

**5TH SUNDAY
LENT
YR C 2019
6 / 7 APRIL**



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



A Reflection by Fr Ron Rolheiser, OMI

THE NON-VIOLENCE OF GOD

In his deeply insightful book, *Violence Unveiled*, Gil Bailie takes us through a remarkable section of the diaries of Captain James Cook, the famed British scientist and explorer. Visiting the Island of Tahiti in 1777, Cook was taken one day by a local tribal Chief to witness a ritual where a man was sacrificed as an offering to the god, Eatooa. The man was being sacrificed in hope that this particular god would give the tribe some assistance in an upcoming war. Cook, though friendly to the local peoples, could not conceal his detestation for what he considered both a barbaric and superstitious act. In a conversation with the tribal Chief afterwards, Cook told the Chief, through an interpreter, that in England they would hang a man for doing that.

Cook found the idea of killing someone to appease God to be abhorrent. Yet, as the great irony inside this story makes clear, we have never stopped killing people in God's name, we have only changed the nomenclature. They called it human sacrifice; we call it capital punishment. In either case, someone dies because we feel that God needs and wants this death for some divine reason.

All peoples, right up to this day, have always done violence in God's name, believing that the violence is not only justified but is in fact necessitated by God. God, it is argued, needs us to do this violence in his name. For this reason, ancient cultures often offered human sacrifice. During the medieval ages, as a Christian church, we had the Inquisition believing that God wanted us to kill people who were in doctrinal error. Today we see a new form of this in a number of extremist Islamic groups who believe that God wants infidels of all kinds put to death for the sake of religious purity.

We have forever justified killing and other forms of violence in God's name, often pointing to texts in scripture, which seemingly, show God as ordering violence in his name. But, in this, we have been wrong. Despite a number of texts which, on the surface, seem to indicate that God is ordering violence (but which are really archetypal and anthropomorphic in nature and do not justify that interpretation) we see, if we read the bible from beginning to end, a progressive revelation (or at least a progressive realization on our part) of the non-violence of God, a revelation that ends in Jesus who reveals a God of radical non-violence. Our faulty idea of the God of the Old Testament who seemingly orders the extermination of whole peoples is indeed primitive and superstitious when placed beside the concept of the Father of Jesus who sends his son into the world as a helpless infant and then lets him die helpless before a mocking crowd. The God whom Jesus reveals is devoid of all violence and asks that we no longer do violence in God's name.

To offer just one example: In John's Gospel (8, 2-11), we see the story of the woman who has been caught in adultery. As John tells the story: A crowd of pious persons bring her to Jesus and tell him that they have caught her in the very act of committing adultery and that Moses (their primary interpreter of God's will) has ordered that, for this offense, she needs to be put to death. Jesus, for his part, says nothing, instead he bends down and begins to write on the ground with his finger. Then, looking up, he tells them: "Let the person among you without sin cast the first stone!" Then he bends down and writes for a second time with his finger. Unbelievably they get the message and lay down their stones and go away.

What has happened here? The key for interpretation is Jesus' gesture of writing on the ground with his finger. Who writes with his finger? Who writes twice? God does. And what God writes with his finger and writes twice are the Ten Commandments, and he had to write them twice because Moses "broke" them the first time. Coming down the mountain, carrying the tablets of the commandments, Moses caught the people in the very act of committing idolatry and he, gripped in a fever of religious and moral fervor, broke the tables of stone on the golden calf and on peoples' heads. Moses was the first person to break the commandments and he broke them physically, thinking violence needed to be done for God's cause. Then, having broken them, he needed to go up the mountain a second time and have them rewritten by God; but before rewriting them, God gave Moses a stern message: Don't stone people with the Commandments! Don't do violence in my name! The people who wanted to stone the woman caught in adultery understood Jesus' gesture. Their divine interpreter, Moses, had it wrong.

Too often, though, we are still, in a variety of forms, stoning people with the Commandments, falsely believing that God wants this violence.

TODAY'S READINGS:

First Reading *Isaiah 43: 16-21* I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people. **Second Reading** *Philippians 3: 8-14* Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him. **Gospel Reading** *John 8: 1-11* Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone. **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: Larry Flintoff; Deirdre Roberts; Leonila Dosado; Samantha McGill; Kerry Heisner.

