

## OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Bernadette Franc 0427678830

Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*

Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

**SUNDAY – September 17<sup>th</sup> 2023**  
24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**RECENT DEATHS:** Eileen McManus, Valda Murphy  
(Angela Gerrard's Mum)

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Lynette Ford, Hugh Cushing, Beatrice Rogers,  
Gertrude Brennan, Anthony Carbone, Isabelle  
Meehan, Isabelle McArthur, John Molony, John  
Fitzpatrick, Patsy Collins & Amy Packman.

### **PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

Pat Byrne, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian  
McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, Bernie Duffy, Tony  
Collins, Frank Meehan, Wilma Tiley and all those in  
need of prayer.

### **ROSTER:**

#### ***Introduction & Reading***

Today: John Jess

Sept 24<sup>th</sup>: Sue Mahony

#### ***Prayers of the Faithful***

Today: Carita Clancy

Sept 24<sup>th</sup>: Bernadette Franc

#### ***Assembly Leaders***

Today: Sue Mahony & Angela Gerrard

October 1<sup>st</sup>: Sue Mahony & Carita Clancy

#### ***Special Minister***

Today: Gail Hall

Oct 1<sup>st</sup>: Therese Jess

#### ***Music***

Sue Mahony

#### ***Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers***

Sept 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>: Chandler Family

#### ***Church Grounds:***

Sept 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>: Chandler Family

#### ***Newsletter:***

September Angela Gerrard 0439565468

### **MASS TIMES**

Sept 24<sup>th</sup>: **MASS 8.30 a m**

### **PILGRIMAGE:**

#### **IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP**

The pilgrimage will begin in East Melbourne on  
October 17 and conclude at Mary MacKillop Place in  
North Sydney on October 28. Along the way pilgrims  
will visit historic sites and towns including Portland, Pe-  
nola, Robe and the Mary MacKillop Chapel in North  
Sydney. Register at [https://www.marymackillop-  
place.org.au/retreats-spirituality/australian-national-pil-  
grimage/](https://www.marymackillop-place.org.au/retreats-spirituality/australian-national-pilgrimage/)

### **Pope's intention for September – For people living on the margins:**

We pray for those persons living on the margins of  
society, in inhumane life conditions. May they not be  
overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser  
importance. Lord, hear us.

### **2023 Season of Creation Prayer**

Creator of All,  
from your communion of love life sprung forth like a  
mighty river and the whole cosmos came into being.

On this Earth of overflowing love, the Word was made  
flesh and went forth  
with the life-giving waters proclaiming peace and justice  
for all creation.

You called human beings to till and keep your garden.  
You placed us into right relationship with each creature,  
but we failed to listen to the cries of the Earth and the  
cries of the most vulnerable.

We broke with the flowing communion of love and sinned  
against you  
by not safeguarding the conditions for life.

We lament the loss of our fellow species and their habi-  
tats,  
we grieve the loss of human cultures,  
along with the lives and livelihoods that have been dis-  
placed or perished,  
and we ache at the sight of an economy of death,  
war and violence that we have inflicted on ourselves and  
on the Earth.

Open our ears to your creative, reconciling and sustain-  
ing Word  
that calls to us through the book of Scripture and the  
book of creation.

Bless us once again with your life-giving waters so that  
the

Creator Spirit may let justice and peace flow in our hearts  
and overflow into all creation.

Open our hearts to receive the living waters of God's jus-  
tice and peace,  
and to share it with our suffering brothers and sisters, all  
creatures around us and all creation.

Bless us to walk together with all people of good will so  
that the many streams of the living waters of God's jus-  
tice and peace  
may become a mighty river all over the Earth.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news  
to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen

‘And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master’s feet. “Give me time,” he said, “and I will pay the whole sum.” And the servant’s master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. “Pay what you owe me,” he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, “Give me time and I will pay you.” But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. “You wicked servant,” he said, “I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?” And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.’

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

17 SEPTEMBER 2023

## THE CALL TO FORGIVENESS

A well-balanced life is something worth striving for, but human nature being what it is, balance is not always easily achieved. Today the readings deal with the question of balance and consistency regarding how we expect God to treat us and the ways we deal with each other. Resentment, vengeance, and anger can all find their place in the human heart and Ecclesiasticus advises that a more tolerant approach is more beneficial. If we cannot forgive each other, how can anyone expect God to forgive our failings?

Matthew approaches the question from the other direction. Rather than looking at what we will receive from the Lord, the striking parable of the two debtors teaches us to look at what we have already received. Since God has already looked kindly and mercifully on us this should lead to a corresponding degree of forbearance with one another.

While it is not stated in today’s reading from Romans, Paul is dealing with a community where there was some tension regarding eating meat left over from temple sacrifices. For the more liberal members of the community eating this meat was not a problem. Others in the community were scandalised and thought it was idolatry. Paul’s approach is to remind both groups that whatever we do influences our brothers and sisters. As Christians, the way to find a sense of balance is to remember that we are called to live for the Lord. Sometimes this calls us to die to ourselves to preserve peace and unity. Christ gave his life for us all, should we not do the same for each other?

**Christopher Monaghan CP**

## FIRST READING

Sir 27:30–28:7

**A reading from the Book of Sirach.**

*Forgive your neighbour’s faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.*

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

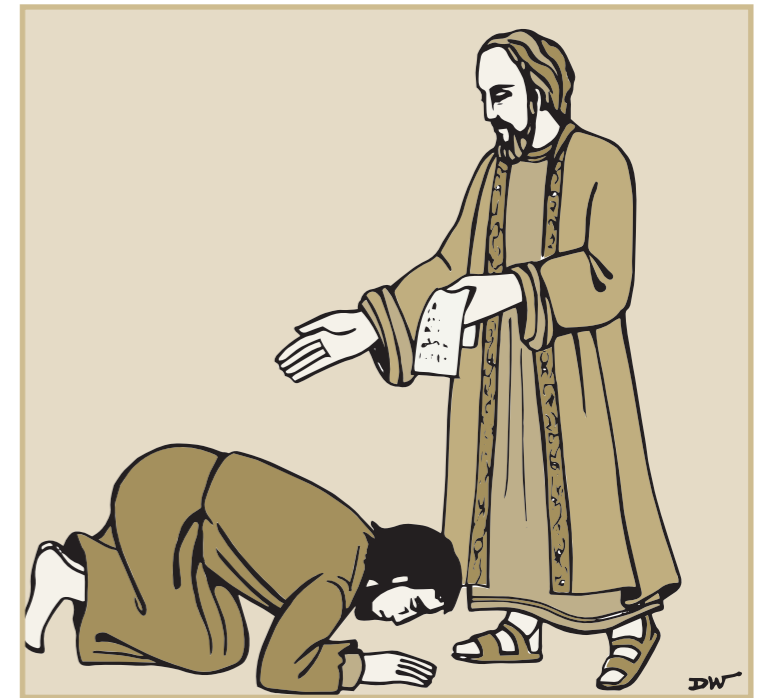
Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 102: 1-4, 9-12. R. v. 8

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

1. 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. **R.**
2. 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. **R.**
3. His wrath will come to an end; / he will not be angry for ever. / He does not treat us according to our sins / nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth / so strong is his love for those who fear him. / As far as the east is from the west / so far does he remove our sins. **R.**



## SECOND READING

Rom 14: 7-9

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.**

*Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 13: 34

**Alleluia, alleluia! / I give you a new commandment: / love one another as I have loved you. / Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Mt 18: 21-35

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

*I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.*

Peter went up to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.’