

**4TH SUNDAY
ADVENT
YR C 2018
23 / 24 DECEMBER**



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



From the Outside of the Window

Christmas – I have an ambiguous feeling. On the one hand, I am spiritually overwhelmed by the sincerity of God's love. Through his taking on our human weaknesses in Jesus, He assures us that sins can be forgiven. Sins do not have the last word because Christ is his Father's eternal Word. This Word denounces the Fake News that was designed to manipulate us by saying that it is good to celebrate exuberant consumerism: self-indulgence is good for our sense of self-fulfilment. At this point, it is important to recall the true message of Christmas: Christmas giving goes back to a time when Christians gave one another *small* gifts in celebration and in imitation of God's great gift to us, which is the incarnation of Christ. The simplicity of that birth has given Christians ever since pause to realize that God chose to communicate the great mystery of His love and mercy by sending us the least threatening divine presence we can imagine — a small child totally dependent on his parents.

On the other hand, Christmas arouses in me a feeling of sadness. Since becoming a religious and then a priest, I haven't been able to celebrate Christmas with my family for the last two decades, as I have been serving in many places and countries. This year, it is even more confusing as I have just lost my mum. More distressing, I am unable to be home with my dad for Christmas. So, I can imagine the sense of loneliness that many – unknown to me – experience this Christmas. I can only sympathise with them. I am thinking of the refugees, orphans, widows and parents who mourn and grieve the loss of their children. My heart is also with those who are sick and those who have been forgotten. For me, the best answer to loneliness is the intimate presence of God in my life. An authentic and deeply personal relationship with our Lord enables me to be at peace, knowing that God knows me, understands me and loves me. This gift also opens the door for me to find people to whom I can share my joys and struggles. Perhaps, you may seek intimacy with the Lord too. This is the greatest gift to a lonely heart.

Now, let us also reflect on the wider picture. 2018 was a "horrible year" for the Church. The cry of those being abused by priest and nuns, and by those who are at the same time grandparents, parents, uncles and trustworthy friends resonates in our ears and shakes the foundation of our being. They have betrayed Christ and have sinned terribly! The psychological devastation of children is petrifying. So, let us ask with Pope Benedict XVI: "We must ask ourselves what was wrong in our message, in our entire way of configuring the Christian being that allowed such a thing to occur." It is not enough to apologise and recompense the victims financially. We must find a new determination in faith and moral goodness that appears in the child Jesus, who shows us again the value of the beauty of life. Christmas calls for true justice.

2018 was also a "terrible year" for the protection and dignity of life. For me, the termination of *unwanted* babies is horrifying. How is it justifiable that around 70,000 unwanted pregnancies were being aborted per year in Australia? While it is laudable to protect the lives of mothers who are at risk of health, the new legislation also gives a free ride to those who just refuse to accept responsibilities for the unborn. A culture or civilisation is great only through its compassion! Christmas calls for true mercy.

At Christmas, God bequeaths to us the gift of life. So to celebrate Christmas is to let His divine mercy be born in our hearts through the Spirit, as we become the adopted sons and daughters in Christ. Then, sharing in His paschal mystery, we give ourselves in complete selflessness and humility to the service of our fellow humans, we share in His resurrection.

Consequently, notwithstanding all the joys and rejoicing, let us not forget to let Christ be born again in our hearts in contemplative prayer and worship, just as Mary and the shepherds did. In our merry-making, we must not be so distracted and become so worldly that we do not have time to ponder over this event quietly and meaningfully. We must not fall into the temptation of allowing the external celebrations and rejoicing to crowd out the objective of our celebration – the mercy and grace of God revealed to us in Christ Jesus. May you all have a holy and blessed Christmas!

As always, let us pray for each other, Fr. Joe.

TODAY'S READINGS:

First Reading *Micah 5: 1-4* Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel. **Second Reading** *Hebrews 10: 5-10* I am coming to do your will. **Gospel Reading** *Luke 1: 39-44* Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? **For complete Sunday's readings, visit our St James website (look for the Prayer tab). www.stjames-coorparoo.org.au/sundays-readings**



Please pray for recently deceased: Alain Manchon; Antonio Calma; Nancy Thong; Brita Daly; Marina Jiro de la Cruz; Concettina Intelisano.

And these anniversaries: Regina & Lourdes John; Agnew O'Dwyer; Miriam Martin; John Girard; Ailsa Byrne; Jesūs Chavez; Killin family.

Please pray for these unwell: Rex Ducat; Ava Pierce; Christine Carroll; Ebbie Bradfield; Alberico Salvatori; Salvador Resolado Jr.

Please give prayers and welcome to these baptismal children:

Scarlett Keys; Thea & Florence Sheehan.



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

Social Justice

**SIGNIFICANT DATES —
DECEMBER:**

Sunday 23: 1901: enactment of Immigration Restriction Act (White Australia Policy)

1996: Wik decision in the High Court.

Tuesday 25: 2005: Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love).

