

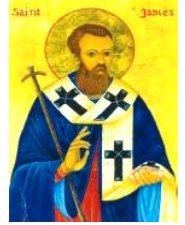
3RD SUNDAY
LENT
YR B 2018
4 / 5
MARCH

The Parish of St James



Coorparoo.

An Augustinian Parish:
Archdiocese of Brisbane.



From the Prioory Window

The Temple is the focus of today's Gospel. Pilgrims to the temple were expected to donate for its upkeep. Sounds like the second collection at Mass!

Because Roman currency was considered 'unclean', Jewish visitors had to change their money for Jewish currency in order to make their temple gift. Money changers, whose tables lined the outer courts of the temple, charged exorbitant fees. Visitors wishing to have a sacrifice offered on the temple altar would sometimes have to pay fifteen to twenty times the market rate for animals purchased inside the temple (you can think of lots of equivalents in Australia). Vendors could count on the cooperation of the official temple 'inspectors' who, as a matter of course, would reject as 'unclean' or 'imperfect' animals brought in from outside.

Jesus' angry toppling of the vendors' booths and tables is a condemnation of the injustice and exploitation of the faithful in the name of God. So empty and meaningless has their worship become that God will establish a new 'temple' in the resurrected body of the Christ.

By the way, this is a good Sunday to acknowledge those men and women who, at each Sunday Mass, take up the first and second collections. Thank you. And, remember that at St James' we accept any currency!!

Did You Know? John 2:13-25

Romans coins were not acceptable because they were imprinted with the image of the Emperor and the Commandments clearly stated that there should be no graven images used by Jews. The money changers were actually performing a necessary task for the proper functioning of the religious life of Israel. What may Jesus really have been angry about?

Gospel Passage

In the Temple Jesus found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.'

Question of the Week

What are the abuses we should be angry about today?

What are some ways we can respond to those abuses?

Fr Peter osa Parish Administrator.

