



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

Administrator: Fr Sabu Pulimalayil RCJ

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St James Primary School

Principal: Mr Aaron Moon

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St Joseph's Catholic College

Principal: Veronica Rolfe

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Email: admin@aberdeen.catholic.edu.au

Parish Secretary: Natasha Daniels

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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

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR A

20th September 2026

Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

First Reading *Isaiah 55:6-9*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on
him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18.*

R. v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. **(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. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

Second Reading *Philippians 1:20-24. 27*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life
or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but
then death would bring me something more; but then
again, if living in this body means doing work which is
having good results – I do not know what I should
choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be
gone and be with Christ, which would be very much
the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a
more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be
unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation *See Acts of the*

Apostles 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Monday 21 st September	Tuesday 22 nd September	Wednesday 23 rd September	Thursday 24 th September	Friday 25 th September	Saturday 26 th September	Sunday 27 th September
<i>St Matthew, apostle, evangelist</i>		<i>St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest</i>				<i>26th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		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 27th September 2026

4 th Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	M Carter T Threadgate	C Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00 am Sunday Aberdeen	J Dallah J Lonergan	J Lonergan	C Bowen			Wes	
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	M Medhurst	M Kelly	C Kelly		J Grenfell	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, Rodelio Borress, Sr Gaye Lennon and Margaret Hamilton.

Anniversary:

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. 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.

Account Name: Diocese of Maitland Newcastle Catholic Development Fund. Agent Number 73

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."

Keegan / Wood Family Group

**21st September 2026: Lunch 12 noon at
Hunter Belle Restaurant,
75 Aberdeen St, Ph 6541 5066.**



Please give names to
Margaret (6543 1238)
by Friday 18 September.



Claim the Date – Parish Rosary Picnic

Will be held on
11th October 2026
More information to come,
closer to the time

Vocations Ministry: Turning Dreams into Action A meeting to organise a club to promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood, the permanent diaconate, and the consecrated (religious) life in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Would you like to play a part in actively encouraging and supporting vocations? If so, I invite you to a meeting to consider establishing a Serra Club in our diocese. This local club would be a member of Serra International, a world-wide organisation, affirmed by the Holy See, which is committed to vocations ministry. This initiative has the support of our Bishop, Michael Kennedy. To learn more, please take a flyer at the church entrance.

The meeting will be on Thursday, 24 September, at 7pm, in the Function Room of St Mary of the Cross Parish Hub, 7 Milson Street, Charlestown.

To RSVP and for further information, please contact the Director of Vocations: Fr Anthony Potts
M: 0466 140 066 E: tony.potts@mn.catholic.org.au



Astronomy Night Under the Stars with St. Francis Returns - Murrurundi

This has proven to be a popular event, back by demand: BIGGER BETTER.

Family School Holiday Special:

**Friday 9 October 2026 from
6.30pm Daylight Saving**

Murrurundi Golf Club

Drinks available for purchase from the club

Murrurundi Lions Club: BBQ food for purchase.

Bring your picnic food, blanket, chair, friends, mates and family.

2 Experienced Astronomers, from last time.
Dynamic explanations.

7pm. Presentation by Nikolai Blaskow "**Science, Religion and Wonder in Conversation**".

7.30pm. Talk by Aunty Wanda Smith "**Aboriginal Dreaming and What's in the Night Sky**".

8.00pm til late. **Planet and Star Gazing for All.**
Saturn, The Rings, Our Moon, Stars & Galaxies.

Professional Telescope and Computer Image Display. Children and families can all come and have a personal look.

ALL WELCOME! ALL AGES!
Churches Together Murrurundi: St. Joseph's Catholic and St. Paul's Anglican.



VINEYARDS CATHOLIC PARISHES PRESENTS

MERCY & HOPE

Talks on suffering, the Saints, Divine Mercy and more...

WITH PAUL ELARDE & TINAH DE LUCA-TOHI

KURRI PARISH HALL,
102 BARTON STREET,
KURRI KURRI

FRI 23 OCTOBER: 6:15PM - 9PM
SAT 24 OCTOBER: 10AM - 4PM



**23
OCT**

TALK 1: Finding Meaning in Suffering – Life Crisis Spirituality

Sooner or later life presents something to us that we simply can not cope with. This talk reveals how, using our faith, we can survive the great suffering of a life crisis... for the better!

**24
OCT**

TALK 2: Two Saints of Mercy – Pope St. John Paul II & St. Faustina

Few saints have had such an enormous impact on the Church in modern times. Find out why Pope St. John Paul II saw the message of Divine Mercy as THE special task of his Pontificate, and why along with St. Faustina, they are literally transforming people's lives!

TALK 3: Why this Message of Divine Mercy is NEW!

What could be new about God's Mercy? Well, Jesus tells us we have not comprehended His mercy. Hear what Jesus has said that reveal unimaginable gifts and mysteries of His Mercy! You won't want to miss this talk!

TESTIMONY by Tinah: "Keeping the Faith Through Hard Times"

Tinah is a teacher and mother of twelve children who knows first-hand how hard it is to 'keep the faith' during difficult times. In 2012 she was told that her perfectly healthy fifteen-year-old son Emmanuel had an incurable brain disease and for the next eighteen months, had to watch his slow decline. Her son Emmanuel inspired others as he leaned on his faith and trust in God to battle his illness. She has an amazing story to tell that will touch your heart and inspire your faith.

DIVINE MERCY STALL
AVAILABLE ON
SATURDAY - CASH
ONLY

SCAN HERE TO
REGISTER



MORE INFO
PROVIDED ON
REGISTRATION FORM.
CONTACT YVONNE -
0450323206

Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

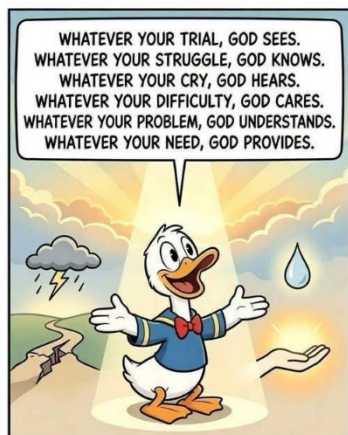
Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon Psalm 118:4-5

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.



Come and join us for

Morning Tea

After

10am St James Church
School Mass.

Please bring a plate.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

No Salvation outside the Church?

This is a story of the day labourers of Jesus' time. The 'early birds' contracted for the just wage of one denarius and did the hard work over the course of a long day. They were outraged when latecomers also received a denarius.

This little parable circulated in the Christian community of the first century because there was great antagonism between the Jews who became followers of Jesus and the non-Jews, the 'Gentiles'. Jewish Christians looked at their long history of hardship preparing for the coming of the Messiah. And, now, here were these Gentiles who had done nothing by comparison, and God appeared to be granting them whatever it took to enjoy the 'daily bread' of the Kingdom of God.

Jewish Christians had to be shocked out of *their* idea that God's grace could *not* be lavished on those outside the boundaries of the Chosen People.

We could pause to pray to be taken by happy surprise by those billions of people outside the Church who, by the grace of God, will share with us 'the Bread of Life', given for the salvation of *all* the world.