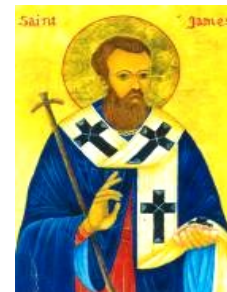


ASCENSION OF THE LORD YR A 2020 23 / 24 MAY

The Parish of St James Coorparoo A Vibrant, Prayerful, Inclusive Augustinian Parish Archdiocese of Brisbane



Message from the Parish Priest

Australia has received good news, more than a week ago now, in regards to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, even if by stages. In Queensland, we are in Stage 1 at the moment, and beginning on 12 June Stage 2 starts and we shall have more leeway. This freedom includes the anticipated reopening of our places of worship. And as the '*Roadmap to Easing Queensland's Restrictions*' has indicated – the reopening will take place gradually with compliance to COVID-19 public health rules.



Our parish is working closely with the Archdiocese of Brisbane, which has required us to comply with a checklist that they have provided. We will submit to them this completed form, and then await their nod for when we can reopen. I fully support this COVID-19 Safe Plan of the Archdiocese as it allows parishes to do more preparations in the background, and if you ask my opinion, it is in fact a prudent way of executing the ease of restrictions.

Under Stage 1, the celebration of Mass *with a congregation* for all parishes in the Archdiocese continues to be suspended. This applies to both weekday and Sunday masses. Please be reminded that all Catholics remain dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice.

Fr Dang and I continue to celebrate Mass (for the people) on weekdays and Sundays. As I have indicated in last Sunday's bulletin, we have now moved from our Priory Chapel to St James church. At weekday masses and the Sunday live stream mass, the limit for all people in the church for the duration of Stage 1 continues to be no more than 10 (including the priest, other ministers and camera operator when livestreaming).

Alongside this anticipation of more ease of restrictions here in Australia in the next couple of weeks, there is worrying news from my hometown in Cebu City, Philippines with its own fight against COVID-19. Among the 42,045 "*barangays*" in the country (perhaps the equivalent concept to this here in Australia is a "suburb"), *Barangay Mambaling*, where I grew up and where my family still resides, ranks number 1 with the most positive cases in the whole country, and needless to say in Cebu City which consists of 80 barangays (imagine Coorparoo ranking number 1 in the whole of Australia)! It is hard to determine whether it is a consolation or not, but most of these positive cases are asymptomatic. I am glad that most of the affected are not suffering from any symptoms. But knowing first-hand how 'staying at home' has proved to be very challenging with the living conditions back in some areas of the country, our *barangay* included, I am concerned as to how this condition might affect other people eventually. People who might be more vulnerable and more susceptible to symptoms. Mum and Dad and other members of my immediate family are safe, and they continue to do their best to remain so.

Reflecting on all this, I say I am very blessed here in Australia. The ease of restrictions have allowed me to gradually enjoy what the guidelines permit me to do. But together with this, there is the constant awareness of holding in my prayers, those who continue to struggle with the pandemic, and continue to entrust to God these situations which are out of my control.

I wonder if the risen Christ, who appeared to the disciples in Jerusalem and Galilee, and who bid farewell to them during his Ascension, has generated a similar dual reaction from his disciples: the elation of encountering the risen Lord, and the sadness of not enjoying the physical presence of Jesus. The circumstance that most Catholics find themselves in now is similar: it is Easter time, and most still cannot receive the sacrament of the Eucharist.

What remains for me as a source of peace is Jesus' promise to the disciples, "*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ...The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.*" (John 14:16, 26-27). Our risen Lord has to go to the Father (Ascension) so He and the Father can send the Holy Spirit (Pentecost). Our God is always with us, I pray you encounter God's peace too. And I pray we continue to listen to our Lord's call to mission, which is the Church's message to us this Ascension Sunday. Keep safe everyone!

- Fr Francis, OSA

Please continue to check your email for further correspondence concerning church reopening and the celebration of sacraments (Baptism, Confession, and Eucharist). We are also constantly receiving information from the Archdiocese and we hope to relay these to you in a timely manner. Have a blessed week ahead.

