



# 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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### St Joseph's Catholic College

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**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)

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

9<sup>th</sup> August 2026

## Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm

73:20,19,22,23

Look to your covenant, O Lord,  
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.  
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,  
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

## First Reading

1 Kings 19:9.11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

*Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.*

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

**(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,

a voice that speaks of peace.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**
3. The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

## Second Reading

Romans 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.*

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## Weekly Mass Diary

| Monday<br>10 <sup>th</sup> August      | Tuesday<br>11 <sup>th</sup> August             | Wednesday<br>12 <sup>th</sup> August        | Thursday<br>13 <sup>th</sup> August           | Friday<br>14 <sup>th</sup> August                       | Saturday<br>15 <sup>th</sup> August                                                                                                     | Sunday<br>16 <sup>th</sup> August                  |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <i>St Lawrence,<br/>deacon, martyr</i> | <i>St Clare, virgin</i>                        |                                             |                                               | <i>St Maximilian<br/>Mary Kolbe,<br/>priest, martyr</i> | <i>The Assumption<br/>of the Blessed<br/>Virgin Mary</i>                                                                                | <b>20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in<br/>Ordinary Time</b> |
|                                        | <b>Census Night</b>                            | 9.00am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James<br>Church | 11.30 am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James<br>Church | 9.00 am<br><b>No Mass</b><br>St James<br>Church         | 9.00 am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James<br>Church<br><b>Holy Day of<br/>Obligation</b><br>5.30 pm<br><b>Vigil Mass</b><br>St James<br>Church | 10.00 am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James<br>Church      |
|                                        | 5.00pm<br><b>Mass</b><br>St Thomas<br>Aberdeen |                                             |                                               |                                                         |                                                                                                                                         | 8.00 am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St Thomas<br>Aberdeen    |

## Minister Roster Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2026

| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of<br>Month          | Readers                  | Cantors  | Musician    | Gifts | Counters | Altar<br>Server | Sacristan   |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|-------------|-------|----------|-----------------|-------------|
| <b>5.30pm<br/>Saturday<br/>Muswellbrook</b> | S.E. Bernard             | C Hayes  | Sr. Dorothy |       |          | Ryan            | C. Hayes    |
| <b>8.00 am<br/>Sunday<br/>Aberdeen</b>      | T O'Driscoll<br>J Dallah | J Dallah | C Bowen     |       |          | Wes             |             |
| <b>10.00am<br/>Sunday<br/>Muswellbrook</b>  | G Griffin<br>M Shanahan  | M Kelly  | C Kelly     |       |          | Stella<br>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, Rodelio Borress, and Sr Gaye Lennon.

**Anniversary:** Noleen Swift, Shirley Newell and Gavin Casey.

**Recently Deceased:**

**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."**



**Saturday 15 August 2026 is  
a**

**HOLY DAY of OBLIGATION**

when you are bound to go to Mass as per a Sunday. We will celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary as per the Ordo.



**Why Ticking "Catholic" on the Census Matters for our Diocese**

On 11 August, Australians will complete the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing, a snapshot the Australian Bureau of Statistics uses to track how the nation is changing, socially, culturally, and economically. For the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, the results will help shape how we plan and support Catholic life across the region for years to come.

Among the questions asked is one about religion. The question asks nothing about whether someone believes in God, attends Mass, or is formally engaged with a faith community. That's not its purpose. For many Catholics across our Diocese, faith remains part of their identity even if they're not regularly at Mass, and we are encouraging Catholics to tick the box that reflects that, a simple act that helps ensure our parishes, schools and social services are properly recognised and resourced.

Hi Everyone,

Just giving everyone a heads up about the **Meeting taking place in the Convent on NEXT WEDNESDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> August 6pm-8pm.**

There has been a notice in the bulletin for a few weeks now.

The advert **says The Synod on Synodality** – SYNOD (same path) SYNODAL WAY (Walking Together) - **Walking the same path together!** has been one of the most significant events in the life of the Catholic Church since Vatican II.

