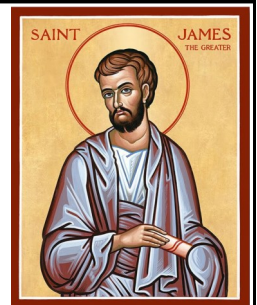


**7TH SUNDAY
ORDINARY
YR C 2025
23 FEBRUARY**

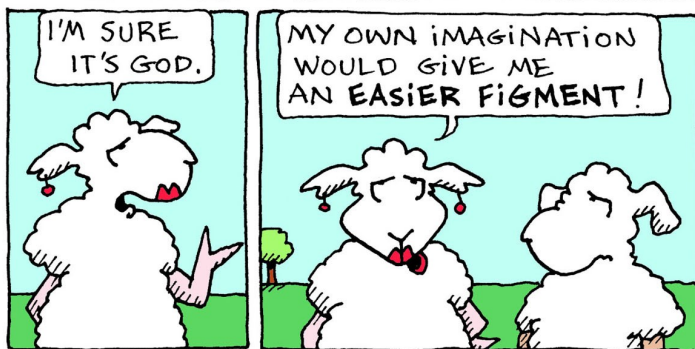
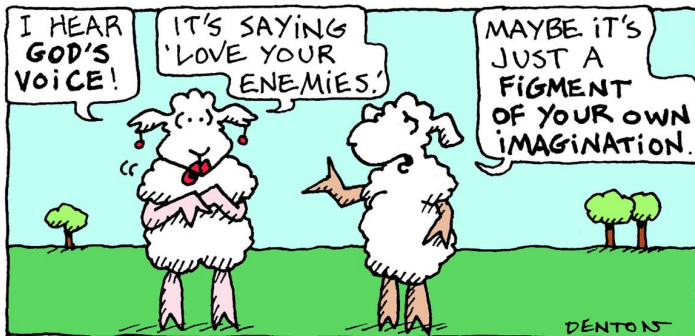
ST JAMES PARISH COORPAROO

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



Gospel Reflection

The radical teaching that was begun in last week's gospel as the beatitudes and woes is continued in this week's challenge to be forgiving, compassionate and generous in the same way that God expresses abundant love. As with the blessings and curses of the Beatitudes passage, this teaching continues the challenge to act



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“Love your enemies and do good to them ... be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

Sheepish Question:

Why is it so hard to love my enemies? How must I pray about this?

were subjugated and oppressed by an invading army. It would have been easy, and somehow 'natural', for the people of Palestine to hate the Roman occupiers and to seek revenge upon them. How confronting then for Jesus to say, 'love your enemies'! He tells the people that the way to live God's way in this situation was to be compassionate towards the oppressors; that when they rob you of your cloak to present them with your shirt as well. To do otherwise is to become like the oppressors themselves. Meeting hatred with hatred never ended hatred.

Scriptural context – Compassion

The compassion of God is a very strong theme that runs through the Gospel of Luke. Throughout the gospel, the compassion and mercy of God is emphasised and a defining feature of the gospel is the number of healings and parables that relate to people who were regarded as the outcasts of society. In this gospel, Jesus is the embodiment of God's compassion. Jesus wants all people to experience first hand the abundant love God holds for them. Today's gospel passage is a reminder that when we experience God's compassion we are also called to show it to others.

Different View – Turn the other cheek

Presenting your other cheek when someone has already struck you is usually seen as a pacifist action. However, a completely different interpretation can be made. If a man were to strike an inferior, it would be as a backhand strike – only equals fought with fists or open hands. Having been struck on one cheek with a backhand, offering the other cheek makes it impossible to again be struck with a backhand. The only option for the striker would be with an open hand – as equals fight. So, turning the other cheek can be interpreted as claiming your status as an equal.

© 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 include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.

against cultural and social expectations. Who would be surprised if you were to express hatred for an enemy or for someone who hates you or treats you badly? But Jesus tells his disciples to love their enemies and to do good to those who hate them. His instruction is contrary to the 'normal' way of doing things – and that's exactly the message Jesus wanted to convey! Rather than a spiteful, vengeful God who keeps score and punishes wrongdoing, Jesus presents a compelling image of a God of unbounded compassion and abundant generosity.

