



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

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR A

25th October 2026

Entrance Antiphon *Cf Psalm 104:3-4*

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

First Reading *Exodus 22:20-26*

A reading from the book of Exodus

*If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger
will rage against you.*

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this,
"You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for
you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must
not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you
are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me,
and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare
and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will
be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor
man among you, you must not play the usurer with
him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must
give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering
he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else
would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I
am full of pity."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2*

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:

when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. **(R.)**

Second Reading *1 Thessalonians 1:5-10*

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

*You turned away from idols to serve God and await his
Son.*

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were
with you, which was for your instruction, and you were
led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it
was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the
gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you.
This has made you the great example to all believers
in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that
the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only
throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of
your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not
need to tell other people about it: other people tell us
how we started the work among you, how you broke
with idolatry when you were converted to God and
became servants of the real, living God; and how you
are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised
from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from
the retribution which is coming.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation *John 14:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to
them.

Alleluia!

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 26 th October	Tuesday 27 th October	Wednesday 28 th October	Thursday 29 th October	Friday 30 th October	Saturday 31 st October	Sunday 1 st November
		<i>Sts Simon and Jude, apostles</i>				<i>All Saints</i>
		9.00 am Mass St James Church	11.30 am Mass and Adoration 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 1st November 2026

1 st Sunday of Month	Readers	Cantors	Musician	Gifts	Counters	Altar Server	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook		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	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: 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.”

ALL SAINTS PARISH BLACKBUTT SOUTH
Please join us

JUBILEE NOVENA
A time of prayer, renewal and hope

Each evening will be hosted at one of our three Mass Centres from 29 - 31 October

Day 1 – Thursday, 29 October at St Columba's Church, Adamstown  St Columba's Church 153A Lockyer Street Adamstown NSW 2289	Day 2 – Friday, 30 October at St Kevin's Church, Cardiff  St Kevin's Church 228 Main Road Cardiff NSW 2285	Day 3 – Saturday, 31 October at St Philip's Church, Kotara  St Philip's Church 31 Vista Parade Kotara NSW 2289
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The programme for each evening will be:

 5.00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Personal Adoration	 5.45 pm Benediction	 6.00 pm Holy Rosary	 6.30 pm Evening Mass
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All are welcome!

Sunday, 1 November 2026, at 10:00AM
JUBILEE MASS
at St Philip's Church, Kotara by Bishop Michael Kennedy

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace." Romans 15:13
For catering purposes, please register here!

Praying for you



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!

Mass for the Holy Souls Envelopes for November
Masses are available in the Foyer of the Church

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.

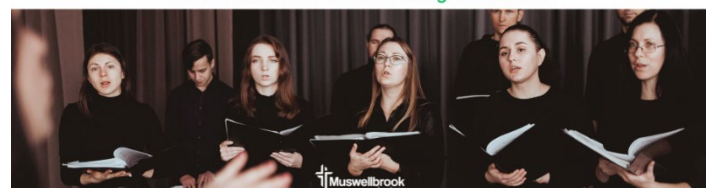
Hymnfest 2026

2.00pm, Sunday 8 November
St Alban's Anglican Church, Muswellbrook

Contemporary and Traditional Hymns
& Musical Items

Afternoon Tea

Entry by donation to support SRE in
Muswellbrook & Scone High Schools



Parish Office

Just a reminder
that the Parish
Office has
relocated down to
the Convent. The
office hours are
the same,
Mondays,
Wednesday and
Friday from 9.00
am to 3.00 pm.
Parish Office
Phone Number is
02 6543 3532.

Mission & Evangelisation
in partnership with MacKillop Parish

**Invite you to a
Parish Mission**

2 - 12 November 2024

With special participation from the Little Nuns & Friars of Jesus and Mary
Direct from the USA to the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle



Mission & Evangelisation

Scan for more information



Gospel

Matthew 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Cf Psalm 19:6

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.



REFLECTION by Nick Brodie Leo's Lens

'Are we content with material goods, immediate satisfactions, the countless little idols that promise us everything but leave our hearts empty?', Pope Leo asks.

Obviously not. 'We all long for happiness, love and fulfilment', he notes. Indeed, he affirms that 'only God can fill the emptiness within us.'

Reflecting on how 'Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, leads us, as a shepherd leads his sheep', the Pope reminds us that Jesus shows us how to love: 'He carries the weary and wounded sheep on his shoulders, and gently brings back those who have gone astray.'

Jesus' love is gentle and persistent, directed to each person in a unique manner. 'Jesus reveals God's unconditional love for us', the Pope reminds us. 'In his eyes, none of us is merely a number or an entry in a register, but a unique and irreplaceable person.'

Experiencing such divine love, we are called to share it with others. 'Do not keep this faith in Jesus Christ to

yourself', the Pope says. 'Let it overflow, so that those you meet may be refreshed and their thirst satisfied. You are called to bring hope wherever discouragement and spiritual dryness prevail.'

Each of us is called to live 'the holiness of those who worship the true God and generously serve their brothers and sisters in charity.'

[Quotes from Homily, 26 September 2026, Place de la Concorde (Paris):

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2026/documents/20260926-francia-messa-parigi.html>]

Francis Focus

Loving God and each other, Jesus makes so very clear, are interconnected. Our existence and purpose both flow from the fact that God didn't just create me – he created us. We are social beings, connected creatures. And our great calling is to respond to God's love and to share it. We are meant to be signs of God's love for the world.

In his encyclical on human fraternity, *Fratelli tutti*, Pope Francis posed an interesting rhetorical question. 'I sometimes wonder why,' he asked, 'it took so long for the Church unequivocally to condemn slavery and various forms of violence.' 'Today,' he added, 'we have no excuses.' The Church of today cannot maintain its past complacency. We must love *everyone*.

The Pope's musing came at the end of a discussion about our duty to care for our neighbours. But while he wrote a lot, adding greatly to the Church's teaching about care for our world and each other, Pope Francis stayed firmly focused on the essentials. Which is why this Gospel is really at the very heart of his teaching and preaching. In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* the Pope asked, 'if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?'

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Time To Place Orders

I am about to place orders for:

- Columban Calendars
- Ordo
- Daily Mass Book
- Presence – Advent Reflection Book

If anyone would like a book and/or a calendar, please fill in the order in the church.

St Vincent de Paul team are heading to Muswellbrook on 29th October for a community connect day at the Muswellbrook Library targeting people who may be interested in joining the conference that they are trying to reestablish up here. If you have any questions, now is the time to ask.