



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 – 2.30pm

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR A

25th October 2020

First Reading

Ex 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."

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 Thes 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.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel

Mt 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.'



A Message from Fr. Victor

This Sunday's Gospel Reading is probably the best known and most memorized scripture passage in the New Testament. Love is at the center of Christian life. To love God with our whole being means to make God the center of our life. Once God is at the center of our life, the second commandment is easier to follow, to love our neighbor. It sounds as simple as that, but it is very challenging. It isn't that easy as one may realize. We do not always love as we ought to and our failure to love is an indication that we ought to pray even more to discover and to fall in love with God.

Once Malcolm Muggeridge, a British journalist visited Kolkata, India to see the works of the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity, founded by Mother Teresa. He went to their old-age house at Kali-ghat Temple and watched Mother Teresa cleaned the maggot-infested wound of a man with gangrene in his leg. The journalist was appalled by the very sight of the wound, but at the same time he was full of admiration for the Mother who seemed to show no disgust as she was cleaning the suppurating wound. "I wouldn't do that for £1,000," said the journalist. "Neither would I," said Mother Teresa, "I do it for love."

We should always remember that it is God who first loves us and that makes us able to love ourselves and therefore to be grateful for the gift of ourselves. This awareness of life as gift is what we mean by loving God. We cannot love ourselves without being grateful to God, and it is this gratitude to God that sets us free really to love other people. Too often the value that we place upon others is tied up with what they can do for us - 'What is their value to me?' Truly loving one's neighbor entails valuing them as gifts of God. Not only we are gifts of God, and our neighbour's gifts of God, but the love with which we love ourselves and others is the expression of our love for God. And this is the Good News of today.

Stay Safe and Stay Blessed!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Diocese of Maitland- Newcastle presents a range of free presentations and courses this November. **NEW EVENT!**

- Nicholas King SJ presents: Bringing The Gospel to Life- Wed., 4 November 6.30pm-8pm
- Communion of Saints: presented by the Formation and Education team over 4 weeks. Commencing Thursday November 5 to 19. 6.30pm-8pm
- Relationships Matter: presented by the Formation and Education team. Wed., 11 November 7-8.30pm
- Michael Smith SJ presents: Why Pilgrimage? Tues., 17 November 7-8pm
- Nicholas King SJ presents: Mark- The Strangest Gospel Wed., 18 November 6.30pm-8pm
- Q & A with Father Anthony Coloma. Wed., 25 November 6.30pm-8pm

To register either scan the QR code or go to Adult Faith Formation page on the Diocesan website.

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/>



Bringing the Gospel to Life

Presented by Nicholas King SJ, direct from the UK

Free Online Event

Wednesday November 4



This November we are blessed to have Father Nicholas King SJ, the Assistant Catholic Chaplain at Oxford University visit us virtually with his presentation Bringing the Gospel to Life.

Many people nowadays think that the Bible is "old-fashioned" and rather dead. In this session we shall be looking at ways in which it is possible to find the Gospel as a source of life, looking at some passages from Paul, Matthew, Luke and John.

It will be great to be back in NSW, at least "virtually" after nine years. I have an ancient relationship with Australia, of which one part is grudging admiration for the unyielding performance of your cricketers; and it has always been my ambition to be in the country during an Ashes series. So far, I have not managed that, but I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Maitland-Newcastle and Broken Bay. I enjoyed working with you to discover how to make the gospels come alive; and discuss "Jesus' useless disciples" in the gospel of Mark. It was a most enjoyable expedition, and I formed a great admiration for the Catholic and Anglican lay-people whose intelligent enthusiasm for the scriptures brought the lectures alive. So, I look forward to being with you again, at least across the ether.

Time
6.30PM – 8:00 PM

Where
Online



To register scan QR code or use the link

[Bringing the Gospel to Life](#)

For more information email formed@mn.catholic.org.au



www.mn.catholic.org.au



WEEKLY NOTICES

CASH COUNTERS THIS WEEKEND

25th October 2020

David McTaggart and Mike Kennelly



A FRIENDLY REMINDER - MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Fr. Victor requests **all the Ministers of the Word (Readers) to be at the Church 10 minutes before Mass starts.**

This time is necessary, so the Sacristans are not busy trying to find replacements at the last moment. If you are no longer able to meet your rostered Mass commitments and would like to be removed from the roster, please contact Adele in the Parish Office:

muswellbrook@mn.catholic.org.au or phone 6543 1167.

