

**4TH SUNDAY
EASTER
YR B 2018
21 / 22 APRIL**



The Parish of St James

Coorparoo.

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



From the Outside of the Window

Perhaps, you may have heard this funny story already. If not, I just want to recall it for you: According to the Sunday's gospel, the preacher spoke about the meaning of a good shepherd. He told his audience about sheep, that they needed lots of guidance, and that a shepherd's job was to stay close to the sheep, protect them from wild animals and keep them from wandering off and doing dumb things that would get them hurt or killed. He pointed to the little children in the room and said that they were the sheep and needed lots of guidance. Then the priest put his hands out to the side, palms up in a dramatic gesture, and with raised eyebrows said to the children, "If you are the sheep then who is the shepherd?" He was pretty obviously indicating himself. A silence of a few seconds followed. Then a young visitor said, "Jesus: Jesus is the shepherd." The young priest, obviously caught by surprise, said to the young visitor, "Well then, who am I?" The visitor frowned thoughtfully and then said with a shrug, "I guess you must be a sheep dog."

This Sunday's gospel also speaks of the Good Shepherd, one who is neither self-absorbed nor ego-centric; rather, he is the one who leads by example. He prioritises and cares for his sheep, even to the point of giving up his own life for the sake of the flock. Why? Because he loves them with the same love that he shares with his heavenly Father.

Augustine once said: "When therefore we love our sisters and brothers, we love Christ; when we love Christ, we love the Son of God; when we love the Son of God, we love also the Father."

I really hope that St. James will be the place where we all experience this love and care. As Administrator of St. James, I would like to ensure that we have the necessary infrastructure that enables such experience. As you may know, we have some "unfinished" projects. The roof windows will be installed this week. Hopefully, the work will be smooth. The bathrooms and the kitchen in the priory (often used to cater for parish groups) will be the next items. We are still waiting for the costings and construction plan. The church's steps and side pathway that have caused some hazards lately will be done as soon as possible. Another priority is the church's sound system which might need a complete overhaul. I am now actively investigating various options on this matter. The biggest project that the parish wants to undertake is the renovation of the entire priory. It is not an easy project because it is heritage listed. However, this project makes sense as it will not only restore the beauty of the building, but also provides us with more opportunities to meet and to enjoy each other's company. Financially, I hope that we can carry them all through. We rely on God's help and on your generosity.

However, I encourage you not just to maintain your faith, but also to share it with your fellows. Pope Francis wrote in his Encyclical "The Joy of the Gospel": Evangelisation is not just a part of life or a badge that can be taken off; it is not an "extra" or just another moment in life. Mission is who I am; it is the reason why I am here in this world.

I am also pleased to inform you that last Saturday our Deacon Br. Dang has graduated in Sydney with the Bachelor of Sacred Theology. We congratulate him on this significant academic achievement.

This week we also welcome our students and teachers back from their holidays. I am sure that they have had a good time.

Our parish secretary Trish has volunteered at the Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast during the last week. We are proud of her for giving her time to this important common event. It is great to see that our parish reaches out beyond its walls and attends to the wider community's needs.

We received the sad news of Carmel Sheehan's sudden passing from this world. Those who know her, she was a very generous, fabulous and faith filled parishioner. Her funeral will be next Mon/Tues at 10/11am. Please pray for her and for her family. As always, let us keep each other in our prayers.

Have a great Sunday.

Fr. Joseph OSA, Administrator