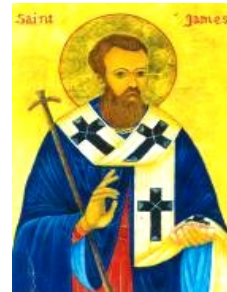


**30TH SUNDAY
ORD TIME
YR A 2020
25 OCTOBER**

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



THE STRUGGLE TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR

By Ron Rolheiser, OMI

"The most damaging idolatry is not the golden calf but enmity against the other." The renowned anthropologist, Rene Girard, wrote that and its truth is not easily admitted. Most of us like to believe that we are mature and big-hearted and that we do love our neighbours and are free of enmity towards others. But is this so?

In our more honest, more accurately perhaps, in our more humble moments, I think that all of us admit that we don't really love others in the way that Jesus asked. We don't turn the other cheek. We don't really love our enemies. We don't wish good to those who wish us harm. We don't bless those who curse us. And we don't genuinely forgive those who murder our loved ones. We are decent, good-hearted persons, but persons whose heaven is still too-predicated on needing an emotional vindication in the face of anyone or anything that opposes us. We can be fair, we can be just, but we don't yet love the way Jesus asked us to, that is, so that our love goes out to both those who love us and to those who hate us. We still struggle, mightily, mostly unsuccessfully, to wish our enemies well.

But for most of us who like to believe ourselves mature that battle remains hidden, mostly from ourselves. We tend to feel that we are loving and forgiving because, essentially, we are well-intentioned, sincere, and able to believe and say all the right things; but there's another part of us that isn't nearly so noble. The Irish Jesuit, Michael Paul Gallagher, (who died recently and will be dearly missed) puts this well when he writes (*In Extra Time*): "You probably don't hate anyone, but you can be paralyzed by daily negatives. Mini-prejudices and knee-jerk judgements can produce a mood of undeclared war. Across barbed wire fences, invisible bullets fly." Loving the other as oneself, he submits, is for most of us an impossible uphill climb.

So where does that leave us? Serving out a life-sentence of mediocrity and hypocrisy? Professing to loving our enemies but not doing it? How can we profess to be Christians when, if we are honest, we have to admit that we are not measuring up to the litmus-test of Christian discipleship, namely, loving and forgiving our enemies?

Perhaps we are not as bad as we think we are. If we are still struggling, we are still healthy. In making us, it seems, God factored in human complexity, human weakness, and how growing into deeper love is a life-long journey. What can look like hypocrisy from the outside can in fact be a pilgrimage, a *Camino* walk, when seen within a fuller light of patience and understanding.

Thomas Aquinas, in speaking about union and intimacy, makes this important distinction. He distinguishes between being in union with something or somebody *in actuality* and being in union with that someone or something *through desire*. This has many applications but, applied in this case; it means that sometimes the heart can only go somewhere through desire rather than in actuality. We can believe in the right things and want the right things and still not be able to bring our hearts onside. One example of this is what the old catechisms (in their unique wisdom) used to call "imperfect contrition", that is, the notion that if you have done something wrong that you know is wrong and that you know that you should feel sorry for, but you can't in fact feel sorry for, then *if you can wish that you could feel sorry*, that's contrition enough, not perfect, but enough. It's the best you can do and it

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Be a 'Prayer Companion' to one of our First Communion children this year: RYAN, MIKHAEL, CYANNE, OLIVIA, LUIS, EMMA, ASHLEY, HAMISH, MARC, SAMUEL, ZARA, WYATT, KY, ELLA, IZAAK, LLEW, ISAAC, CRAIG. Please take one "pray for me" card available in the church and pray for the child named in the card; pray as well for their parents / guardians, and the catechists who are helping out in our Sacramental Program.



Please Pray for Me

as I prepare for my
First Holy Communion

My first name is

.....Hamish.....

and I am 10... years old.



Please Pray for Me

as I prepare for my
First Holy Communion

My first name is

.....ZEKE.....

and I am 11... years old.



Please Pray for Me

as I prepare for my
First Holy Communion

My first name is

.....ISAAC.....

and I am 10... years old.



