



# ST. JAMES' PARISH

Diocese of Maitland - Newcastle

St. James Muswellbrook

St. Thomas Aberdeen



We acknowledge the traditional owners who cared for this land for thousands of years and their descendants who have maintained these spiritual connections and traditions

## PARISH CONTACTS

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PO Box 35, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Phone: 6543 1167

Office Hours: Tue, Wed & Fri 9.30am – 1.30pm

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR A

2nd August 2020

### First Reading

Is 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Hasten and eat.*

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;

though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat,

and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,

your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat

and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;

listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant

out of the favours promised to David.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16

(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us:

he answers all our needs.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,

slow to anger, abounding in love.

How good is the Lord to all,

compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)

2. The eyes of all creatures look to you

and you give them their food in due time.

You open wide your hand,

grant the desires of all who live. (R.)

3. The Lord is just in all his ways

and loving in all his deeds.

He is close to all who call him,

call on him from their hearts. (R.)

### Second Reading

Rom 8:35. 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.*

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone,

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

Mt 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*They all ate and were satisfied.*

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those

who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

## **A message from Fr. Victor**

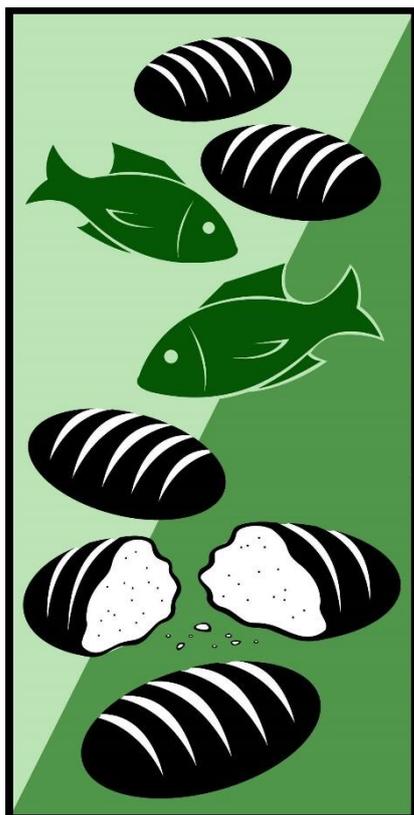
*“Jesus said to them, ‘There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves’.” (Matthew 14:16)*

This is what Jesus said to his disciples right before he fed the five thousand men besides women and children.

The story of the Miraculous Feeding of the Five Thousand, like most stories in the Gospels, speaks to us today because many of us can identify very readily with the disciples. Like them we find that our care and compassion is very often limited to prayer and good wishes. Like the disciples we wish people well but have no intention of taking positive action to help the situation. And, again like the disciple, what prevents us from taking positive action is often the realistic assessment that the little we are able to do is not really going to make any appreciable difference.

But in the gospel we see that when we translate our care and compassion into positive action, the little we are able to do is multiplied by God’s grace in such a way that it becomes more than sufficient for the need. All that Jesus needs from us to feed the hungry crowds of the world is our “five loaves and two fish. He then taught them, and us, a basic lesson: “Whatever you have is enough. Just let me have it, and I will do the rest.” At Cana, all they had was water, and it was all he needed; He would do the rest.” We are called to use our gifts, talents, and time to love and care for others.

Have a safe and blessed week!



**Special Religious Education (SRE)** is an important ministry within our Diocese which supports parents, students, clergy and parishes in the religious education of approximately 2500 students attending government schools.

The SRE ministry exists to promote the Kingdom of God on earth through parishes, into schools and homes, by proclaiming Christ’s Gospel of justice, peace, love and forgiveness.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has had an impact on this ministry. On March 23 the NSW Department of Education provided advice that all SRE was to pause. As we emerge out of restrictions SRE is now allowed back in schools from the beginning of Term 3. The current concern is many of those involved in the SRE ministry fit into the vulnerable category according to the [NSW Health guidelines](#) and the [AHPPC guidelines](#).

We need your help!

Do you have a calling to spread the good news and joy of the Gospels to children in 2020?

Are you able to be there to support the children in the SRE classroom and the Catechists who are unable to return?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IONdRTBJwxo&feature=youtu.be> - **Be There for Me Campaign**

Can you assist with Special Religious Education in the short and/or long term?

For more information on how to become a trained Special Religious Educator visit

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/childrens-ministries/sre-scripture/>

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## **Marriage and Relationship Education**

Do you know someone who is getting married or someone in a relationship who would like to know more about how to create strong, stable relationships?

CatholicCare Social Services Hunter Manning offers pre and post marriage and relationship education workshops and individual sessions that explore the research around intentional connected relationships. They have the aim of supporting couples to build and maintain ‘relationship satisfied’ partnerships.

