



# 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

**Administrator:** Fr Sabu Pulimalayil RCJ

**Email:** [sabu.pulimalayil@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:sabu.pulimalayil@mn.catholic.org.au)

### St James Primary School

**Principal:** Mr Aaron Moon

**Office:** 6543 3094

**Email:** [admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@muswellbrook.catholic.edu.au)

### St Joseph's Catholic College

**Principal:** Veronica Rolfe

**Office:** 6543 7444

**Email:** [admin@aberdeen.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@aberdeen.catholic.edu.au)

**Parish Secretary:** Natasha Daniels

**Email:** [muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto: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](http://www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au)

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR A Seafarers Sunday

12<sup>th</sup> July 2026

## Entrance Antiphon

*Cf Psalm 16:15*

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;  
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

## First Reading

*Isaiah 55:10-11*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The rain makes the earth fruitful.*

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 64:10-14 R. Lk 8:8*

**(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.**

1. You care for the earth, give it water,  
you fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over  
to provide its grain. **(R.)**
2. And thus you provide for the earth;  
you drench its furrows,  
you level it, soften it with showers,

you bless its growth. **(R.)**

3. You crown the year with your goodness.  
Abundance flows in your steps,  
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **(R.)**
4. The hills are girded with joy,  
the meadows covered with flocks,  
the valleys are decked with wheat.  
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **(R.)**

## Second Reading

*Romans 8:18-23*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.*

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> July
		<i>St Bonaventure, bishop, doctor</i>				<b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
		9.00am <b>Mass</b> St James Church	11.30 am <b>Mass</b> St James Church	9.00 am <b>Mass</b> St James Church	9.00 am <b>No Mass</b> St James Church  5.30 pm <b>Vigil Mass</b> St James Church	10.00 am <b>Mass</b> St James Church
	5.00pm <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00 am <b>Mass</b> St Thomas Aberdeen

### Minister Roster Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2026

3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	A Moon J Jacobs	C Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00 am Sunday Aberdeen	M Edwards C Wykes	C Wykes	C Bowen			Wes	
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	C Lumaban	M Kelly	C Kelly			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, Eunice Benn, Vhiel Bobadillah, Anne Hugo, Rochelle Ashman, Kym Mason, Phillip Smith and Sr Gaye Lennon.

**Anniversary: Bill McCormick, Stephen Smith, Johny George and Paul Quinn(Central Coast)**

**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](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.

**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](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."**



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



Cupboards to be cleaned, tidied and remove items no long 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

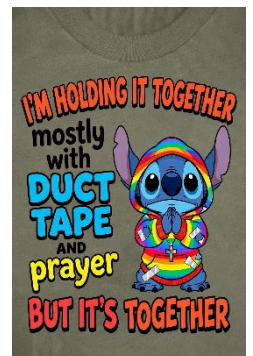
**The Synodal Way**  
 A Journey into what the inspiration of the Global Synod now asks of us.



**Alive** YOUTH  
 YOUNG ADULT RETREAT:  
**TO BE HUMAN**

OPEN TO 18-35 YEAR OLDS  
**17-19 July 2026**  
 CAMP ELIM, FORSTER

This Young Adult Retreat is on this coming week!



[bit.ly/SeaSunday2026](https://bit.ly/SeaSunday2026)

**Sea Sunday APPEAL**  
 12 JULY 2026

Your donation supports the mission and ministry of Stella Maris Australia. Scan the QR code to make a payment.

**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**



**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.

**Keegan/Wood Family Group 20 July:** Lunch and Planning Meeting at **Odeum Restaurant Workers Club 15 Sydney St 12 noon.** Please give names to Margaret (6543 1238) by Fri 17 July.



# Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;  
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*A sower went out to sow.*

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,

see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,  
their ears are dull of hearing,

and they have shut their eyes,

for fear they should see with their eyes,

hear with their ears,

understand with their heart,

and be converted

and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But

he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Communion Antiphon

Cf Psalm 83:4-5

The sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for her young:  
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.



## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate Creation Set Free

Here is Jesus telling another story about nature, in this case about soil good enough to bear a crop. Is he just a keen observer of the farmers of his time? No.

Throughout the Gospels there is a harmony between Jesus and the natural creation of a profound kind.

But St Paul intuited that link at a profound level in the case of the Risen Lord. This led him to make the most amazing claim that:

*'The creation itself would be set free from its slavery to decay in order to share the freedom associated with the glory of the children of God.'*

We, and the whole cosmos, share the legacy of a common destiny brought about by the powerful victory of Christ over the final instance of decay, destruction and every type of death.

We could pause a moment to pray with the angels as we do at every Mass:

'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven *and earth* are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.'