

James Wall was born in Sydney in 1929. He completed his secondary education at St Ignatius College, Riverview, in 1946 and for seven years was employed on sheep and cattle properties and in a wool-broker and stock and station agency.

In 1954, he entered a religious order and completed four years of study in philosophy, natural theology and associated studies, leaving before taking final vows. In 1958, he started studies in social work, first at the University of Adelaide and then at the University of Melbourne.

James was employed in social work and other capacities in both the Victorian and the Commonwealth Public Services. His positions included: Director (Social Work and Welfare) in the then Commonwealth Department of Social Security, Senior Adviser in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and, after being promoted to the Senior Executive Service, Director of Welfare for the Australian Capital Territory. In 1987, he retired from the public service to become the first Executive Director of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of the Australian Capital Territory.

James has pursued religious and philosophic studies over his adult lifetime and also has a longstanding interest in public affairs. He is married and has three adult children and two grandchildren. He lives with his wife, Geraldine, in Canberra.

‘It is a humbling, and yet moving, experience to share in this work, the intellectual and spiritual ruminations of James Wall in his search for truth and enlightenment. As a well read and thoughtful lay member of the Catholic Church, James has much to say that should provoke rethinking of many beliefs and practices. This book deserves to be widely read and debated.’

– Professor David Biles, Charles Sturt University

‘James Wall’s reflections take us on a stimulating journey through the significant social, economic, ecological and spiritual issues that exercise contemporary society. He grapples with these issues as a thoughtful, widely read layperson who values his rich Catholic tradition and engages honestly with the world around him. Perceptive, challenging and well reasoned, his insights inform the quest for a meaningful marriage of reason and faith.’

– Howard Bath, PhD Director, Thomas Wright Institute, Canberra

Ginninderra Press

ISBN 1-74027-108-4



9 781740 271080