Online workshops will be run soon. Go to

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

# WEEKLY NOTICES

## DIVINE MERCY GROUP

Will be meeting on **Sunday 9th August**

**Time:** 2pm

**Venue:** Home of Monica and Geoff Brown  
42 Perth Street, Aberdeen

*Please bring a plate*

## PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Thank you to all the Parishioners who have collected their Planned Giving envelopes so far.

Envelopes can still be collected from the Parish Office when convenient. Thank you.

## CASH COUNTERS THIS WEEKEND

**2 August 2020**

Mary-Ellen and David Leedham



## EASTER BLESSING OF PARISH HOMES

It has been a tradition in many parts of the world to take the Holy Water blessed at the Easter Vigil, to bless the homes by a priest. If anyone would like their home to be blessed, please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Victor to arrange a suitable time. The blessing ceremony generally takes 10 minutes.



## COVIDSafe App

The COVIDSafe app helps find close contacts of COVID-19 cases. The app helps state and territory health officials to quickly contact people who may have been exposed to COVID-19.

The COVIDSafe app is completely voluntary. Downloading the app is something you can do to protect you, your family and friends and save the lives of other Australians. The more Australians connect to the COVIDSafe app, the quicker we can find the virus.



## USEFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

- [Liturgy page](#) – regularly updated
- [Spirituality & Faith page](#) – regularly updated
- [Adult Faith Formation page](#) – regularly updated
- [Prayer and Formation page](#) – regularly updated
- [MNnews.today](#) – Diocesan News Service
- [Subscribe to Diocesan Update eNewsletter](#)
- [Aurora Magazine articles online](#)
- [Full Diocesan Calendar and Community Noticeboard](#)

### Diocesan Social Media Links:

- [MNnews.today on Facebook](#)
- [MNnews.today on Instagram](#)
- [CatholicCare on Facebook](#)
- [CatholicCare on Instagram](#)

## FROM FR. DOOHAN'S LETTER 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020

We are encouraged to remain vigilant in the way we do things at the moment, to be aware of the ongoing situation beyond our own locations, and, above all, to ensure we take care of our own health so that we are in a position to continue ministering to the people entrusted to our care.

Please continue to keep in mind the following guidelines:

- Those who fall into a particularly vulnerable group – the elderly, those with pre-existing conditions, those with compromised immune systems, etc. – are encouraged to refrain from attending Mass or other parish events,
- Those who are sick should also refrain from attending Mass or parish events,
- The public health advice provided by NSW Health – physical distancing, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, etc. – should be followed stringently, particularly when in public,
- The use of the COVIDSafe app is highly recommended and should be promoted as part of our contribution to promotion of a concern for the health of the broader community.



## BULLETIN

Please contact the Parish Office on 6543 1167 (before Wednesday, 4.30pm) 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 online:

[www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/parishes/muswellbrook](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/parishes/muswellbrook)

Or alternatively please email:

[muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au) if you would like the bulletin emailed to you each week.

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Adele will be in the office this week from

**9.30 – 1.30pm Tues, Wed & Fri**

## Weekly Mass & Liturgy Diary

Monday 3 August	Tuesday 4 August	Wednesday 5 August	Thursday 6 August	Friday 7 August	Saturday 8 August	Sunday 9 August
<i>Feast of St. Dominic</i>	<i>Feast of St. John Vianney</i>		<i>The Transfiguration of the Lord</i>		<i>St. Mary of the Cross</i>	<b>19th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
		<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St. James Muswellbrook	<u>11.30am</u> <b>Adoration and Benediction</b> <u>12.05pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St. James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St. James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St. James Muswellbrook <u>5.30pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St. James Muswellbrook	<u>10.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St James Muswellbrook
	<u>5.00pm</u> <b>Mass</b> St. Thomas Aberdeen					<u>8.00am</u> <b>Mass</b> St. Thomas Aberdeen

### RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is available 1/2 hr before weekend Masses and at any time upon request. Please call ahead to let Fr. Victor know when and where you would like to meet with him.

### 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:** Iris Spittles, Kevin Shadforth, Maria Wilson, Joan Flanagan, Noleen Swift, Marie Clifford, Pauline Coleman, Debbie Peak, David Curran, Pat Hogan, Abbie Sweeper, Carlo Cerneaz, Norma Rowan, and Margaret Dolahenty.

**Anniversary:**

**Recently Deceased:** Margaret McKinnel and Ben Moore

**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.

### Ministers Roster Sunday 9th August 2020

2nd Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
<b>5.30pm</b> <b>Saturday</b> <b>Muswellbrook</b>	J. O'Brien J. Paul	F. O'Brien	Sr.Dorothy			R. Panis	C. Hayes
<b>8am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Aberdeen</b>	J. Dallah	T. Hobbs	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
<b>10am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Muswellbrook</b>	G. Griffin O. Paynter	M. Kelly	C. Kelly				K. Goodwin
<b>Counters</b>	Jane and Stephen Thatcher			<i>The collections can be counted any time after 10am Mass on Sunday till the Wednesday of that week.</i>			

"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."