Vhiel Bobadillah, Anne Hugo, Rochelle Ashman, Kym Mason and Phillip Smith.

Anniversary: Bill McCormick, Stephen Smith and Johny George.

Recently Deceased: Rollen Borres, Pam Daniel and Jeanette Beer

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.

Muswellbrook Parish Direct Giving Banking Details: BSB: 066739 Account Number: 100 003 823 These numbers will show a warning that the numbers can't be verified, but that is fine, as long as the BSB is correct.

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."




Hi Everyone,
We are holding a working bee in St James Church. Wednesday 15th July 9.30am following 9am Mass.

Cupboards to be cleaned, tidied and remove items no longer required. A review of all church linens and coloured altar cloths etc to repair & update where required.

Tea & Coffee, Water available all day - **BYO lunch**
Many hands make light work! Thank you.

All welcome
There is plenty of work to be done!

Call Colleen for further info 0402 242 273

The Synodal Way
 A Journey into what the inspiration of the Global Synod now asks of us.



The Final Document of the Synod on Synodality: What Does It Mean for Us Now?

The Synod on Synodality has been one of the most significant events in the life of the Catholic Church since Vatican II. For the first time, lay women and men joined bishops in the Synod Assembly with equal voting rights. Shortly afterwards, Pope Francis adopted the Final Document as part of the ordinary teaching of the Church.

What does this mean for us and for the future of our Diocese?

How are we being called to live as a more missionary, participatory and synodal Church?

Join us as we explore the key themes of the Final Document, the implementation phase now underway.


Participants will also have an opportunity to express their interest in joining Synodal Teams. These teams will form a network that plays an important role in supporting the Diocese as we continue to listen, discern and respond to the call to become a more missionary and synodal Church.

Location: Convent Muswellbrook

Date: Wednesday 12 August

Time: 6.00pm-8.00pm

Please bring a plate to share and register your attendance





Walking Together in Christ: 40 Years On!

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday

5th July 2026

We gather as one in Christ — celebrating the deep faith, culture, and gifts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics. Find resources for your Parish at www.natsicc.org.au.



PRAYER for PEACE in the MIDDLE EAST (and other wars).

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 spiral of 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.

Gospel Acclamation

See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the
kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

I am gentle and humble of heart.

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children.

Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.

Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Psalm 33:9

Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

When we hear the term, *yoke*, we tend to think about the yoke that is used to harness oxen together or the yoke that someone might carry on their shoulder to balance a heavy load. This yoke across the shoulder was adopted into tailoring and so the shoulder piece set into a shirt is also called a yoke. However, in the Jewish tradition there is a completely different meaning to the term. The yoke of a rabbi was his particular interpretation of Torah (the Law); his particular teaching. Disciples who followed a particular rabbi sought to take on his yoke; his particular interpretation. The yoke of any rabbi was best identified by asking him, 'Which is the greatest commandment?' A rabbi's answer to this question revealed his interpretation of Torah. When Jesus is asked that question, he answers, 'Love God and love your neighbour,' and goes on to say that all of the rest of the Law and the prophets flows on from these two commandments. This is the yoke – the interpretation of Torah – that Jesus taught.

In today's gospel, Jesus calls to him all those who labour and are overburdened. It is the Pharisaic

interpretation of the Law that burdens these people. Trying to maintain the Law was burdensome and complicated for the everyday person. Jesus says, 'Shoulder *my* yoke and learn from me ... my yoke is easy.' The yoke of Jesus *was* easy: Love God and love your neighbour. Compared to the 613 *mitzvot* (commands) set out in the Torah and strictly maintained by the Pharisees, the yoke of Jesus was incredibly easy to understand and adopt. So simple, in fact, that it required a child-like simplicity to accept this yoke.

Historical Context – Jewish education

Education in Galilee at the time of Jesus was highly valued. From the age of five, all boys and girls studied to memorise in totality the five books of the Torah (the first five books of the Bible). This period of study was called *Beth Sefer*. From about 10-14 they continued studying and memorising the remaining books of scripture (*Beth Talmud*). From about 14 or 15, only the very best students would enter *Beth Midrash* and apply to a rabbi to become his *talmid* – disciple – and seek to take on that rabbi's yoke.

Living the Gospel – Shoulder my yoke

Jesus invites us to shoulder his yoke and learn from him for he is gentle and humble in heart. The yoke he invites us to shoulder is the deceptively simple teaching: love God and love your neighbour. To love God is to consciously make a place in our lives for God. The busy spin that tends to be characteristic of so many people's lives today does not allow room for God; does not allow room for prayer and quiet; does not allow room for compassionate response to others. To love God and love our neighbour we must first make room for them.

Have you thought? Thank God!

Jesus' quite intimate words to the Father in today's passage carry with them an enormous amount of relief and perhaps released frustration. It is almost a cry of 'Thank God!' for his disciples have finally 'got it'. Jesus blesses the Father for revealing the truth to these simple men whom Jesus had chosen to follow him. The men Jesus chose as disciples were not following another rabbi and so had not been the very best students from their village. They had the education of most children but nothing more – otherwise they would have been following someone else!