And these anniversaries: Alan Thompson; May Jirallding Bedit; Secondo Berta.

Please pray for these unwell: Christina Williams; Sandy Williams; Keith Delisser; Steven McSwan; Natividad Lobo Umali; Debbie Bradfield; Keith Evans; Rex Ducat.

Please give prayers and welcome to these baptismal children:

Alexandra Banham.



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

Social Justice

SIGNIFICANT DATES —

APRIL:

Sunday 7: International Day

of Reflection on the
Genocide in Rwanda.
World Health Day.

Thursday 11: 1963: Pope John XXIII's
encyclical *Pacem in Terris* ('Peace on
Earth')



7th April

**International Day of Reflection on the
Genocide in Rwanda....**

2019 marks the 25th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda, set in train by the death of then President Juvenal Habyarimana when his private aircraft was shot down on 6th April 1994.

The resulting wave of violence lasted three months and claimed the lives of between 800,000 and 1,000,000 Rwandans, mainly from the country's Tutsi community.

Planned Giving for the Week ending 31st March (Week 5)

Collection	Loose money [not pledged]	Envelopes [pledged]	Direct Debit	Credit card	Total
1 st Collection Augustinian	\$799.55	\$362.50	Nil Week 5	Week 4	\$1,162.05
2 nd Collection Parish	\$437.95	\$372.50	Nil Week 5	only	\$810.45

Parish news

Lenten Program straight after 8am mass (held in Priory dining room) Friday **finish 12th April. Way of the Cross finishes 10th April**, Wednesday after 8am mass.

Roster for Eucharistic Ministers; Lectors; Commentators and Hospitality Ministers is now available at the Sacristy. Many thanks to all our Ministry volunteers who assist us at each mass over the weekend. If you would like to assist in this Ministry, please call 3397 1671 or visit a priest after mass.

St James Parish Coorparoo (date-claimer for 2019) - *here is our Sacramental program for children.*

Please email: osastjames@bne.catholic.net.au to let us know your interest.

Term 2: Yr 4 children who wish to continue their Sacramental Program with First Eucharist: from May 13th

Term 3: Yr 3 children who wish to begin their Sacramental Program with Confirmation: from July 29th

Term 4: Yr 5 children who wish to conclude their Sacramental Program with Penance: from October 14th



No children's liturgy this Sunday 9am mass with Fr Francis' Installation Mass.



Plenary Council 2020

Plenary Council 2020

Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

When is the Plenary Council?

Plenary Council will be held in two sessions. The first will be held in October 2020 and the second session will be held in May 2021. The Council will be held in two sessions in order to enable to

deeper discernment, further learning, dialogue and listening where it may be needed and to write or

rewrite anything in response to the dialogue of the first session. Most importantly, the time in between will allow us to

ensure we are listening "to what the spirit is saying" (Rev 2:7). <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au>

Palm Sunday ministry for all weekend masses - please see last page of this bulletin for names...

EASTER SERVICES 2019

TUESDAY, 9th April - HOLY WEEK.

2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION - 7.30PM

THURSDAY, 18th April - HOLY THURSDAY.

MORNING PRAYER - 8AM

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - 7PM

FRIDAY, 19th April - GOOD FRIDAY.

MORNING PRAYER - 8AM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 10AM



CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION - 3PM

(collection for Holy Land)

SATURDAY, 20th April - HOLY SATURDAY.

MORNING PRAYER - 8AM

THE EASTER VIGIL - 7PM

(3 RCIA candidates for full reception)

SUNDAY, 21st April -

EASTER SUNDAY.

MASS TIMES: 7AM & 9AM

NO EVENING MASS

Ministers (Eucharistic, Hospitality, Collectors, etc) will be required for masses over our Easter period. **There are still empty spaces to be filled, so find the clipboard at side church entrance. Thankyou to those who have noted their name down.**



Salma featured in Project Compassion 2013. At the time she was pregnant with her first child, sick and terribly frightened. In distress, she sought the help of a midwife trained by Caritas' Safe Motherhood Program. Six years on, she's now a healthy mother of two strong, happy children.

Caritas AUSTRALIA
The Catholic agency for international aid and development
lent.caritas.org.au

Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help reduce infant mortality rates in countries like Bangladesh and proved hope to pregnant women in remote communities for happy and healthy families.