In this passage we find one version of the Golden Rule that appears repeatedly throughout the gospels (as well as most other religious traditions): 'Treat others as you would like them to treat you.' It is followed up with a comment that it takes no effort to treat well people whom you like – anybody can do that. The challenge is to treat people you don't like as you would like to be treated yourself. In a society that had very strict rules about the way to treat different people and clearly established boundaries between different groups, this was a tough ask by Jesus. Bear in mind also that there was an occupying army in the country and Jesus was encouraging the people to treat even their enemies, the Romans, with love, compassion and forgiveness. This was a radical and challenging teaching!

Historical Context – In the midst of oppression

What a powerful message Jesus delivered to people who

This Sunday's Readings

7th Sunday Ordinary (Year C February 23rd)

First Reading 1 Samuel 26: 2, 7-9, 12, 13, 22-23 *The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.*

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

Responsorial 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8 The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.	It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.	The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults	As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him.
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Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15: 45-49 *Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.*

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

Gospel Reading Luke 6: 27-38 *Be merciful as your Father is merciful.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'



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Flocknote (new parish data system) —our new communication and engagement tool.

Use your phone and our QR code to sign up and register with our parish.

You may prefer to follow this link <https://stjamescoorparoo.flocknote.com/register>

Our Parish (with the Archdiocese of Brisbane) has officially adopted Flocknote like other parishes, as a safe, new, and improved way of communicating within our parish. Flocknote is free for parishioners to use, and

there is no need to download anything. Your info is kept secure and private. It only takes a couple minutes to sign up to receive emails from the parish. You are even able to reply directly back to those emails so we can get feedback and hear from you. If you have any questions, please speak with the Parish office phone 33971671.



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:**
 Marie Linnane; Janette Joven Abinal; Aurea Lobo; Alfredo Hibalay Balaga; Margaret Carew; Fr Kim Bok-Chon (Johan) OSA; Andrea Arquileta; Joan Harding.
And these anniversaries: Josephian Symons; Graeme Dawson; Harold Frampton; Veron Forsyth; Sheila Herat; Maxima Aquilizan; Florencio Gaudinez Jr; Roberto Kindica; Franklin Foster; Ubiratã Ferreira.
Please pray for these unwell: Marilyn Graham; Ian Gillespie; George Erbacher; Bien Lorenzo; Jenny Hapea; Germain Fernando; Rebecca Evans; Michael Barton; Ty De Paoli; Alex Hastings; Jocelyn Diaz Tibayan.
Please pray for these Baptismal children:
 Max Whitehouse; Dominic Doughan; Stella Bellas.



FEBRUARY 2025

24 Monday Adult Faith EB 7-9pm in the priory
 24 Monday Reconciliation / Penance Session Two— 6pm
 Tuesdays Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration till 5pm currently

MARCH 2025

1 / 2 Saturday 4.30-5.30pm Reconciliation; 8th Sunday Ordinary Time; (Saturday Vigil 6pm; Sunday 7, 9am); Baptismal preparation session; Children's Liturgy 1st Sundays @ 9am mass.
 3 Monday Adult Faith EB 7-9pm in the priory

Parish news **Year 5 Sacrament of Reconciliation / Penance Program for Children St James Parish has begun.**



Ash Wednesday 5th March 2025
 8am mass and 7pm mass

LENT 2025

*Lenten Prayer Program in Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope, called **Start Anew in Christ**—begins Tuesday 11th March after 8am mass, with following prayer groups on Tuesdays after 8am mass. *You are warmly invited to participate.*



*Way of the Cross begins Wednesday 12th March, held in the Church each Wednesday during Lent, after 8am mass. All welcome to join us. {not held on Wednesday Holy Week}

Project Compassion 2025 Unite Against Poverty begins from Ash Wednesday 5th March. More details shortly.