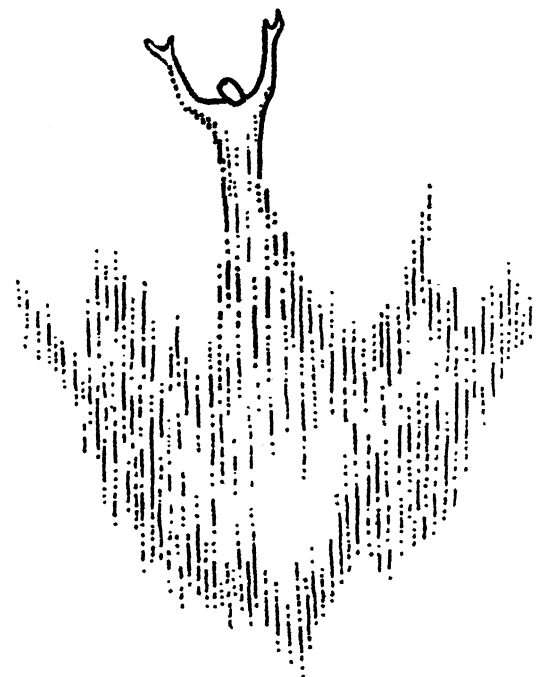
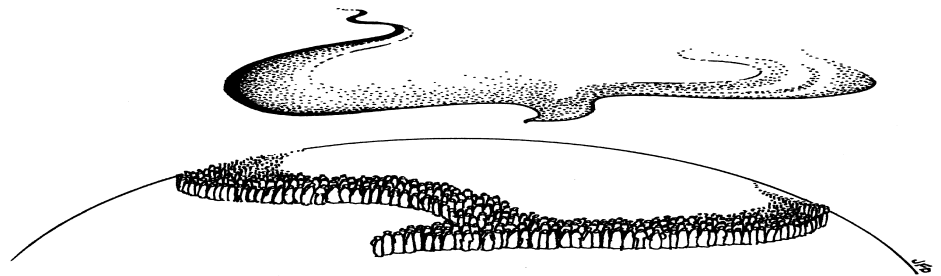
Bringing Home the Gospel

I once heard a religious educator say that a disciple was like an apprentice. A disciple doesn't have to have it all together—she makes mistakes. She is someone who is still learning. An apprentice also needs mentoring. She needs someone to teach her and instruct her, but she also needs someone to show her how to be whatever it is she is apprenticing to be.

We are disciples of a trinitarian God, baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. Our way into the divine life of this Trinity is through Jesus. Jesus, the Son, is our brother, our savior, and our mentor. He shows us how we can share in his divinity by teaching us to accept our humanity.

It was by living his life completely and embracing his death fully that Jesus became our way and our mentor. He accepted his limitations and embraced his vulnerability. He showed us how to live through pain and loss and die with questions left unanswered. And through it all, he shared his love with everyone: friends and enemies alike. As disciples, we try, and sometimes fail, to live our lives as Jesus lived his, but like all good

Jesus has lived his life, died, and risen. He has taught his disciples everything he had to teach. Before he leaves them for a final time, Jesus tells them to make disciples of the whole world, teaching all they have learned and baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



JFB



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"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

Sheepish Question:

What am I waiting for?

apprentices and disciples, we try again. A great thing to remember is that Jesus is not just the ideal—someone we look up to and try to emulate—Jesus is our mentor. He walks with us, helping us clean up our messes. He constantly shares his love and his life with us so that we can share it with others.

MAY 24 • 7th Sunday of Easter

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Praying for Others

[Jesus prayed to his Father,] "I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours." (John 17:9)



- ▶ Matthias Chosen • Acts 1:12-14
- ▶ Love for One Another • 1 Pet 4:13-16
- ▶ Jesus' Prayer for the Disciples • John 17:1-11a



- ▶ **Adults:** Who needs you to pray for them this week, as Jesus prayed for his disciples?
- ▶ **Children:** Who will you pray for this week?

or Ascension of the Lord

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St. James Parish acknowledges the Jaggera People of Coorparoo as the traditional owners of the land on which we live.

Prayer Requests

Parishioners, we rely on you for our prayer list in our bulletin and we pray



for these people during mass also. If you have a parishioner, family member or friend who is ill, has recently died, or their anniversary is around this time, please call/email, so these people can be prayed

for and remembered...

Please pray for recently deceased:

Maureen Forster; Mathappan; Ondit Rubi; Gabrielle Coote; Jocelyn Johnson; Colin Arndt.

And these anniversaries: Marie Sheehan; Nancy Ries; Vic Cush.

Please pray for these unwell: Hazel Yared; Kenny McDonald; Veron Forsyth; Peter & Stephen Darch; Matthew & Timothy Graveson; Carmel Remphrey; Rodrigo Urbano.

Parish news

St James church has everyone's safety, and our ability to maintain that, utmost in our minds.

When we resume ...

- No one is to enter a church, parish building or Archdiocesan workplace if feeling ill.
- We will continue to follow social distancing rules inside the church.
- We will provide cleaning supplies for St James church pews, etc.
- We will assign marshals (not over 70 yrs of age) who will monitor the occupancy of the church and church area at all times—would you like to volunteer? Please let us know.
- We will record date, names and contacts of people who go in and out of our church.
- We will work out a reasonable way of determining the 10 people who will be attending the weekday masses (10, including the priest and ministers).



Good news to those who have no access to Facebook or Facebook Live! Parishioners can stream **St James**

Parish Sunday Mass on YouTube



at 10:30am. Our parish YouTube Channel is

ST JAMES PARISH COORPAROO.

