

**3RD SUNDAY
ORD TIME
YR B 2018
20 / 21
JANUARY**

The Parish of St James



Coorparoo.

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



From the Priory Window

When I was a boy my family worshipped at St Joseph's, Kangaroo Point. We moved to Highgate Hill and then we worshipped at St Ita's, Dutton Park. But after I went to the Augustinian Novitiate, my Mum and Dad worshipped at St James' and remained doing so until they died.

After I was ordained a deacon, I spent a few months at St James' for 'pastoral experience'. Fr Jim Bolton osa was the pastor, Br Greg osa was still in the community and the memory of Fr Tom Hunt osa still hung around the Priory.

After priestly ordination, I was assigned to Villanova College. Some of the College families were parishioners at St James'. That was forty-five years ago, and while I have not been directly ministering in the parish, the parish community has been the backdrop to a chunk of my life. It has been a good backdrop because it has exposed me to some people of strong and authentic faith. Basically, it exposed me to people loyal in their love of God and neighbour.

As I recall some of those folk, many now deceased, I have a huge admiration for the way they adapted to and continued to love a changing Church. Many of these people grew up in the Church prior to the Second Vatican Council. After the Council, they revised much of their thought and action and expressed their love of Christ in some ways different from their upbringing.

Most of all, the ones I admire moved from a priest controlled parish community, to one where the pastor assisted to animate the community to assume its role for carrying out pastoral responsibilities in the community. That was a big ask! And, this community has answered well.

There were (are) some qualities present in the community which made this possible (beside plain faith). Among these qualities was the ability to deal with loss and grief. Pastors came and went, beloved and active parishioners died or moved away. Change is the constant! And unless the feelings of loss are acknowledged, the ability to re-invest in new relationships or situations will be greatly impeded.

As I begin these months in the role of administrator of this parish, I rely on the strength that we, the present parishioners, have received from those who have worshipped here in the past. The present community begins by acknowledging the grief and loss we currently experience and trusting in the God who will lead us forward as God has done in the past.

Fr Peter osa

Parish Administrator.