



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 James Primary School

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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

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR A

27th September 2026

Entrance Antiphon Daniel 3:31,29,30,43,42

All that you have done to us, O Lord,
you have done with true judgement,
for we have sinned against you
and not obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name
and deal with us according to the bounty of your
mercy.

First Reading First Reading

Ezekiel 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

*The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness
deserves to live.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

Second Reading

Shorter form - Philippians 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Monday 28 th September	Tuesday 29 th September	Wednesday 30 th September	Thursday 1 st October	Friday 2 nd October	Saturday 3 rd October	Sunday 4 th October
	<i>St Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels</i>	<i>St Jerome, priest, doctor</i>	<i>St Therése of the Child Jesus, virgin, doctor</i>	<i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>		27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
		9.00am No Mass St James Church	11.30 am Mass St James Church	9.00 am Mass St James Church	9.00 am 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 4th October 2026

1 st Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	N Daniels	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		K & B 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, Rodelio Borress, Sr Gaye Lennon and Margaret Hamilton.

Anniversary: Anne Lonergan

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."

World Youth Day 2027

World Youth Day is an international gathering of young people (aged 16-35) held every three years with the Pope. The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is leading a pilgrimage in July 2027 to the next one in South Korea with an extended retreat in Japan following. Serious expressions of interest have now opened and can be logged on our webpage. We expect bookings to open in November with an \$800 deposit.

Learn more -

<https://mn.catholic.org.au/church/world-youth-day-2027/>



Save the Date

Eucharist 28 in Sydney

will be from 24 September – 1 October 2028.

Claim the Date – Parish Rosary Picnic

Will be held on 11th October 2026

More information to come,
closer to the time

WONDERS OF THE NIGHT SKY

HOLIDAY FAMILY COMMUNITY SPECIAL

MURRURUNDI

Star Clusters · Planets · Milky Way · Southern Cross · Rings of Saturn

Friday, 9 October 2026

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Murrurundi Golf Course

Free entry

If rainy or cloudy, meet inside the golf club

FEATURING:

NIGHT SKY AWARENESS
FIRST NATIONS
SPEAKER
SCIENCE & FAITH
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

BRING A RUG, CUSHION, CHAIR OR WHATEVER MAKE

YOU COMFORTABLE TO GAZE AT THE STARS!

PEOPLE OF ALL AGES WELCOME TO ATTEND.

SPARK YOUR SENSE OF WONDER. EXPLORE THE NIGHT SKY.

DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF CREATION & THE SPIRIT ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI.

WHETHER YOU HAVE CHRISTIAN FAITH, ANOTHER FAITH,

OR NONE AT ALL – THIS EVENING IS FOR YOU.

DRINKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM THE GOLF CLUB BAR

BBQ DINNER AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE, CATERED BY THE MURRURUNDI LIONS CLUB.

FURTHER INFORMATION: 0409 400 824.



ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH &
ST PAUL'S CHURCH,
MURRURUNDI



Calling for Expressions of Interest – Councils and Advisory Boards



The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle warmly invites you to once again journey with us in faith, open dialogue and discernment as we continue to establish and strengthen our new Councils and Advisory Boards.

Following our initial Expressions of Interest process last year, we are now seeking to fill some vacancies on our Councils and Advisory Boards as we build on the strong foundation.

This next phase is an opportunity to broaden participation and ensure our governance reflects the diversity and rich gifts of our diocesan community.

Our renewed governance model honours both civil and Church law, and is grounded in the mission and teachings of the Church.

The Councils and Advisory Boards that have formed play an important role in shaping the future of our Diocese, contributing to decisions that support faithful, sustainable and mission-driven outcomes. Already our Pastoral Council has been discerning our call to mission.

We invite people from across the Diocese who feel called to serve to submit an expression of interest via the Diocesan website and QR code. Link: <https://mn.catholic.org.au/governance-advisory-group-eoi/> In particular, **opportunities exist for those with backgrounds in Governance, Finance Banking and Insurance.** These groups work in a synodal way marked by collaboration, respectful listening and thoughtful conversation. Join with us - this is a unique opportunity to share your gifts, deepen your engagement in the life of the Church and help shape the path ahead for our Diocese.

Gospel Acclamation John 10: 27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;

I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 118:49-50

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,
by which you have given me hope.

This is my comfort when I am brought low.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

'No, no, no, no ... Y-yes!'

Jesus tells a little story about two brothers. One said 'Yes', but never did anything. The other said 'No', but then had a change of heart and did what was required. Jesus loved the brother who came around. He was very hard on the one who said 'Yes' but did not 'walk the talk'.

That is why he loved those tax collectors who gathered the revenue for the Roman authorities, and the prostitutes who serviced the Roman occupying army, but who switched allegiance from the Empire of Caesar to the Kingdom of God. This signalled a profound change of heart.

We may have said 'No' to God at various times with various intensity in our lives. But God is wonderfully patient and prepared to hear 'No' many times in the hope of hearing 'Yes'. God's patience never runs out. But our time to say 'Yes' does run out. We only have a relatively short life span!

At the end of Mass, I will say 'Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.' As St Francis of Assisi put it, 'Preach the Gospel, and occasionally use words.' Walk the talk.

Singleton and Braxton Catholic Parishes



Fr Thomas Chirackal

FAREWELL

Mass & Lunch

Please come and celebrate with us as we farewell Fr Thomas and express our gratitude for the many ways he has shared Christ's love among us. This will be an opportunity to enjoy fellowship, share memories, and wish him every blessing for the future.

 Sunday 25 October 2026 10AM Mass	 St Patrick's Church St Catherine's College Hall
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Laughter Love and Loyalty

On Sale Now!

The book "Laughter Love and Loyalty" celebrating 100 years of Mercy Education at St Catherine's College, Singleton (1875 - 1975) is now available for purchase at the College or by calling 6578 9600 for details.