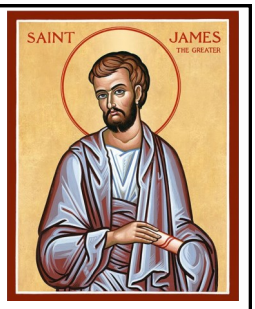
WORD OF GOD SUNDAY YR A 2026 1 FEBRUARY

ST JAMES PARISH COORPAROO

IS A PARISH OF ACCOMPANIMENT WHERE WE ENCOUNTER AND KNOW CHRIST, DEEPEN OUR FAITH, AND SERVE THE COMMUNITY



Gospel Reflection

The gospel of Matthew is keen to cast Jesus in the role of the 'new Moses'. Moses was revered in Jewish history not only as the one who led the people out of Egypt, but even more importantly as the one who received the Ten Commandments from God. The first five books of the Bible, known to Jews as the Torah, or the Law, were accredited to Moses for a very long time. So Moses was seen as the one who received the Commandments from God and who also wrote down the Law of the people, the Torah. He was the Law-Giver for the Jewish people. When the gospel of Matthew portrays Jesus as the new Moses it emphasises the way in which Jesus sought to bring the Law of Moses to fulfilment and bring about a new understanding and appreciation of both the Law and God. Jesus introduced a new way of perceiving God; as a God of compassion and mercy, rather than the jealous, vengeful God that is often expressed in the Old Testament.

The Sermon on the Mount that begins with the Beatitudes comes out of this historical context. Jesus is trying to present a new interpretation of the right way to be in relationship with God; one that is not dominated by rules and regulations. The text is so familiar to us today that it is almost bland. However, at the time it must have been incredibly confronting. The attitudes and states of being that Jesus blesses were not the characteristics that were valued in the society of his time. Poverty, gentleness and mourning were not considered strong, desirable qualities. So, the picture Jesus paints of how to be in right relationship with God and others was confronting the standards and expectations of the time.

Historical Context – Purity

Purity and impurity was a major issue in 1st Century Jewish society. The Priests and Pharisees maintained that only pure adherence to the Law could make a person acceptable in God's eyes. Impurity came to be associated with physical disease and injury. Those with severe disease or disability were regarded as sinful and punished by God. Jesus' statement, 'Happy are the pure of heart', would have scandalised those who maintained that purity came through strict observance of Law. Jesus suggests that purity (and impurity) comes from within a person rather than from the outside – regardless of their observance of the Law.

Living the Gospel – Be-attitudes

One way to read the Beatitudes is that Jesus was commending and blessing the various people who found themselves in those sorts of conditions. Another, is as a list of qualities that all people should strive to exhibit. It's not just some people who happen to be economically poor who are blessed. Rather, we must all have a poverty of spirit – a humility about our need for God's merciful action in our lives. All are called to hunger and thirst for justice and all are called to be merciful. The Beatitudes are not a menu to select from, but rather an essential list of ingredients.

Gospel Focus – Covenant

The structure of the Beatitudes can be seen as yet another attempt by God to re-establish a covenant between Godself and the people. Throughout Jewish history, God called the people back into relationship and re-established God's covenant with them. Like all the previous versions of the covenant, the Beatitudes contain both a series of demands and a series of promises. It is a two-way deal. The first part of each Beatitude is a statement of what the people are called to do and the second part is God's promise of how they will be rewarded for their right action.

Greg Sunter has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest

Daily Reflections for Lent

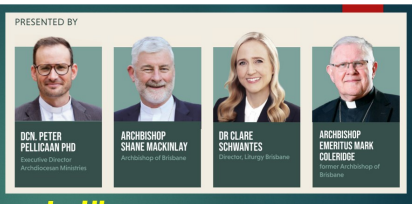
Reflections by Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge

$5 each +GST

BULK DISCOUNTS available for orders of 10 books or more.