Lives change when we all give 100%. You can donate through Parish envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Week Four collection: \$521.25 (via Project Compassion envelopes, not parish collections)



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS Co-ordinator: Kev Mahoney.
Sunday, April 7th: Social Justice.

Jeff Cavins, who is well known by (USA) EWTN audiences world-wide for his regular program **Life on the Rock** and **Understanding the Mystery of the Bible**, will be in Brisbane to talk about **Catholic Faith and Scripture**. To Register, scan this QR code using your phone (QR reader app) **Date:** 5th May 2019 (**Sunday**) **Venue:** St. James Catholic Parish Catholic Church and Hall, 165 Old Cleveland Rd, Coorparoo. **Time:** 12 noon to 5:00 pm **Fee:** Free (but we request donations to defray expenses) **Bring-a-plate to share. Drinks provided. Sonny phone 0421437752**



Date claimer: Episcopal visitation to our parish by Bishop Ken Howell 17th - 20th May, 2019.



St. Vincent de Paul Society

INTERESTED IN JOINING VINNIES?

The St. Vincent de Paul Society has a number of Ministries but one of the most valuable is that of visiting people who request assistance at their homes. The main request is for food, but other needs (eg. Clothing, Furniture) are also provided for. A small group of Volunteers render this assistance within our Parish, but there are times when visits to people may be slightly delayed due to temporary shortage of Volunteers. Anyone who might have as little as 1 or 2 hours spare a week and would like to learn more about this work is invited to contact **Ron Stephenson on 0414 745 178.**



Scan me

Archdiocese news

Position Vacant - Sacristan

Applications are open for a position at the Cathedral of St Stephen. A person with Cathedral or Parish experience in liturgical ministry is required for a full time position of Sacristan for 37.5 hours a week working on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. **(see noticeboard details) Closing date 18th April 2019**

Other news of interest

Plants {Coorparoo Ward for Rate payers} available in Brisbane East region from Cottage Garden Nursery (Ph:3891 7999)

999 Stanley St East, East Brisbane.

Annual Free



ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE invites you to the annual

Chrism Mass

Thursday 21st April 2019 @ 7:00pm

**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST STEPHEN
249 ELIZABETH STREET
BRISBANE**

*A celebration for the entire Archdiocese
ALL WELCOME*



The Parish of St James

165 Old Cleveland Road.

Postal:

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COORPAROO DC, QLD, 4151

Phone: (07) 3397 1671 OR 3847 3696

Email: osastjames@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Administrator: 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 Administrator	Fr Francis Belciña OSA	3397 1671
Assistant Pastor	Fr Ngọc Hải Đăng Nguyễn OSA (Fr Dang)	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

April 6 / 7 Karleen & Sandra

April 13 / 14 Karleen & Sandra

NEXT WEEK April 13 / 14	SATURDAY 6 PM VIGIL	SUNDAY 7AM PALM SUNDAY	SUNDAY 9AM PALM SUNDAY	SUNDAY 6PM PALM SUNDAY
COMMENTATOR	R. STEPHENSON	G. TRIGGS-FULTON	J. SPENCER	J. WALSH
LECTOR	D. PHILLIPS	D. TALLON	M. YESUDAS	R. PEREIRA
NARRATION OF THE GOSPEL	K. O'REILLY R. STEPHENSON A. CHANDLER	B. TRIGGS-FULTON G. TRIGGS-FULTON D. TALLON	J. SPENCER R. MITCHELL M. YESUDAS	J. WALSH P. DAVEY J-P PEREIRA
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION	PRIYA H. DEAKIN A. STEPHENSON	N. POKARIER M-J VIDLER *	P. PRINGLE Y. NGUYEN *	R. UMALI C. UMALI *
HOSPITALITY	L. GIRARD E. O'REILLY	L. DOWNEY	*	B. SCHLECHT
ALTAR SERVERS	DENEB	OLIVER, GENE	*	JOHN, RODEL, RAMIL, ALYSSA, KLARIS
POWERPOINT	ALLAN	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 3rd May 2019.

NEXT ANOINTING MASS: Friday 3rd May 2019, at 10am (no 8am mass on this day).

NEXT MASS WITH CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Sunday 21st April 2019 — 9am mass.