



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, Thu & Fri 9.30am – 2.30pm

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR B

18th April 2021

First Reading

Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

You have killed the prince of life; God, however, raised him from the dead.

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7

(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice; from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me! (R.)
2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves; the Lord hears me whenever I call him. (R.)
3. 'What can bring us happiness?' many say. Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. (R.)
4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Jn 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St John

Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and those of the whole world.

I am writing this, my children,
to stop you sinning;
but if anyone should sin,
we have our advocate with the Father,

Jesus Christ, who is just;

he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,
and not only ours,
but the whole world's.

We can be sure that we know God
only by keeping his commandments.

Anyone who says, 'I know him',
and does not keep his commandments,
is a liar,
refusing to admit the truth.

But when anyone does obey what he has said,
God's love comes to perfection in him.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 24:35-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

It was written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see, I have.' And as he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes. Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has

to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'



REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS By Fr Victor

Peace be with you!

On the third Sunday of Easter, the church invites us to celebrate the living Christ, who is our advocate. Through his death and resurrection, he advocates for us. Ignorance and doubt keep us in fear and darkness, while Christ illumines and strengthens our faith. The major problem of the Jewish leaders who crucified Christ was ignorance. They thought they knew God and were advancing his course. On the contrary, they were actually working against it. Peter observed the ignorance of the Jewish leaders. Hence, he addressed them: *"It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just... Now brothers, I know that neither you nor your leaders had an idea of what you were doing."* (1st Reading)

They were waiting for the fulfilment of God's promises. However, when He came, they ignorantly rejected him. Hence, John writes: (1Jn 2:4) *"Anyone who says I know him and does not keep his commandments is a liar refusing to admit the truth."* Ignorance of God's command and will, leaves one with a false impression that he knows the truth. It makes one think that he is fighting for God, when actually the contrary is the case.

We should be different because, *"the time of ignorance is over"* (Acts 17, 30-31). It is over through the risen Christ, our advocate. Therefore, we must constantly seek divine counsel and illumination from Christ our advocate. Most importantly, we must constantly repent and receive forgiveness. John assures us that (1Jn 2:1): *"We have an advocate before the Father who is Just, he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away..."*

In the gospel, Christ continues to strengthen the faith of his disciples by illuminating their minds with the scriptures. Even though they heard him preach, and saw his miracles, they were ignorant of what the scriptures said about Him. St Jerome reminds us that: *"Ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ."* Ignorance of God's word and commandments is a major stumbling block to faith. Jesus knew this, so, *"He opened their minds to scriptures... you see how it was written..."* Hence, Paul constantly prayed: *"May the Lord open the eyes of your minds"* (Eph 1:18). Indeed, our minds need the illumination from the light and glory of the risen Christ.

The gospel of third Sunday of the Easter also reveals something very important. Often, we think that only Thomas doubted the resurrection of Christ. Of course, according to the gospel of John 20: 19-21, (which we read last Sunday), it seemed so. However, without contradicting John, Luke simply takes us further, by revealing that Thomas was not alone in this boat. Jesus asked his disciples: *"Why are you agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts?"*

Of course, Jesus knew that most of his disciples doubted, even though they did not manifest it out publicly. So, he did everything humanly possible to convince them. He visited them, ate and drank with them. He even allowed them to touch his wounds. How many of us attend Sunday Masses and yet, do not believe in the Eucharist?

There are many Christians, who do not believe in the resurrection of the dead. There are many Christians who do not believe in the sacrament of confession. There are many Christians who do not believe that Jesus is true God and true man. There are many Christians who do not believe that Christ was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. These are different shades of doubt. We manifest them differently. May the risen Christ illuminate our minds that we may believe in him. Alleluia.

Stay Safe and have a Blessed Week!

SAFEGUARDING THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY

The Office of Safeguarding has a powerful mandate and provides significant resources to support Catholic Communities in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle in safeguarding all children and vulnerable adults involved in the life and ministry of our diocese and our Parish. You can access a range of information and safeguarding material on the **Office of Safeguarding website** <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/>

Convention on the Rights of the Child

UNICEF 30th Anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child

<https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention>

Office of Safeguarding Feedback/Complaint Form

<https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/about-the-office-of-safeguarding/feedback/>

Muswellbrook Parish Promoter of Safeguarding

Martin Shanahan – Safeguarding Officer

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WEEKLY NOTICES

KEEPING OUR CHURCHES COVID SAFE

- Please ensure that you have registered your name on the sign in sheet OR scanned the QR code to check-in.
- Please wear a mask when you attend Mass.
- A copy of our COVID safety plan is displayed on the noticeboard in each Church for you to read if you wish to do so.
- Please **do not attend Mass** if you are experiencing any COVID or flu-like symptoms.