Coming shortly

Module 3 Catholic Formation Course:



"Being Sacramental"

What it means to live in the sacramental world.

begins on Monday, 2nd February, 7-9pm

St James Parish Priory

Contact: adultfaithformation.stjames@gmail.com

This Sunday's Readings

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A 1st February)

First Reading *Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13 In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.*
Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands.
Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord.
In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord.
They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.

Responsorial Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3 Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.	It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan.	It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 1:26-31 God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.*
Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 5:1-12 Happy are the poor in spirit.*
Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:
'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

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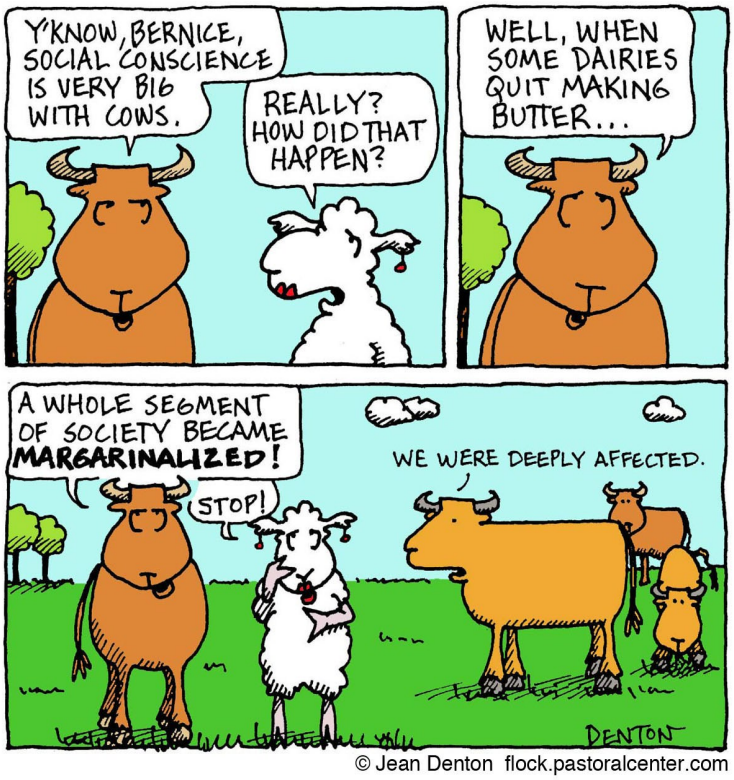

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"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

Sheepish Question:

What injustices am I witnessing today that motivate me to act against them?

The Parish of St James acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the country upon which it lies and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Prayers

Please pray for recently deceased: Evanjelista Rodriguez; Lyn Edwards; Kate Mullins; Maria Tu Gai; Raynaldo Martinez; Fillipo Fazio; Susan Dunne.
And these anniversaries: Rudy Sueta; Emilio Elicano; Paciencia Alaan; Amada Elicano.
Please pray for these unwell: Ian Gillespie; Maria Parry; Fr. Barry Grayson; June Spencer; Roy Vanderstraaten; Zeb Peries; Estelle Cummins; Narelle Ford; Tony Ting; Benedict Rivera; Geraldine Costa; Elisabeth Cortezano; Rosemarie Ting; Clem Marrinan; Fr Gerald Pedrera; Sylvia Wilson; Bill Mumma; Arlina Diaz; Jocelyn Diaz Tibayan.

St James Parish Sacramental Program

Reconciliation 2026 for Year 5 children and older. These children have received both the sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion.
Monday 16th February at 6pm - meet in the church for our Parent Info Session + Session 1 (no children for this occasion). Email osastjames@bne.catholic.net.au or phone 33971671 for more information.

St James Parish Baptisms for 2026
Our parish priests have introduced a new idea for the parish this year. Most baptisms throughout 2026 will occur at 10.30am on Sunday. On **some weekends** throughout the year, a child will be baptised within a Saturday 6pm or Sunday 7am or Sunday 9am mass. We welcome them.

School opening mass Friday 6th February at 9am with parishioners very welcome.
Anointing mass Friday 13th February 9am.