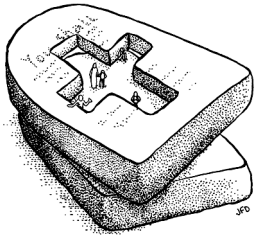
Please Pray for Me

as I prepare for my
First Holy Communion

My first name is

.....Zara.....

and I am 11... years old.



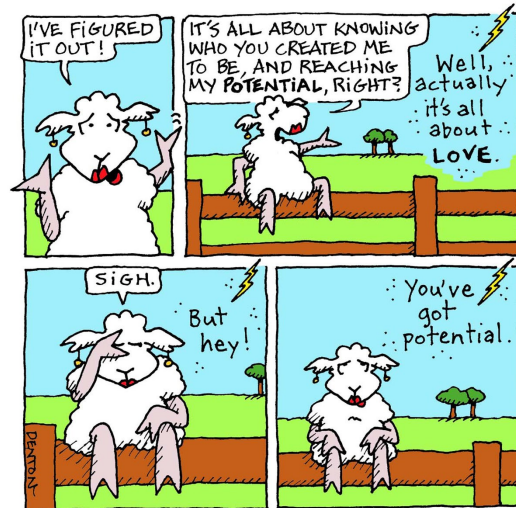
BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

The Greatest Commandment

Jesus' enemies failed in their attempt to trap Jesus into saying something that would get him into trouble with the Romans. They make another attempt to trap him into making a mistake against the Jewish faith. A scholar of the law asks Jesus which commandment is the most important.

A scholar asks, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" and Jesus responds "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (v. 37). Jesus adds that the second commandment is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (v. 39). There they are, the two great commandments, and neither of them start with, "thou shalt not." The Ten Commandments (thou shalt and shalt not) presented to Moses are a somewhat more detailed version of these two great ones.

If we know the greatness of God and love God, we don't hold anything or anyone as more important. We don't use God's name disrespectfully, and we certainly don't use his Son's name, Jesus Christ, as a form of profanity. We honour the day God named holy, the day set aside for spending time with God, by not working like we do during the week. If at all possible, we rest on the Lord's Day and enjoy the gifts of God's creation.



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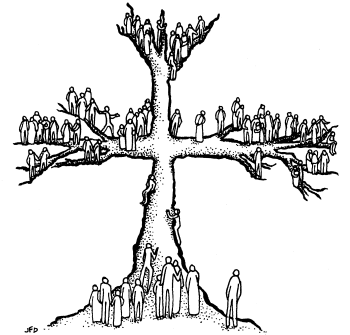
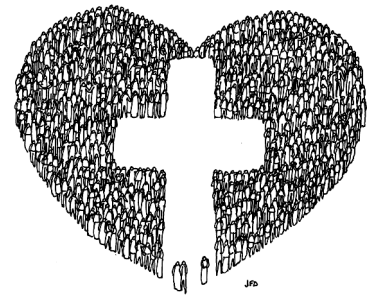
"You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Sheepish Question:

The Lord has given me the capability to fully love God and my neighbor—so what holds me back?

If we love our neighbours as ourselves, we are respectful to those especially closest to us, like our father and mother. Remembering that according to Jesus, everyone - even our enemies - are our neighbours, we are called not to kill, steal, or lie about them. We are called to refrain from envy about what others have, and we strive for faithfulness to a spouse we have pledged to love forever.

Basically, the greatest commandment is to live in God's love, and to make that love so much a part of us that we cannot help but reflect it. Do everything you can to surround your children with love; your own love and others' love. Keep them close to the church community so they can see that love lived out in community.



FAMILY RESPONSE

Have those family members who are old enough memorize the two great commandments from today's reading. Then get out the Bible and read the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17. Talk about them and see if family members can come up with a few more commandments that illustrate the two great ones.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Which of the Ten Commandments do you find most difficult to live out? How can you develop the virtue that corresponds to that particular commandment? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?

Bringing Home the Gospel: Parent Reflections on the Sunday Gospels • Copyright © 2007, 2020 Judith Dunlap. Published by the Pastoral Center, PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved. Scripture passages have been taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and used by permission. All rights reserved.

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puts you at the right place at the level of desire, not a perfect place, but one better than its alternative.

