



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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PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

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Office Hours: Mon, Wed and Fri 9.00am – 3.00pm

Website:

www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR A

2nd August 2026

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 69:2,6

O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay..

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Hasten and eat.

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me and you will have good things
to eat
and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16

**(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all
our needs.**

1. 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.)**
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 8:35. 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*No creature can separate us from the love of God, which
is in Christ.*

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ,
even if we are troubled or worried, or being
persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being
threatened or even attacked. These are the trials
through which we triumph, by the power of him who
loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no
angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to
come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any
created thing, can ever come between us and the
love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 3 rd August	Tuesday 4 th August	Wednesday 5 th August	Thursday 6 th August	Friday 7 th August	Saturday 8 th August	Sunday 9 th August
<i>St Dominic, priest</i>	<i>St John Vianbney, priest</i>		<i>The Transfiguration of the Lord</i>		<i>St Mary of the Crosss, virgin</i>	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
		9.00am 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 9th August 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	T O'Driscoll J Dallah	J Dallah	C Bowen			Wes	
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	G Griffin M Shanahan	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, Linda Bates, Jenelyn Regala, Florentino Mateo, Eunice Benn, Vhiel Bobadillah, Anne Hugo, Rochelle Ashman, Kym Mason, and Sr Gaye Lennon.

Anniversary: Shirley Newell, Gavin Casey, 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."

FREE
ENTRY

VINEYARDS CATHOLIC PARISHES PRESENTS

TESTIMONY & BIBLE STUDY

with Charbel Raish



FRIDAY 14 AUGUST | 6:15pm - 9pm

"HOW ISLAM LED ME BACK TO CHRIST"

Charbel Raish was born into a Catholic home. But, in the last 6 years of school, he was influenced and challenged in his faith by Islamic friends. In his final year, he struggled to make a choice. He visited a mosque to give his life to Allah and Muhammed. But God wasn't done with him yet.

Donations are welcomed to support the speaker.

Please register for catering purposes.

For more info,
contact Yvonne -
0450323206

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST | 9:30am - 4pm

BIBLE IN A DAY

Bible In A Day reveals the "big picture" of Scripture by showing how the key narrative books tell the story of salvation from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church today.

Session 1: Foundations (Early World & Patriarchs)
Session 2: Freedom (Exodus, Desert, Promised Land)
Session 3: Kingdom (Kingdoms, Exile, Return)
Session 4: Fulfillment (Maccabees, Christ, Church)

REGISTER HERE



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.



ESPOUSAL OF OUR LADY PARISH
C.F. Perfecto St. Mandurrian, Iloilo City

SUNDAY PRAYER

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Let us pray...

O God, the giver of every gift that endures,
only by your grace
can we rightly understand
the wonder of life
and why it is given.
By the word of your Son
challenge our foolishness,
confront our greed,
and shape our lives
to the wisdom of the gospel.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. Amen.

Family Diary Date Ckouners

Friday 9 October, AD2026 from

6.30pm Daylight

Saving Murrurundi: Astronomy Night

Under the Stars with St. Francis returns.

**Murrurundi Golf Club. Churches Together
Community Event. Family School
Holidays.**

Saturday 5 December, AD2026 5.30pm

Murrurundi Carols Under the Stars;

Churches Together Community Event.

Hosted in **St. Paul's Anglican Churchyard,
33 Mount St.,** with Murrurundi Catholic
Parish.

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

**This Meeting is taking
place in the Convent on
Wednesday 12 August
2026. All are encouraged
to attend.**

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 Convent,
64 Brook Street, Muswellbrook on Wednesday 12th August AD2026
from 6.00 pm – 8.00pm.*

Please use the QR Code to register.



Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Wisdom 16:20

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven,
endowed with all delights and sweetness in every
taste.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate Feeding of the Hungry Crowd

Note the disciples' reaction to the plight of the hungry crowd: 'Send the people away so that *they* can buy.' The disciples have gone for the fix which puts no responsibility on them. They are willing to entrust the hungry crowd to market forces. Those with money can eat: those without, can't. For the disciples, money and commerce are the answers to hunger.

Jesus rejects that solution. 'There is no need for them to go; *give* them something to eat yourselves.' The solution to the hunger of that crowd was to give generously what little the disciples had. What they could have kept for themselves was to become gift. Once the disciples were in Jesus' frame of mind, the hunger of the crowd was satisfied. How did this come about? The answer lay in human cooperation with the impulse of Divine generosity which knows no limits. The story simply says that Jesus blessed and broke the loaves 'and handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowd.' Jesus depended on the disciples to obey him: 'Give them something to eat yourselves'.

Jesus still looks with gut-wrenching compassion on those who are hungry in our own society and throughout the world. If we answer that market forces will suffice, Jesus will reject our answer as decisively as he rejected the answer of his earliest disciples. We have to take responsibility to share what we have, to be generous with what we have. After all, Jesus, Our Lord and Master, *commands* us: 'Give them something to eat yourselves'. Note how Jesus blessed those loaves and broke them before they were distributed, which reminds us of the words of Pedro Arrupe, former General of the Jesuits, 'Eucharist will never be complete so long as people still go hungry in the world.'

We could pause for a moment at Mass to ask: Who are those hungry people crowding in on us, and then pray that we may respond to them as our Lord commanded, so that the hungers of the crowd, and our hunger to really follow our Lord, *will be satisfied*