Friends of St Augustine gathering...
will occur on Wednesday 11th February in our Priory (evening time). More details to come.

Have you been **collecting your used stamps** over the Christmas holidays? Drop them in the collection plate and we will get them to Mercy House for Archdiocesan charities

Perpetual Adoration: Tuesdays 8.30am begins again 3rd February (till 5pm until further notice) Contact Vicky brisbane.adoration@gmail.com

Have you started helping our Social Justice Ministry?
Drop your empty containers to the bags near the garage.
We'll donate to worthy causes throughout the year.
+Most single-serve water and fizzy drink containers up to & including 3L.
+Most single-serve alcohol containers, like beer bottles & pre-mixed spirits.
+Flavoured milk containers 150ml to 999ml.
+Coconut water, pure fruit or vegetable juice containers 150ml to 999ml.
+Wine bottles and spirits bottles.
+Take off the lids – we recycle those separately.

FEBRUARY 2026

30 / 1 Saturday 4.30-5.30pm Reconciliation; 4th Sunday Ordinary; (Saturday Vigil 6pm; Sunday 7, 9am); No Baptisms; Hospitality cuppa after 9am mass.
Tuesdays Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration till 5pm
6 Friday 9am School Opening mass
7 / 8 Saturday 4.30-5.30pm Reconciliation; 5th Sunday Ordinary; (Saturday Vigil 6pm; Sunday 7, 9am); Baptism preparation session.
Tuesdays Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration till 5pm
10 Tuesday ACBC Social Justice Launch 7pm St James parish hall—everyone welcome to attend.
13 Friday 9am Anointing mass
14 / 15 Saturday 4.30-5.30pm Reconciliation; 6th Sunday Ordinary; (Saturday Vigil 6pm; Sunday 7, 9am); Baptisms within masses; Children's Liturgy 3rd Sundays @ 9am mass. YAM cuppa after 9am mass.
16 Sacrament of Reconciliation Program—parent info session 6pm in the church (children are Confirmed + Communion)
Tuesdays Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration till 5pm

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life approaches (2nd February). An invitation from Fr Saldie...We invite young people in our parish communities for a Come and See program at Brookvale Seminary this coming Holy Week and Easter (March 29-April 5). Contact our parish.

https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/watch/2479581763665 *{view at 4min 30sec mark St James Church; photos to come}.* ***View our Australia Day 2026*** *celebration at St James church (National Australia Day Council supporting our Filipino community and all our parishioners).*

You are invited to the **Brisbane Launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's 2026 Social Justice Statement**, titled "The Cost of Our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good", to be launched by Archbishop Shane Mackinlay.
The ACBC will now be releasing two Social Justice Statements each year making this a bi-annual event that brings together justice advocates from around the Archdiocese in a spirit of hope, collegiality and encouragement. Please register your attendance, St James' Parish hosts a generous supper. There will be live streaming.
Gold coin donations are welcome for a Coorparoo St Vincent de Paul collection. ***TUESDAY 10 February 2026;*** *7pm light supper for 7:30pm start; St James' Parish Hall, 92 Kirkland Avenue.* ***Rsvp: 9th February 2026***

Becoming Catholic involves a journey of faith, accompanied by the support of a parish community. Some participants continue their journey of faith by following a process called Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA. Our group will continue on **Sunday mornings 9.30 to 10.15am from Sunday 1st February 2026.** Contact Priory (ph 33971671) or our parish co-ordinator kevmahoney2@bigpond.com

Planned Giving for the Week of 25 January 2026

Collection Account numbers	Loose money [not pledged]	Envelopes [pledged]	Direct Debit	Donation Tap	Credit card	Total	
1st Collection Augustinian Priory *BSB: 064 786 Account #: **100019791***	**$927.55**	**$165**	**$225**	**$375**	**$245**	**$1,937.55**	
2nd Collection St James Parish *BSB: 064 786 Account #: **100005891***	**$1,330.60**	**$241**	**$300**	**$375**	**$425**	**$2,670.60**	

Parish of St James

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Postal:
PO Box 1051
COORPAROO DC, QLD, 4151
Phone: (07) 3397 1671
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.

