

**PALM
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MARCH**

The Parish of St James



Coorparoo.

**An Augustinian Parish:
Archdiocese of Brisbane.**



From the Prioory Window

When Archbishop James Duhig first visited the site that is now St James' Church, School, Prioory and Convent he noted that it would be difficult to locate a more beautiful site. He explained this new parish was dedicated to St James. He said this was fitting because the parish was formed from the parish of Kangaroo Point whose parish priest was Father James Breen. And, the land had come because of a generous bequest to the Church by the late James Toohey. Possibly, it did not escape his audience that by a happy coincidence Archbishop Duhig also bore the same Christian name!

After St James' church was open, the parish priest Fr O'Leary, still lived at Kangaroo Point. He set about remedying this situation. At a meeting held at St James' towards the end of March 1914, parishioners decided to build a brick, two-story presbytery in the parish.

Archbishop Duhig presided at Father O'Leary's 9.30am Sunday Mass on April 19, 1914. Immediately after the Mass the ceremony of laying the presbytery foundation stone began. Special trams had come from North Quay for the convenience of those who wished to attend the ceremony. The presbytery, which on that day was already well-advanced beyond the foundations, was designed by GH Addison, architect, and constructed by Mr Edward Duhig, the lowest tender, at a total cost of 2,408 pounds.

A newspaper report commented that, apart from Dara, the residence of Archbishop Dunne, then situated on what was later to become the site of the proposed Holy Name Cathedral (opposite All Hallow School), the Coorparoo presbytery would be the most attractive parochial house in Brisbane.

On Sunday afternoon, August 16th, 1914, the completed building was opened by the Archbishop.

In the first 16 months of the St James's Parish of Coorparoo-Ipswich Rd (Mary Immaculate, Anerley was part of the parish), expenditure for the two pieces of land and the three buildings that stood on them was 7,220 pounds, of which all but 1,220, had been paid. Father O'Leary indicated that this was exceedingly gratifying, especially seeing that very few of his parishioners could be called wealthy.

Of course, this attractive building was progressively to have its verandas enclosed. Just a small part of those verandas will be uncovered and restored when, as reported in last week's parish bulletin, the work begins on the parish toilets to be located in the building. Last week's bulletin also featured a picture of the "most attractive parochial house in Brisbane." As stated, the building needs an amount of repairs. The initial money will come from a Bequest, just as the money to purchase the land originally came from a Bequest!

Our St James ancestors have left us a great heritage. Not only did they sacrifice to accomplish all that is described above, they were responsible for establishing other churches and new parishes. As indicated above, Mary Immaculate Anerley was originally part of this parish. Then, in 1921, St Agnes' Mount Gravatt was opened from this parish, as was St Thomas' Camp Hill in 1923.

As we begin Holy Week, at a time when the Church is fairly battered and bruised, the struggles of those who have gone before us may be a source of encouragement and inspiration. They too struggled, with World War 1 and the beginning of the great depression. And, still they were confident in their faith. Confident enough to venture into new territory. We can do the same. We can be confident in our ability to be welcoming, hospitality and united in support of each other living as disciples of Jesus the crucified one.

Please see our back page for an important letter from Fr Dave Austin, our Provincial.

Fr Peter osa Parish Administrator.