Wednesday 26: 2004: South Asia devastated by tsunami, killing 200,000 to 300,000 people.



Christmas Message from Pope Francis... Like Mary, may we nurture the Light born within us at Christmas. May we carry it everywhere in our daily lives.

St Augustine... Awaken, Humanity: for your God has become flesh. I repeat, for you, God has become flesh. We would be lost without his coming. (Sermon 185.1)

Planned Giving for the Week ending 16th December (Week 3)

Collection	Loose money [not pledged]	Envelopes [pledged]	Direct Debit	Credit card	Total
1 st Collection Augustinian	\$883.85	\$400.50	\$10	Week 4	\$1,294.35
2 nd Collection Parish	\$444.20	\$387.50	\$10	only	\$841.70

Parish news

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Christmas Cards and Calendars are available for purchase from St Vincent de Paul at the front of the church...

Christmas cards \$3 Franciscan calendars \$8 Columban calendars \$10

"RESTORE HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS"

THANK YOU for your generous support - Christmas hampers have been distributed and St V de P have been overwhelmed with your wonderful donations. Through the generosity of St James School, Villanova College, Loreto College and St James parishioners, 60 hampers were delivered.

If you wish to give a financial donation, envelopes for this purpose are available at the door or on the pews.



St Vincent de Paul Society
QUEENSLAND
good works



Thank you and a Merry Christmas from Youth and Young Adults Group. The Advent Wreaths were well received and proceeds go to YYAM for ongoing formation; social justice projects; retreats; community activities.

Privacy: The privacy of all individuals is important to the ST JAMES PARISH and we are committed to protecting all personal information we collect and hold. Our Privacy Policy is available at ST JAMES PARISH WEBSITE AND ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE WEBSITE or on request from the Parish Office.

Privacy Collection Statement: The parishes, schools and agencies of the Archdiocese of Brisbane (we, us or our) may collect, use and disclose personal information about you. We collect personal information directly from you and may also collect personal information passively through our website. We collect your personal information to fulfil the mission and directions of our organisation, to administer the sacraments and provide pastoral care to you, to provide you with other services and products you are seeking, to communicate with you about the services and products we offer, to solicit donations and to comply with our legal and regulatory requirements. If the personal information you provide is incomplete or inaccurate, we may not be able to provide you with the services or products you seek. We may disclose personal information about you to our parishes, schools and agencies and service providers who assist us in operating our organisation.

- * 'Lights of Christmas' attracting thousands to CBD
- * Federal Government moves to protect religious freedom in 2019 under new legislative proposals
- * Archdiocesan priest Fr William (Bill) McOwen died on December 12, remembered by friends and family
- * Aspleycare offers Christmas help to those in need despite federal funding cuts thanks to sponsors and community support
- * Pro-Life organisation Cherish Life has stood up for the rights of the unborn, naming and shaming MPs who voted in support of the abortion bill
- * Queensland parents who pleaded guilty to treating their child with medicinal cannabis have been let off with fines but no convictions, spurring on the debate about the drug

\$2 at entrances

THE CATHOLIC LEADER
Keeping Faith with You

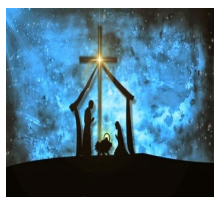
Young Adults Mass – every 4th Sunday of the month 6pm. For details phone 0413 762 544.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS Co-ordinator: Kev Mahoney

Christmas break is upon us and next meeting will be Sunday, February 4th: Baptism / Confirmation.

No Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays during January 2019.

2018 Christmas	Commentator (1 needed each mass)	Lector (1 needed each mass)	Eucharistic Ministers (as many as possible!)	Hospitality Ministers (2 needed each mass)	Power Point (1 needed each mass)	Altar Server	*COLLECTOR of money donations for special mass
Monday 24th December Christmas Eve – 6pm Fr Dang	T. RASHAD	D. TALLON	RON S. J. WALSH ANNE S.	* *	D. EGERT	J. WALSH	*
Sunday 24th December 11.30pm carols - (Midnight mass) Fr Saldie	GABBIE	K. O'REILLY	BENEDICT PRIYA SAHANYA ROSEMARIE J. WALSH	* *	*	J. WALSH	*
Tuesday 25th December 7am Fr Dang	B. TRIGGS-FULTON	C. NEANDER	HEATHER GENE	* *	M. NEANDER	*	*
Tuesday 25th December 9am Fr Joseph	K. PEARSON	S. MILLER	CARMEL	M. CHAPMAN *	*	*	*



Christmas Celebrations for St James Parish 2018...