Thank you.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD NEEDED

Many thanks to those who have offered to fill the available positions so far.

There are still some reading spots available on the Mass roster if anyone can fill these positions. Please contact Adele or speak to Fr. Victor if you can help.

Thank you.



BLESSING OF HOMES

Please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Victor if you wish to be placed on the list to have your home blessed with the Easter Holy Water.

COLUMBAN CALENDAR, ADORE ADVENT DAILY REFLECTIONS, AND DAILY MASS BOOK 2021

If you would like to purchase any of these resources, please place your name and order on the form located in the Church foyers by Sunday 1st November. The parish order will be submitted in the first week of November. Thank you.

'WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO BE DOING WITH MY LIFE?'

This is a question that most people must contend with from time to time.

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle offers a variety of ministry services to the local community and many rewarding career opportunities for those who feel called to work in this field. The Pastoral Placement Program offers a yearlong encounter in these ministerial occupations. Pastoral Ministries are calling for applications for the 2021 intake of participants for this unique program.

For more information please go to the Pastoral Placement Website @ <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/pastoral-placement-program/>

Email: formed@mn.catholic.org.au

Phone: 4979 1193 To apply:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/about/careers/> applications close Friday 15 November 2020.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Tues, Wed & Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

aMeN caMiNo

You are invited to be a pilgrim on the aMeN caMiNo! Using intervals of the Great North Walk, this five-day pilgrimage is a journey through the Watagans, around the lake and the beautiful Hunter beaches. A bush, mountain, beach, city and pub experience.

This is a 'M' (Maitland) 'N' (Newcastle) Camino for 'e' everyone.! Yes! aMeN!

On the aMeN caMiNo you will encounter relationship, story, the grace of God in the beautiful landscape of our own backyard. The aMeN caMiNo will stretch your body, mind and spirit and provides an opportunity of transformation.

If you are interested in joining the aMeN caMiNo in 2021, please fill an expression of interest form by November 30.

https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/media/4437/31816-dio_amen-camino_flyer-proof01.pdf



Thank you for supporting this year's Catholic Mission Church Appeal through your kind gifts and prayers.

Your generosity makes it possible for people, through programs such as the Arrupe Centre, to continue reaching out and empowering people like Chen and his family.

Thank you also to so many parishioners who have become monthly giving partners through our Cambodia Mission Partners program.

For more information about the work of Catholic Mission in Cambodia and around the world, please contact our friendly team at the free call number below, or at catholicmission.org.au/contact



Free call: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/Cambodia

Please return your appeal donations to Mass this weekend. Thank you.

PLEASE WEAR A MASK TO MASS

Wearing a mask is highly recommended when attending places of worship. As such, we request you to kindly wear a mask when you attend Mass. Thank you!



BULLETIN

Please contact the Parish Office on 6543 1167 by 4.30pm Wednesday if you have any notices for the bulletin, or alternatively email:

muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au

The Parish bulletin can be accessed online:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/parishes/muswellbrook

Or alternatively please email:

muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au if you would like the bulletin emailed to you each week.

Weekly Mass & Liturgy Diary

Monday 26 October	Tuesday 27 October	Wednesday 28 October	Thursday 29 October	Friday 30 October	Saturday 31 October	Sunday 1 November
		<i>Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles</i>				ALL SAINTS
<u>NO MASSES</u>					<u>5.30pm</u> Mass St. James Muswellbrook	<u>10.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook
As Fr. Victor is having eye surgery on Monday 26th October, there will be no Masses on the weekdays, including Saturday morning.						<u>8.00am</u> Mass 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, Maria Wilson, Joan Flanagan, Marie Clifford, Pauline Coleman, Debbie Peak, David Curran, Pat Hogan, Abbie Sweeper, Carlo Cerneaz, Norma Rowan and Carolynn Whittle.

Anniversary:

Recently Deceased: Phillip Collins and Catherine Noble

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 1st November 2020

1st Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	E. Molloy M. Shanahan	C. Hayes	Sr. Dorothy			R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	J. Driscoll	J. Lonergan	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
10am Sunday Muswellbrook	M. Kempis N. Fernandes	M. Kelly	C. Kelly				J. O'Brien
Counters	Mary Ellen and David Leedham			<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."