***This is a regional meeting for the Parishes of the Upper Hunter, so we are fortunate that it is no real burden to attend the Convent on Wednesday next week – 6 to 8pm (Supper served, please bring a plate to share). Tea/Coffee will be supplied by our parish. Please register by QR Code below.***

**Implementation phase now underway** – let's find out what that means to us, to our Faith Journey and all Catholics in the Upper Hunter and indeed the world.

Thanks, hope to see you there.



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

*Please use the QR Code to register.*





Gospel Acclamation Psalm 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I hope in the Lord,  
I trust in his word.  
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*Command me to come to you over the water.*

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

The Gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Communion Antiphon

Psalm 147:12,14

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,  
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

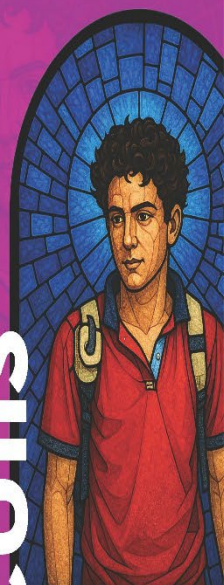
Although divine power is manifested in dramatic ways, it is also present in what is unassuming. Traces of God can be seen in the delicacy of a violet, in a cool summer breeze, in the blush of innocence, in the fiery eyes of justice. Every one of us lives in the midst of God, breathes the breath of God's life, and is constantly touched by the exquisite artistry of God's creativity. Life itself is a mountain experience of God.

As wonderful as life may be, it can also be very frightening at times. There are misunderstandings and rancour, jealousy and vindictiveness, greed and a hunger for power. Our personal lives can come unravelled and we can feel that we are genuinely 'at sea'. Every human being is tossed about by the

exigencies of life. It is at times like these that we need faith in Jesus. Even though we do not recognise him, he is there in the midst of our chaos. Having the power of God, he is the definitive champion of all chaos, and so he is able to allay our fears and calm the sea.

A true experience of God, whether it be within the ordinariness of life or one of life's tribulations, is both transformative and effusive. It is a reality that cannot be contained; it must be proclaimed. Disciples must be ready to do what they can in order that the good news of God's revelation be made known to others.

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# St Carlo Acutis

## Major Relic Mission

### SCHEDULE

#### TUESDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER

**5.30PM** RECEPTION OF RELIC  
Mass and Veneration Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West

**6.30PM** Hospitality

**7PM** World Youth Day 27 Launch or Formation Film

#### WEDNESDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER

##### UPPER HUNTER ENCOUNTER

**10AM - 2PM** Event at St Joseph's Catholic College, Aberdeen

**3 - 4PM** Exhibition at St Joseph's Catholic College, Aberdeen  
Confession, Adoration at St Thomas Church, Aberdeen

**4PM** Mass at St Thomas Church, Aberdeen followed by Talk and Veneration

#### THURSDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER

**MORNING** Hunter Correctional Centre

##### NORTHERN REGION ENCOUNTER

**5.30PM** Mass at St Clare's Catholic College, Taree with Veneration, Prayer, Exhibition

#### FRIDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER

**10AM - 2PM** Event at St Clare's Catholic College, Taree

#### SATURDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER

##### CITY BASIN ENCOUNTER

**10AM - 5PM** Exhibition at Our Lady of Victories Primary School, Shortland

*Events at Our Lady of Victories Church, Shortland:*

**10AM** Morning Tea

**10.30AM** Talk - The Life of Carlo Acutis

**11AM - 1PM** Veneration

**3PM** Divine Mercy/Rosary

**3.30PM** Adoration and Confession

**5.30PM** Mass

**6.30 - 7.30PM** Talk and Veneration

#### SUNDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER

**9AM - 5PM** Exhibition at Our Lady of Victories Primary School, Shortland

*Events at Our Lady of Victories Church, Shortland:*

**9.30AM** Talk - Five Steps to Holiness

**10.30AM** Mass with Veneration

**12PM** Community Lunch and Fellowship

**3PM** Divine Mercy/Rosary

**3.30PM** Adoration and Confession

**5PM** Mass

**6 - 7PM** Talk and Veneration