

ST JAMES' PARISH

St James Muswellbrook
St Thomas Aberdeen



raditional owners who cared for this land for thousands of years and their maintained these spiritual connections and traditions

PARISH CONTACTS

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First Sunday of Advent – YEAR B, Weekdays Year 1, Psalter Week 1 **29th November2026**

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard, no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord., **Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. 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.)
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 30th November	Tuesday 1st December	Wednesday 2nd December	Thursday 3rd December	Friday 4th December	Saturday 5th December	Sunday 6th December
St Andrew, apostle			***St Fancis Xavier, priest***			***Second Sunday Of Advent***
		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 6th December 2026

1st 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	K Roach D Rensburg	D Rensburg					
10.00am Sunday Muswellbrook	J Grenfell		B Zawisz		K and 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:

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."

gospel focus

The Doorkeeper

The image of the doorkeeper from this week's gospel is an interesting one. It is not unusual to hear references to people being 'gatekeepers' today in relation to projects or groups working together. The role of the gatekeeper, or the doorkeeper, is to maintain a watching brief – to be alert to dangers or distractions and to ensure that everyone who is important to the process is invited to participate. Today's gospel reminds us that as believers we are to be the doorkeepers, or gatekeepers, of the Kingdom, watching for dangers and welcoming in all those who wish to enter.

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.

Calendars and Reflection Books

With the Advent starting today, it is a good time to grab one of the daily reflection books. They are for the season of Advent and are put together by the Diocese of Wollongong. Only $6 each (4 left).

I have some Columban Calendars available as well, they make great Christmas gifts, either for yourself or for others. Cost $10.

2027 Daily Mass Books - $35 (just 2 left)

Please contact Natasha in the Parish Office (phone, email or come in and see me)

Stella Maris Mission to Seafarers Christmas Donations

Thousands of seafarers keep our communities supplied year-round, often spending Christmas away from their families. Help share a gift of kindness and hope by donating practical items such as toiletries, clothing, games, or festive treats, or make a monetary donation via the QR code. Any donations can be brought into the Churches or Parish Office, and delivery will be taken to Stella Maris Mission to Seafarers. Tuesday 8 December. **Learn more:** Christmas Drive – Mission to Seafarers Newcastle

Welcome Back



Welcome back Fr Sabu.

Thank you



A big thank you to Fr Dennis Rochford who was here to celebrate Mass with us while Fr Sabu was away.

Diocesan Events Page on the Website

There are many wonderful, inspiring
And engaging things happening across
our Parishes and in the Diocese.
Keep up to date and share these in your
communities using the link and
QR Code below in your bulletins.
https://mn.catholic.org.au/cdmn-news/events/



Parish Christmas Party

Wednesday 16th December 2026

Aberdeen Sport & Rec Club

Our Christmas Party is just over 2 weeks away.

Can those people attending please help by put their names on the form at the back of the churches so we can an idea of numbers for catering!

Gospel Acclamation Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon Psalm 84:13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

First Sunday of Advent

Advent is here, and the wait for the birth of the Christ has begun

As we light the first candle, we are reminded of God's promise of a Saviour.

All: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

God's promise of hope is for all people; together, we anticipate the day of his coming.

All: Holy God, you have promised to bring salvation and justice to your creation. As we wait for the arrival of the Saviour, may we live as those who have already been saved by your grace – and may we share that grace with others. Amen.



Have you thought?

Beginning Advent

The season of Advent begins this week and continues through the four Sundays of Advent and ends at Christmas Eve. The first week of Advent focuses on the return of the Lord and the following weeks focus more specifically on the anticipation of the birth of Jesus. Rather than simply commemorating an historical event, Advent is a time of preparing our hearts to 'receive' Jesus into the world each year. Advent is traditionally marked by the colour of violet – the same colour as used in Lent. In recent years, some parishes have moved to a more blue/mauve colour for Advent to try to distinguish it from the season of Lent.

Living the gospel

Stay Awake!

By the time the Church begins to celebrate Advent as a period of preparation towards Christmas, the stores have been filling with Christmas paraphernalia for weeks. It starts out small with a few decorations and wrapping paper and eventually takes over every retail outlet. In the midst of this excess of Christmas consumerism, it is often difficult to draw attention to the season of Advent and the need to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christmas. It is important to stay awake, as we are cautioned in this week's gospel. Awake to what is happening around us in the world and awake to what is happening within us.