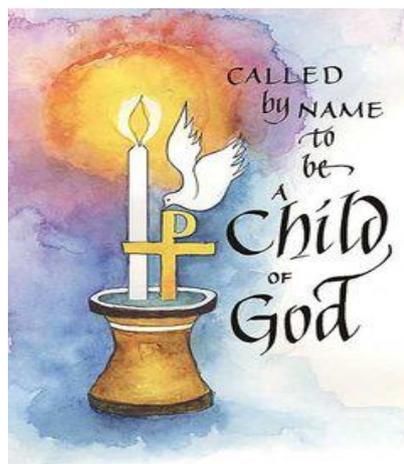
Thank you!

VINNIES NSW FLOOD APPEAL

St Vincent de Paul Society NSW has launched a flood appeal to help those affected by the heavy rains and flooding across the state and is asking Australians to give generously. Buckets will be placed at both



Church doors at **Masses on the weekend of the 18th of April**. Please donate what you can. Thank you.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2021

St. James' Parish welcomes you to an information night regarding the Sacramental Program 2021. Please come along if your child is in Year 3 – Year 6 and you would like to continue their journey of faith.

Information Evening

20 April 2021

6pm

**St James' Church
Brook Street
Muswellbrook**

TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Marriage breakdown is a distressing experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan Office of the Inter-diocesan Tribunal of Sydney extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process. For further information please phone the Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan Office of the Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney on 4979 1370 or email tribunal@mn.catholic.org.au

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2021

First Holy Communion and Confirmation will be celebrated **Saturday 24th July at 5.30pm Mass**.

We are now taking registrations for candidates wishing to be part of this Sacramental Celebration.

Please email the candidates details to muswellbrookparish@mn.catholic.org.au or give handwritten details to Fr Victor.

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.

ANZAC DAY SUNDAY MASS TIME

To allow people to attend the 10am Service at Olympic Park for Anzac Day we have **changed the Mass time for Sunday 25th April to 5.30pm**.

10am Mass will not be celebrated on that day. The usual 8am Mass will be celebrated at St Thomas Aberdeen.

CASH COUNTERS THIS WEEKEND

18th April 2021

Therese Bristow and Esther Molloy

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30am – 2.30pm

BULLETIN

Please contact the Parish Office on 6543 1167 **by close of Office 2.30pm Thursday** 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.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Please search for us: **Catholic**

Parish of St James Muswellbrook and

like/follow our page to keep up to date with Parish news and important notices.



Weekly Mass Diary

Monday 19 April	Tuesday 20 April	Wednesday 21 April	Thursday 22 April	Friday 23 April	Saturday 24 April	Sunday 25 April
						FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ANZAC DAY
<u>11.00am</u> Private, personal prayer and worship St James Muswellbrook		<u>9.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> Mass St James Primary School Muswellbrook <u>11.30am</u> Adoration and Benediction <u>12.05pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	<u>9.00am</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook <u>5.30pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook	No 10am Mass <u>5.30pm</u> Mass St James Muswellbrook
	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen					<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Thomas Aberdeen
RECONCILIATION						
Reconciliation is available 1/2 an hour 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, Carolyn Whittle, Ray Bennett, Kym Mason, Elkie Best, Dorothy Flannery, Mollie Hofman and Ambrosio Mendoza Jr.

Anniversary: June Bermingham

Recently Deceased:

Baptism: Grae Cruickshanks

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 25th April 2021

4th Sunday of the Month	Readers	Cantors	Musicians	Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers	Sacristan
5.30pm Saturday Muswellbrook	M. Flanagan T. Furlong	C. Hayes	S. Davis			R. Panis	C. Hayes
8am Sunday Aberdeen	S. Milton	K. Mason	C. Bowen				M. Hamilton
5.30pm Sunday Muswellbrook	A. Sharp A. Jacob	Can you fill this position?	M. Veitch				K. Goodwin
Counters	David McTaggart and Sue Davis			<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."