Rachelle Gibson —Principal
Liz Pashen —APRE
Phone: (07) 3457 1100
Email: pcoorparoostj@bne.catholic.edu.au
Web: www.stjames.qld.edu.au/

Administration

Parish Priest	Fr Francis Belciña OSA BelcinaF@bne.catholic.net.au
Assistant Priest	Fr Anson Kalathiparambil OSA kalathiparambila@bne.catholic.net.au
Assistant Priest	Fr John Sullivan OSA sullivanj@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish Secretary	Trish Rashad osastjames@bne.catholic.net.au
Business Manager	Helen Cole bm.stjames@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish Council Chairperson	Lauchlan Moore ppc.stjamescoorparoo@gmail.com
Safeguarding Officer Christine Umali	lsr.stjames@bne.catholic.net.au

Ministry Teams—get involved...

We offer many opportunities to get involved and participate in our vibrant multi-cultural community… Send your enquiries to the email below...

Children & Families (Brent)	Families.stjames@gmail.com
Worship (Amor) 2nd Tue of month 6.30pm	Worshipandliturgy.stjames@gmail.com
Young Adults (Thesi +)	Youthandyoungadults.stjames@gmail.com
Adult Faith Formation (David, Darren)	Adultfaithformation.stjames@gmail.com
Hospitality & Community Life (Jaque, Melissa)	Communitylife.stjames@gmail.com
Social Justice (Dan) 1st Sunday of month 10.45am	Socialjusticeoutreach.stjames@gmail.com Meet in the Priory Dining Room

Counters

January 31 / February 1 Romy + Christy

February 7 / 8 June + Kate

Next week **5th Sunday Ordinary 8 February**	**VIGIL SATURDAY 6PM**	**SUNDAY 7AM**	**SUNDAY 9AM**
CHOIR	Carina Choir	n/a	YAM
COMMENTATOR	Pat W	Trish R	Amor McC
LECTORS	Helen D	…	YAM
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION	Priya H Collette S Paul D	Heather L Christy U Don T	Denis McI John W away June S
ALTAR SERVER/S	Charlie C	Brendon / Drew	Doreen / Lea
POWERPOINT	Paul D	Drew / Brendon	Matthew A
WELCOMERS	Helen /	Helpers requested	Karla Arnold Adriana
COLLECTORS	Charles / Ron / other helpers	Stuart / David / John	Waiting names

Masses & Services

WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday 8am; Vigil 6pm. Sunday 7am, 9am.
MASS SERVICES: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8am.
MASS SERVICE: Friday 9am.
RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4.30pm—5.30pm.
PERPETUAL ADORATION: Tuesdays 8.30am begins again 3rd February (till 5pm until further notice) Vicky brisbane.adoration@gmail.com
HEALING + ANOINTING MASS: Friday 6th February at 9am.
FIRST FRIDAY ALL NIGHT VIGIL: Friday 6th February at 7.30pm.
KERALA COMMUNITY MASS: 22nd February at 4pm.
PRAYER MEETING: Every Friday (Except 1st Friday of the month) @ 7.10 pm (Rosary), 7.30 pm (Praise & Worship followed by Message)
CHILDREN'S LITURGY: 1st and 3rd Sundays @ 9am mass. Kids Bulletin available each week, go to: copyright https://thekidsbulletin.com/about/

All Parishioners Please register to FLOCKNOTE using this QR code

Next Sunday's Readings

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A 8th February)

First Reading *Isaiah 58: 7-10 Your light will shine like the dawn.*
Second Reading *1 Corinthians 2: 1-5 I came to you to proclaim Christ crucified.*
Gospel Reading *Matthew 5: 13-16 You are the light of the world.*
www.stjames-coorparoo.org.au/sundays-readings

Scan to view readings