



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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St Joseph's Catholic College

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

Website:

www.muswellbrookcatholicparish.org.au

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR A

18th October 2026

Mission Sunday

Entrance Antiphon *Cf Psalm 16:6,8*

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

First Reading *Isaiah 45:1.4-6*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before
his countenance.*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the setting
of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7*

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. **(R.)**
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **(R.)**
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

Second Reading *1 Thessalonians 1:1-5*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Thessalonians

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in
Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God
the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God
for you all, and constantly remember before God our
Father how you have shown your faith in action,
worked for love and persevered through hope, in our
Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you
have been chosen, because when we brought the
Good News to you, it came to you not only as words,

Monday 19 th October	Tuesday 20 th October	Wednesday 21 st October	Thursday 22 nd October	Friday 23 rd October	Saturday 24 th October	Sunday 25 th October
						30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
		9.00 am Mass St James Church	11.30 am Mass..... and A . D..oration 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
	5.00 pm Mass St Thomas, Aberdeen					8.00 am Mass St Thomas Aberdeen

Minister Roster Sunday 18th October 2026

3 rd Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	A Moon J Jacobs	C Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			Ryan	C. Hayes
8.00 am Sunday Aberdeen	C Wykes M Edwards	M Edwards	C Bowen			Wes	
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	C Lumaban	M Kelly	C Kelly		T & J Bristow	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: Barrie Blayden

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."



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/united



This week, you are invited to partner with Catholic Mission and the Church in Malawi as we support families rebuilding after devastating floods and help children access education close to home.

Through projects like St Peter's Nyamkuta Primary School, the Church is creating a place where children can learn, be nourished, and grow with dignity, regardless of their background or beliefs.

As we celebrate 100 years of World Mission Day, we are reminded by Pope Leo XIV that we are 'One in Christ, United in Mission'.

Join with us in celebration and action by supporting this work with a compassionate gift. Use the provided appeal envelope, scan the QR code, or visit catholicmission.org.au/united to make a difference today.

A Prayer for Those Sitting Their HSC

"I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13

Loving God, thank you for everyone who has prepared me for my exams, and for the opportunity to bring all that I have learned and experience to this time.

As I begin my HSC examinations, Grant me a clear mind and a calm heart. Calm my nervousness, Providing clarity in my thinking, and strengthen my confidence In the abilities and gifts you have given me.

May I be enriched by the gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, knowledge and fortitude. May your peace remain with me and guide me through every examination.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen!

Keegan Woods Family Group

19th October 2026 –
Muswellbrook Chinese
Restaurant 35 Sydney Street.
Lunch at 12 noon. Phone 6543
2636. Cost of lunch \$15.
Please give names to Margaret
6543 1235 by Friday 18th
October.

2025/2026 Financial Report.

Please find a summary of the Parish's income and expenditure over this period posted at the back of the church. Any queries may be directed to Fr Sabu for clarification. Thank you, Parish Finance Committee.

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 Continued

but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Philippians 2:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon Mark 10:45

The Son of Man has come
to give his life as a ransom for many.



Homilette Mt 22 15 21 Reflection Give to God Give to Caesar 081026

Encountering Christ:

1. What “Belongs to God?”: The Pharisees, we’re told, were trying to trap Jesus with this question about paying taxes. In general, their opposition to Our Lord was mounting. Jesus did not humiliate them with his answer. He simply invited them to give to God what belongs to

God. The last line of this anecdote, which was not included in today’s reading, tells us, “When they heard this they were amazed, and leaving him they went away” (Matthew 22:22). Were they amazed because they wondered what belongs to God? We can ask the same question today, “What belongs to God?” Specific things belong to God for what they are: Sundays, for example; or an object consecrated for sacred use only; or things that are owed to God by pure justice, like gratitude, praise, obedience, etc. There are also things that belong to God because we freely choose to give them to him, like our time, our energies, and our sacrifices.

2. Things I Want to Give to God: Let’s stop here for a moment, and consider and specify what kinds of things we have chosen to give to God. To make a free gift not rooted in justice or duty is an act of generosity and love. If you have given some of your belongings to God, call them to mind now. Talk to Jesus about it. Maybe you have given your talent to Jesus. Once more, reaffirm that gift. Or have you contributed your time? Conversely, are there things you have given over to God that you keep retracting? Look at these also, ponder them, and talk to Jesus about it. Ask for the grace to once again place them in Jesus’s loving, open hands.

3. More Than Generosity: Loving God by giving to him our thoughts, words, actions, time, talents, and sufferings is an act more beautiful than we realise. It might feel like mere renunciation. But when we bring those treasures into the light of God, he lets them shine and sparkle. Handing them to God makes them even more precious. Hence, giving God what belongs to him warrants a celebration, because we don’t lose out; rather, we receive it back in greater splendor, even one-hundred fold. As Jesus told St. Catherine of Siena, “...here they receive the fire of divine charity figured by the number of a hundred... And because they have received this hundredfold from Me, they possess a wonderful and hearty joy, for there is no sadness in charity, but the joy of it makes the heart large and generous, not narrow or double”

Annual retreat pf the priests finished successfully. Thanks for your prayers.