And that "imperfect" place does more for us than simply providing the minimal standard of contrition needed for forgiveness. More importantly it accords rightful dignity to whom and to what we have hurt.

Reflecting on our inability to genuinely love our neighbor, Marilynne Robinson submits that, even in our failure to live up to what Jesus asks of us, if we are struggling honestly, there is some virtue. She argues this way: Freud said that we cannot love our neighbor as ourselves, and no doubt this is true. But since we accept the reality that lies behind the commandment, that our neighbor is as worthy of love as ourselves, then in our very attempt to act on Jesus' demand we are acknowledging that our neighbor is worthy of love even if, at that this point in our lives, we are too weak to provide it.

And that's the crucial point: In continuing to struggle, despite our failures, to live up to the Jesus' great commandment of love we acknowledge the dignity inherent in our enemies, acknowledge that they are worthy of love, and acknowledge our own shortcoming. That's "imperfect" of course, but, I suspect, Thomas Aquinas would say it's a start! (from <https://ronrolheiser.com/the-struggle-to-love-our-neighbor/#.X5IznNAzaUk>)

Prayer Requests

Please pray for recently deceased:



Domenica Maurice; Paul Masci; Bill Hanley; Shirley Walsh; Vincent "Dodong" Villamor; Bradley Wenceslaus.

And these anniversaries: Marcella Cunningham; Rebecca Herft; Lilly Thomas; Charlie Fisher; Ann Marie

Emerson; Kay Hill; Mary Ellen & Barry Lunney; Corazon, Ricardo & Bob Gallofin; Joseph Jay Hallorina.

Please pray for these unwell: Peter Herman; Danny Pearsall; Kevin Sheehan; Kathy Nelson; Nenita Irasusta; Asharti; Abeya; Abhyapala; Dharsicka; Noela McCormick; Olive Williams; Neil Scanlan.

Give prayers to our Baptismal Children:

Harvey Rasic; Noah Cowderoy.

Parish News

SUNDAY MASSES & VIGIL - ST JAMES' LIST (Extended)



This extended Eventbrite link for St James aims to gather a (sort of definitive) list of SUNDAY including VIGIL mass goers & their nominated mass time. These names will determine the list of names that are on the printed sheets for mass registration found at the church entrance. This same

list will be reprinted for every weekend (as long as this protocol is needed, or unless we change our methodology). Use your camera phone to hover over the QR code and then fill in the Eventbrite form.



World Mission Month – Brisbane October 25, 2020 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Last week, the Universal Church, including this parish, celebrated World Mission Sunday. It was a time in the liturgical calendar when Catholics acknowledge, and give thanks for, the selfless sacrifice made by priests, brothers and religious sisters around the world, as they look to serve people in need by bringing hope, faith and love. If you have not yet made a donation, you can still do so, in any of the following three ways: **Text** the word **GIVE** to 0488 854 436, enter your parish name in the notes and follow the prompts; donate online (catholicmission.org.au/Cambodia) or give via the traditional appeal envelope that are still available from your church. To all those who did contribute, by donating or offering prayers, we thank you. May the Lord bless all of you and sustain your community at this challenging social time, just as you have sustained other communities around the world.



Sacrament of First Holy Communion

Program at St James Parish continues...
26th October Monday 6-7.30pm Family Session 2 for Sacrament of Holy Communion children (St James School meeting room).



Adult Catholic Initiation Program (RCIA) starts

this Sunday night **October 25th**

Times – 6 to 7.15pm.

Contact – kevmaahoney2@bigpond.com



Today's Readings

30th Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading Exodus 22: 20-26 If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1: 5-10 You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

Gospel Reading Matthew 22: 34-40 You shall love the Lord your God, and your neighbour as yourself.

Parish news

Saturday October 31 Queensland State Election

St James Hall will be a polling booth, as in previous years. **The booths operate from 8 am - 6 pm** on election day.



Consider the Common Good on October 31

A staggering 20,000 people in Queensland are experiencing homelessness—this is 1 in every 200 Queenslanders (source, Australian Bureau of Statistics). This includes people who are sleeping rough, as well as people who are staying in temporary, unstable or substandard accommodation.