This Lent, we are called to Unite Against Poverty through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. By taking home a Project Compassion donation box or envelope, you'll be answering the Gospels' call to care for our global family and walk alongside the most vulnerable. Your generous support this Lenten season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to communities facing poverty, food insecurity, lack of education, and water shortages, while building resilience against future challenges. Together, through faith and action, we can bring compassion and opportunity to those most in need. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or QR code available shortly. Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion Or by calling: 1800 024 413

From Archdiocesan Ministries ... An interactive Lenten calendar filled with inspiration, practical ideas and video links to help both kids and adults enter into this beautiful season. Lent for Kids and Holy Week for Kids is also on the website. See our noticeboard for an example. <https://archdiocesanministries.org.au/children-and-families/lent-for-kids/>

RAP Launch photos available to view in the photo gallery on our parish website. Click here to view them <https://www.stjames-coorparoo.org.au/photo-gallery.html>

From Fr Francis—**Tuesday Adorers** have been faithfully delivered by Ben and Vicky Bulaong. I am very grateful for their consistency and dedication. The Work, Health and Safety (WHS) Office of the Archdiocese of Brisbane has recently sent a directive reminding all parishes, particularly those that conduct Perpetual Adoration, about the need to follow further measures to mitigate risks. In relation to this directive, **St James Parish at this time will be available for Eucharistic Adoration up to 5pm (Tuesdays), until further instructions.** We appreciate your understanding.

On 1st and 2nd March weekend masses, we will hold our **Masses that launch our 2025 Planning for Ministry Groups.** All plans for 2025 will be revealed and unfolded.

Regina Caeli Parish hosts **World Day of Prayer 2025.** Prayers created by Cook Islands - **March 7th at 10am** in Regina Caeli church. Everyone warmly invited and see church doors for information.

ROMERO CENTRE is a place of welcome and sanctuary under the care of Archdiocese of Brisbane Ministries for people arriving in Australia seeking asylum looking for safety and human rights - Centre inspired by human rights campaigner, St Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador. Parishioners are kindly asked to help by donating any of the following items: (white baskets at entrances)
 cooking oil - olive oil
 basmati rice
 white sugar and plain flour
 UHT milk and coffee
 noodles
 Weetbix
 tinned corn and tuna
 coconut milk/cream
 shower gel
 laundry powder /liquid
 nappies size 6
 tinned chickpea and coconut milk



Planned Giving for the Week of 16th February 2025

Collection Account numbers	Loose money [not pledged]	Envelopes [pledged]	Direct Debit	Donation Tap	Total
1st Collection Augustinian Priory BSB: 064 786 Account #: 100019791	\$668.20	\$135	\$612	\$370	\$1,785.20
2nd Collection St James Parish BSB: 064 786 Account #: 100018086	\$913.95	\$135	\$582	\$370	\$2,000.95

Parish of St James

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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 pp.stjames@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	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)	Worshipandliturgy.stjames@gmail.com
Youth & Young Adults (Thesi)	Youthandyoungadults.stjames@gmail.com
Adult Faith Formation (David, Andreina, Darren)	Adultfaithformation.stjames@gmail.com
Hospitality & Community Life (Jaquie, Melissa)	Communitylife.stjames@gmail.com
Social Justice (Dan)	Socialjusticeoutreach.stjames@gmail.com

Counters

February 22 / 23 Romy + Christy

March 1 / 2 June & Kate

Next week	8th Sunday Ordinary March 1 / 2	VIGIL SATURDAY 6PM	SUNDAY 7AM	SUNDAY 9AM
CHOIR		Sylvia + Chris	n/a	Dan F
COMMENTATOR		Helen D	David B	Leo B
LECTORS		Karleen O'R	Trish R	Darren McC
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION		Ron S Anne S Sylvia P	Jan L Don T Priya H	Shadi A Christine U-M Karla V
ALTAR SERVER/S		Joe R (away) Edward	Brendon / Drew	Lea/ Alejandra/ Leo/ Doreen
POWERPOINT		Paul D	Brendon / Trish / Drew	Adriana M
WELCOMERS		Helen D / Edward	David +	Darren Bettina Charlotte Melissa

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 till Tuesday 5pm until further notice)

Vicky brisbane.adoration@gmail.com

HEALING + ANOINTING MASS: Anointing Mass 7th March

FIRST FRIDAY ALL NIGHT VIGIL: Friday 7th March

KERALA COMMUNITY MASS: 23rd 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/>



Welcome
New Parishioners
Please register
using this QR code



Next Sunday's Readings

8th Sunday Ordinary (Year C March 2)

First Reading *Sirach 27: 4-7 Do not praise someone before they have spoken.*

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 15: 54-58 Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.*

Gospel Reading *Luke 6: 39-45 A person speaks from what is in his heart.*

www.stjames-coorparoo.org.au/sundays-readings

Scan to view readings