Monday 24 December—6pm Family Mass (new time)

Monday 24 December—11.30pm for Midnight Mass (sing Carols before)

Tuesday 25 December—7am Mass and 9am Mass (There is NO 6pm Mass)

Wednesday 26th December— 8am Mass

Sunday 30th December - Feast of the Holy Family — 7am, 9am and 6pm Mass

There are Plenary Council cards within our bulletin. Please read and write your thoughts on the card. The box for these cards is available at the side entrance :)

Trish on annual leave December 26th - January 4th (Parish Office closed December 26th - January 4th)

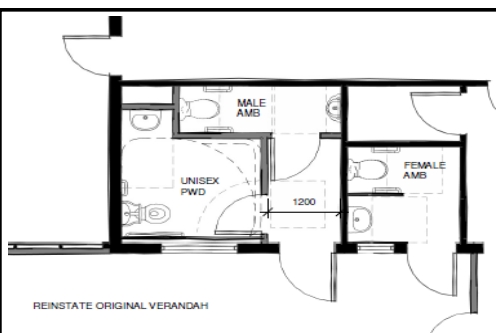
(Fr Joe's mobile in case of emergencies 0490 148 387)

Fr Saldie away December 26th - January 18th.

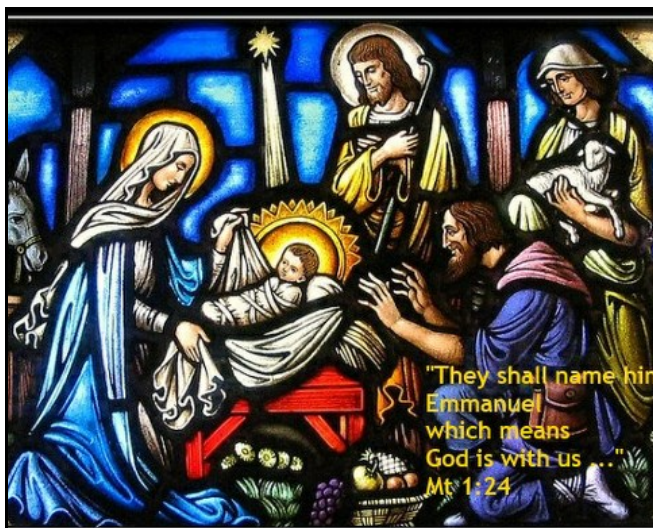
Fr Dang away January 7th - February 14th.

Happy Christmas

Thank you to Jan Quinn and family for the loan of Nell's piano to assist our parish music ministry. It has been placed beside our wonderful organ.



Construction work relating to the Parish toilets and kitchen will begin 15th January and work till 28th February 2019. Parking will be limited and certain parts to the Church may be closed during this time!



MAY YOU DISCOVER GOD'S LOVE ACTIVE IN THE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS, AND SHARE THAT LOVE WITH OTHERS

Sandie Cornish

Province Director of Mission
Society of the Sacred Heart
Australia New Zealand
Province

The Parish of St James

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Primary School

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Coorparoo, 4151.

John Bates - Principal

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Fax: 3847 3337

Email: pcoorparoostj@bne.catholic.edu.au

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



Administration

Parish Administrator	Fr Joseph Lam OSA	3397 1671
Assistant Pastor	Fr Saldie Resolado OSA	3397 1671
Assistant Pastor	Fr Dang Nguyen OSA	3397 1671
Retired	Fr. Peter Hayes OSA	3397 1671
Parish Secretary	Trish Rashad	3397 1671
Parish Council Chairperson	Ray Mitchell	3892 1682
Finance Committee	Paul Davey	0437 730 792
Pastoral Care	Parish Office	3397 1671
Safeguarding Officer	Kate Pearson	capearson@optusnet.com.au

Counters

December 22 / 23 Anne & Margaret

December 29 / 30 Karleen & Sandra

NEXT WEEK December 29 / 30	SATURDAY 6 PM	SUNDAY 7AM	SUNDAY 9AM	SUNDAY 6PM
COMMENTATOR	S. PHILLIPS	G. TRIGGS-FULTON	R. MITCHELL	C. MANALAC
LECTOR	C. NEANDER	B. TRIGGS-FULTON	M. YESUDAS	A. IBARRA
EUCCHARIST	K. O'REILLY PRIYA H. DEAKIN	YEN MAI VU N. POKARIER *	C. TREWERN Y. NGUYEN *	R. UMALI C. UMALI D. STRANO
HOSPITALITY	M-R DEAKIN F. DARCH	L. DOWNEY	P. PRINGLE	*
ALTAR SERVERS	DENEB	DON, GENE	*	JOHN, RODEL, RAMIL, ALYSSA, KLARIS
POWERPOINT	MARK	GENE, GILBERT	DI, OLIVER, JUNE	SYDEL

Mass Times **WEEKEND:** Saturday 8 am; Vigil 6 pm;
Sunday 7 am, 9 am, 6 pm.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4.30—5.30 pm.

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

ADORATION: Thursday 8 am.

PRAYER GROUP: each morning prior to Mass.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL: Friday 4th January 2019.

NEXT ANOINTING MASS: Friday **1st February 2019**, at 10am (no 8am mass on this day).

NEXT MASS WITH CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Sunday **19th February 2019** — 9am mass.



The candles of the Advent Wreath:

The fourth candle represents us, who are now called to prepare ourselves to be prophets and witnesses.