



# 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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**Principal:** Veronica Rolfe

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**Phone:** 02 6543 1167

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

**Website:**

[www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au](http://www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au)

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

**4<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

## Entrance Antiphon *Cf Esther 4:17*

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,  
and there is none that can resist your will.  
For you have made all things, the heaven and the  
earth,  
and all that is held within the circle of heaven;  
you are the Lord of all.

## First Reading *Isaiah 5:1-7*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.*

Let me sing to my friend  
the song of his love for his vineyard.  
My friend had a vineyard  
on a fertile hillside.

He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,  
and planted choice vines in it.  
In the middle he built a tower,  
he dug a press there too.  
He expected it to yield grapes,  
but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and men of Judah,  
I ask you to judge  
between my vineyard and me.  
What could I have done for my vineyard  
that I have not done?  
I expected it to yield grapes.  
Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you  
what I am going to do to my vineyard:  
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,  
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.  
I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;  
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.

I will command the clouds  
to rain no rain on it.  
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts  
is the House of Israel,  
and the men of Judah  
that chosen plant.  
He expected justice, but found bloodshed,  
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## Responsorial Psalm *Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20. R. Is 5:7*

**(R.) The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.**

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
to plant it you drove out the nations.  
It stretched out its branches to the sea,  
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **(R.)**
2. Then why have you broken down its walls?  
It is plucked by all who pass by.  
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,  
devoured by the beasts of the field. **(R.)**
3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**
4. And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name.  
God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.  
**(R.)**

## Weekly Mass Diary

| Monday<br>5 <sup>th</sup> October | Tuesday<br>6 <sup>th</sup> October          | Wednesday<br>7 <sup>th</sup> October     | Thursday<br>8 <sup>th</sup> October           | Friday<br>9 <sup>th</sup> October         | Saturday<br>10 <sup>th</sup> October                                                             | Sunday<br>11 <sup>th</sup> October                    |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
|                                   |                                             | <b><i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i></b>     |                                               |                                           |                                                                                                  | <b><i>28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></b> |
|                                   | 3.00 pm<br><b>Mass</b><br>Calvary Nursing   | 9.00am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James Church | 11.30 am<br><b>No Mass</b><br>St James Church | 1.00 pm<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James Church | 9.00 am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James Church<br><br>5.30 pm<br><b>Vigil Mass</b><br>St James Church | 10.00 am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St James Church            |
|                                   | 5.00pm<br><b>Mass</b><br>St Thomas Aberdeen |                                          |                                               |                                           |                                                                                                  | 8.00 am<br><b>Mass</b><br>St Thomas Aberdeen          |

### Minister Roster Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2026

| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Month    | Readers                  | Cantors  | Musician    | Gifts | Counters        | Altar Server   | Sacristan   |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|-------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 5.30pm<br>Saturday<br>Muswellbrook | S.E. Bernard             | C Hayes  | Sr. Dorothy |       |                 | Ryan           | C. Hayes    |
| 8.00 am<br>Sunday<br>Aberdeen      | T O'Driscoll<br>J Dallah | J Dallah | C Bowen     |       |                 | Wes            |             |
| 10.00am<br>Sunday<br>Muswellbrook  | G Griffin<br>M Shanahan  | M Kelly  | C Kelly     |       | O & N<br>Payton | 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, Sr Gaye Lennon and Margaret Hamilton.

**Anniversary: Phillip Francis McTaggart**

**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.

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](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."**

Singleton and Branxton 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

### Save the Date

Eucharist 28 in Sydney  
will be from 24 September – 1 October 2028.

### Columban Calendar, Advent Reflections, and Daily Mass Book

Anybody wanting to order books and /or calendars, please put your name and what you would like to order on the piece of paper in the entrance of the church please.

# 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.

## Second Reading Philippians 4:6-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.*

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Acclamation See John 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.  
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 21:33-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*He leased his vineyard to other farmers.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders  
that became the keystone.  
This was the Lord's doing  
and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

**The Gospel of our Lord.**

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Communion Antiphon Lam 3:25

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,  
to the soul that seeks him.

## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate Good Wine requires Hard Work

In the Hebrew scripture, Israel is spoken of as the Vineyard of God. We can say that now the Church is the vineyard of God. God is the Landlord, we are the tenants. It is our job to faithfully tend it and make sure it bears good fruit. If we are unfaithful, then God *will* find other people to carry on his plan, other tenants to tend his vineyard.

Certainly, we see that within the Universal Church. With the decline of the Eurocentric church, who has God turned to as new tenants for his vineyard? Look at the surging numbers of Catholics in sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria, the Philippines, Korea. The persecuted Church in Vietnam and China is surviving and growing despite the severity of oppression.

I think we may agree that the vineyard of the Church in Australia is not as fruitful as it could be. This is a challenge for us. It is wonderful to see the energetic work of the new immigrants and refugees in our parishes (including the Bishop of Parramatta!).

We could pause for a moment to commit to taking up the privilege and duty to work in the vineyard of the Church.

### ***Rosary and Picnic***



At St James' Convent

**11am, 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2026**

Please come and help us celebrate

the month of the Holy Rosary

a plate to share. Cuppa will be provided