How can we make a difference on this issue? How will you use your Queensland State Election vote for the benefit of the whole community?

You can find out more about the issues you might reflect on when you cast your vote at <https://bit.ly/3kd5Rj2>



Consider the Common Good on October 31

Catholic Social Teachings prompt us to consider the Common Good and to pay particular attention to those who are vulnerable, marginalised, or who often 'fall through the cracks'.

As we grapple with the challenges of a COVID world, the Catholic Bishops of Queensland have called Catholics to consider Catholic Social Teaching as they prepare to participate in the Queensland State Election on October 31.

For more information about Catholic Social Teaching and to find out more about the issues you might reflect on when you cast your vote visit <https://bit.ly/3mhPzY3>



Our Book of the Dead will be available at the front of the church very shortly, for the month of November. There will be no photos of remembered loved ones this year. The Book of the Dead will have a slightly different format. Each day of November will have spaces available for your loved one/s to be remembered. Find the appropriate date you would prefer, and note down your family members and friends.



Anglican Roman Catholic Reconciliation Day Service Wednesday 4 November 2020

at 7pm St Luke's Anglican Church, 152 Herries Street, Toowoomba, also available LIVE on Facebook through St Luke's Parish page: www.facebook.com/StLukesParish

Jesus prayed that we may all be one. (John 17:23)



31st Oct to 7th November 8:00pm \$20

Closing Mass Sunday 8th November 4:00pm

Registration

bit.ly/NewLifeRetreat2020

For more information contact

Estela Fuller 0434 491 161

Liliana Ortiz 0401 926 614

Latin American Catholic Community of Brisbane

NEW LIFE RETREAT
Online

The Parish of St James

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COORPAROO DC, QLD, 4151

Phone: (07) 3397 1671 OR 3847 3696

Email: osastjames@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Priest: pp.stjames@bne.catholic.net.au

Web: www.stjames-coorparoo.org.au



Primary School

92 Kirkland Ave,
Coorparoo, 4151.

John Bates - Principal

Phone: 3457 1100

Fax: 3847 3337

Email: pcoorparoostj@bne.catholic.edu.au

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



Administration

Parish Priest	Fr Francis Belciña OSA	3397 1671
Assisting Deacon	Dcn Lê Tuấn Anh (Tuan Anh) 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

Counters:

October 24 / 25 Lorie & Leah

Oct 30 / Nov 1 Greg & Kate

NEXT WEEK Oct 30 / Nov 1	SATURDAY 6 PM (SIGN AT DOOR)	SUNDAY 7AM (SIGN AT DOOR)	SUNDAY 9AM (SIGN AT DOOR)	SUNDAY 6PM (SIGN AT DOOR)
COMMENTATOR	Karleen O'R	Trish R	Geoff E	Leo B
LECTOR	Sylvia P	Berenice T-F	Pat M	Jincy CJ
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION (2)	Ron S Anne S	Yen Mai Vu Heather L	Yen N Pat P	Benedict Marie G
HOSPITALITY	None	during	CV19	restrictions
ALTAR SERVER/S	Joe	Gene	Leah	Rodel/ Ramil/ Alyssa/ Klaris
POWERPOINT	Cecilia	John D / Gilbert	Di / June S	Sydel /
MARSHAL	Dew / Karl M / Lorie	Brendon G / Trish R	Doreen C / Cathy M	Mark G / Marie G / Matheus H

Mass Times & Services: **WEEKEND:** Saturday 8 am; Vigil 6 pm (marshal required)
Sunday 7 am, 9 am, 6 pm (marshal required each mass)

WEEKDAY: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8 am.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4.30—5.30 pm...by appointment

ADORATION: Thursday 8 am (postponed until further notice)

PRAYER GROUP: each morning prior to Mass.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL: Friday 6th November.

NEXT HEALING MASS: Friday 6th November, at 10am (no 8am mass on this day).

NEXT CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Sunday at 9am mass (chn liturgy postponed until further notice)

Next Sunday's Readings: All Saints Day

First Reading Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14 I saw an immense crowd, beyond hope of counting, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language.

Second Reading 1 John 3: 1-3 We shall see God as he really is.

Gospel Reading Matthew 5: 1-12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

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