Subscribe to our Channel, by clicking on the subscribe button to get notified about our latest videos.

4 June this year is Fr Peter Hayes' 60th Anniversary of priestly ordination.

The Catholic bishops of Australia have elected **Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge** to a second two-year term as president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. "As a Conference, we have faced a number of big challenges over the past two years, including preparing for the Plenary Council and considering how the People of God in Australia can walk together into the future, especially now in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis."



Today's Readings

Ascension of the Lord: First Reading

Acts 1: 1-11 Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

Second Reading Ephesians 1: 17-23 He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

Gospel Reading Matthew 28: 16-20 All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Updates & Resources:

See this tab on our website page also..

2020 May - Bishop Ken Howell - Guidelines for Parishes

2020 May—Fr Francis notes on Bishop Ken Howell's guidelines—implications St James Parish.

STAGE 1: from 15 MAY 2020 (for 4 weeks)

- + Gatherings of up to 10 people:
 - > weddings
 - > places of worship and religious ceremonies
 - > funerals (max 20 indoors or 30 outdoors)

The Australian Government and **BEYOND BLUE Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service** and wellbeing service [here](https://www.beyondblue.org.au/).

Archdiocese news

The month of May marks **Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Prevention Month**.



We all have a role to play, individually and collectively, in calling for violence in the home to end. DFV is not a private issue, that happens in homes, behind closed doors. It's everyone's business. Individually, there are things we can do. I encourage you to visit the Centacare <https://centacarebrisbane.net.au/domestic-violence-prevention/counselling-womenchildrenmen/>



COVID-19 Translated Resources and Mass in Languages other than English

<http://multiculturalcare.org.au/resources/>

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 18-24 MAY 2020
CHANGING COMMUNITIES. CHANGING LIVES.

It's hard to know what the church and society are going to look like when we emerge from the COVID-19 restrictions.

The one constant throughout our pre and post-pandemic worlds, however, will be the volunteers who remain at the heart and soul of what we do.

As we prepare to celebrate a National Week in your honour, my thanks goes out to all the volunteers, wherever you may be offering witness – in parishes or prisons, hospitals, courts or respite and drop-in centres.

In spite of the many challenges posed by this medical crisis, you still stood ready, in ways both creative and courageous, to continue outreach on our behalf and for that the Archdiocese is indebted to you.

Without you we couldn't do or be what Jesus Christ calls us to do and be.

- Most Rev Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane

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John Bates - Principal

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Web: www.stjames.qld.edu.au/



Administration

Parish Priest	Fr Francis Belciña OSA	3397 1671
Assistant Priest	Fr Ngọc Hải Đăng Nguyễn OSA	3397 1671
On Pastoral Experience	Br Tuan Anh Le OSA	3397 1671
Parish Secretary	Trish Rashad	3397 1671
Parish Council Chairperson	Ray Mitchell	3892 1682
Finance Committee	Mark Garden	mrkgarden9@gmail.com
Pastoral Care	Parish Office	3397 1671
Safeguarding Officer	Kate Pearson	capearson@optusnet.com.au

Thank you very much for Financially Supporting Your Parish:

- **Thru Direct Debit (this is the recommended option).** Kindly complete the [“Direct Debit Request - Offertory Giving” form](#), and drop the completed form in the Priory Letterbox, or scan it (or take a picture of it) and send it via email to the parish office. This *direct debit request* gives you the option to nominate your donation to the Augustinians and/or the Parish. We will then submit your form to ADF for processing. (If you're receiving this by email, you may click on the link and access the form; if you're receiving this by post, the form is available on our parish website).

With the Direct Debit method, one has the liberty to decide on the amount to be donated as well as the frequency of this (weekly, fortnightly or monthly). This donation method mirrors our Sunday collection: 1st Collection (**Augustinian Order**) and/or 2nd Collection (for the upkeep of **St James Parish**).

- Thru processing your own transfer using your bank account app or website.

1st Collection: Augustinian Order	2nd Collection: St James Parish
Account Name: Augustinian Priory	Account Name: St James Parish
BSB: 064 786	BSB: 064 786
Account #: 006160102	Account #: 006161103
Reference: (Surname, & First Name if first name fits too)	Reference: (Surname, & First Name if first name fits too)

- **Thru the Planned-Giving envelopes** which you already have. You may drop them off at any time in the letterbox at the top of St James Priory steps.
- You may mail in a cheque at any time. Please indicate if it's going towards **ST JAMES PARISH** and/or the **AUGUSTINIAN ORDER**.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Pentecost Sunday First Reading Acts 2: 1-11 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12: 3-7, 12-13 In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.

Gospel Reading John 20: 19-23 As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

For complete Sunday's readings, visit our St James website (look for the Prayer tab).

www.stjames-coorparoo.org.au/sundays-readings.