



ST JAMES' PARISH

St James Muswellbrook
St Thomas Aberdeen



Traditional 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

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR A

26th July 2026

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 67:6-7,36

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5.7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. **(R.)**
2. Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. **(R.)**
3. That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. **(R.)**
4. Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-27

Romans 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Weekly Mass Diary						
Monday 27 th July	Tuesday 28 th July	Wednesday 29 th July	Thursday 30 th July	Friday 31 st July	Saturday 1 st August	Sunday 2 nd August
		<i>Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus</i>		<i>St Ignatius of Loyola, priest</i>	<i>St Alphonsus Liguori, bishop, doctor</i>	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
		9.00am No Mass St James Church	11.30 am No Mass St James Church	9.00 am No 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 No Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					8.00 am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 2nd August 2026

1 st Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook		C Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00 am Sunday Aberdeen	K Roach D Rensburg	D Rensburg	C Bowen			Wes	
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	J Grenfell		K 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, Mick Chisolm, Charles Sadgrove, Linda Bates, Jenelyn Regala, Florentino Mateo, Eunice Benn, Vhiel Bobadillah, Anne Hugo, Rochelle Ashman, Kym Mason, and Sr Gaye Lennon.

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

Recently Deceased: Phillip Smith, 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."

The Synodal Way: A journey into what the Global Synod Now Asks of Us



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? Join us as we explore the key themes of the Final Document, the implementation phase now underway, and opportunities to become involved in local Synodal Teams. Please bring a plate to share and register your attendance.

Nearest Regional Meeting is being held at Muswellbrook Covent,
64 Brook Street, Muswellbrook on Wednesday 12th August AD2026
from 6.00 pm – 8.00pm.

Please use the QR Code to register.



World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2026

On Sunday, we celebrate the sixth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

In his message for the day, which this year coincides with the Feast of St Joachim and Anne, **Pope Leo XIV said**: 'The celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is an opportunity to rediscover that the Church is called to be a mother to all and that at any age it is always possible to recognise ourselves as sons and daughters of God. May this day, therefore, be an inspiration for everyone, especially the young, to revive the beautiful custom of visiting their grandparents, the elderly members of the family and even those who have no one to visit them.'

We pray for all our grandparents, the elderly and those who play a mentoring role in our lives. May they know how much they are loved and appreciated.

Fr Sabu



Our Parish communities are invited to decorate a space that uniquely reflects their commitment to children's safety and wellbeing in line with the theme of National Child Protection Week

'Every Conversation Matters, Shifting Conversation to Action', for the chance to win some fantastic prizes.

Entries close 12pm Monday 14 September.

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 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

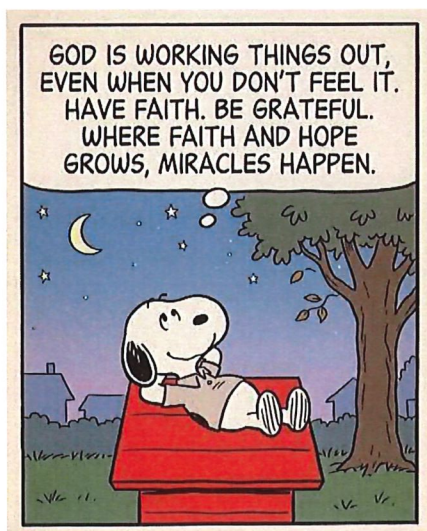
The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Psalm 102:2

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

The Language of Heaven

A burning rubbish tip in Jerusalem (Gehenna) provided Jesus with one image of Hell. Here is St John Henry Newman's image of Hell.

Have you travelled to a foreign country and can't speak the language? There would be lots of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

What if you were born with a good ear for languages, but had deliberately never learnt the language of that other place? You would only have yourself to blame. It would be a living hell.

That is what happens at death. The soul is suddenly transported to a different dimension of existence, and it can be either heavenly or hellish depending on the choices and actions of a lifetime.

So, our lifetime project is to 'learn the language of heaven'. We can mainly do this by following the story of Jesus, the Word of God, the perfect conversation between humanity and God.

We could pause for a moment to move from incommunicado to communion by learning and practising the language of Heaven.

We received a letter this week from the Holy Land Commissariat thanking us for our donations to the Good Friday Holy Land Collection for 2026 of \$674.60