

'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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# Reflections on the Gospel



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

13 SEPTEMBER 2020

## FORGIVENESS BEYOND CALCULATION

In the parable of the Unforgiving Debtor that Jesus tells in response to Peter's question about forgiveness, the debt of 'ten thousand talents' is an utterly fantastic sum: in today's terms, 'billions of dollars'—something that the servant, despite his plea for time, could never hope to repay. He stands to lose absolutely everything—freedom, family, possessions—for his whole life long. The master's generosity in cancelling the debt in effect restores his life.

In comparison, the debt that the servant himself is owed by a fellow servant and which he is violently unwilling to remit, is paltry. The equivalent of a few hundred days' wages. Given time, it could easily be paid off. Hence the wickedness of the servant in not passing on to his fellow even a tiny portion of the immense generosity he had himself received.

The Lord would have Peter and all members of the community understand that they live as people who, through Christ's costly love, have received remission of a debt (the debt of sin) that they could never repay. How inappropriate then an unwillingness to forgive fellow members of the community the 'debts' set up by injury on a much smaller scale.

That said, we know that forgiveness is not something to speak of lightly. For people who have been deeply wronged finding the capacity to forgive may be the task of a lifetime. It cannot simply be willed—still less prescribed, urged or imposed by others who have not shared the loss. It is a grace, an entrance into the mystery of God's own generosity.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

## 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

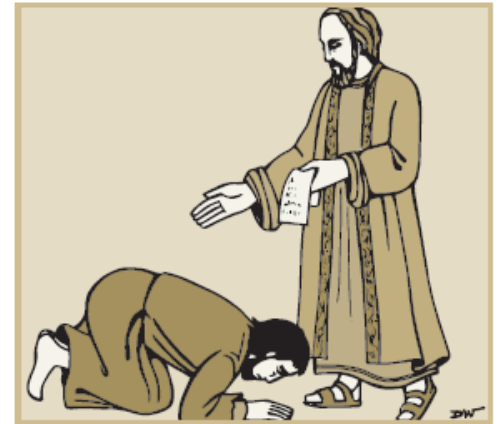
**R.** The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

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

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.'

13 Sept 2020  
Wk 24 Yr A/2

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org/>



**Parish Priest** Fr Anthony Koppman  
**Deacon** Deacon Peter Harrison

**Presbytery** 67658211  
**Office Hours:**  
Tues - Fri 9.30 - 11.30 am  
[westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)

**Administration:** Ms Anne Bowden  
Ms Di Bolitho  
**Sacristan** Mrs Elaine Smyth

**St Joseph's School**  
**Principal Mrs Katie Hanes** 67654079

**WEEKEND  
MASSES**

**Vigil: Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am and 5.30 pm**  
\*\*72 people only in the church

**CONFESSIONS**

**Sat: 4.30-5.15pm**

\*Or by appointment

**WEEKDAY  
MASSES**

\*\*\*\*\* NO WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK \*\*\*\*\*  
INCLUDING SATURDAY  
\*\*\*\*\*

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

**Recently Deceased:** Peter Press, Bob Edgecock, Dudley Ryan, Sr Kathleen Price (sjm),

**Anniversaries:** Bill Hansen (10/9), Betty Lynch (2/9), Matthew Moloney (9/9).

**Deceased:** Thomas Brown, Elizabeth (Betty) Perry, Max Kennedy, Joy Aurelia Trowbridge, Lionel Grattan, Margaret O'Callaghan, William Coulston, Andrew Tickner, Hugh O'Brien, John O'Brien.

**Sick:** Kim Myers, Rachel MacPherson, Shirley Hobbs, Deacon Peter Harrison, Jenny Buxury, Aria Lee Hawley, Joy Makepeace, John Joe Kietly, Monica Austin, Joe Lew, Trisha Aquino, Paul Steer, Baby Jack Smith, Noel O'Brien, Bill Press, Karen Guillermo, David Owens, Yvonne Tarrant, Terry Lee, Rosa Maria Santos, Margaret Greentree, Janice Rizzi, Richard Crawford, Sr Pat Bartley, Judy Cumins, Brindley Cavallaro, Maureen Harrison, Elaine White, Linda Bourke, Peggy Bussell, Margaret Doyle, Christopher Struck, Graeme Bussell, Jack & Marge Attard.

### CRACKERS TAILS *God's Generosity*



A man on his Harley was riding along a Newcastle beach when the sky clouded above his head and, in a booming voice, God said, "Because you have tried to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish."

The biker pulled over and said, "Build a bridge to Sydney so I can ride there anytime I want." God replied, "Your request is materialistic; and a little disappointing. I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire. Take a

little more time and think of something that could possibly help mankind."

The biker thought about it for a long time. Finally, he said, "God, I wish that I, and all men, could understand women. I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, why she snaps and complains when I try to help, and how I can make a woman truly happy."

God replied - "You want two lanes or four on that bridge?"

**FORGIVE**

### COMING EVENTS

20 Sep Marriage Preparation Course, Gunnedah Parish  
18 Oct World Mission Appeal (Mission Sunday)

*"We are all in His hands." (1870)*



**NO WEEKDAY MASSES** Due to current construction in the church there will be no weekday masses this week from Monday 14 September through to Saturday 19 September inclusive. Please refer to St Nicholas' and Mary Help of Christians' websites for details of weekday masses.

**\*\*Weekend masses will be celebrated as normal this week.\*\***

**HOLY LANDS COLLECTION-THIS WEEKEND:** Pope Francis transferred the Pontifical Good Friday Collection for this year to this Sunday 13 Sept. due to the closure of Churches during the Coronavirus. Envelopes are available on the pews. Your support of this important collection is greatly appreciated.

**CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY:** This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. The Church takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk. Find out more at: [www.catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday](http://www.catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday)

or <https://www.cpsltd.org.au/safe-church/national-catholic-safeguarding-standards/>

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE:** Are you or someone you know considering marriage? The next course will be held on at St Joseph's Gunnedah Parish 20 September 2020. Please contact our office.

**COVID-19 UPDATE:** Masses are continuing in line with current COVID-19 restrictions.



**ONLY 72 PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO ATTEND MASS AT ANY ONE TIME AT ST PATRICKS.**

It is preferable for you to register with the Parish Office. **PLEASE EMAIL THE PARISH AND LEAVE YOUR NAME, TELEPHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS AND PREFERENCE TIME FOR MASS ATTENDANCE (Saturday evening or Sunday).** The parish phone is not always attended so please only call if you do not have email. If not

registered you may still attend mass, however you MUST leave your name and contact details on the sheet upon entering and can only enter if less than 72 people have registered on the entry sheet already. \*\*Masks are currently strongly recommended however not mandatory at the time of print.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING - \*\*YOU MUST - \*\* REGISTER TO ENTER**

- \*\* SANITISE HANDS ENTERING AND LEAVING

- \*\* KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

**COLLECTIONS:** The Parish continues to be financially impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Thank you to those parishioners who are continuing their planned giving by direct debit. The option of electronic transfer/direct debit is always available, and preferable. Collections are gratefully received by placing first and second collection (envelopes/loose) into the relevant slot in the box at the back of the church or alternatively they may be placed in the plates as offered by the collectors. Please do not touch the plates.

*Pope Francis reminds us that we are forgiven  
in the measure with which we forgive  
those who trespass against us.*



**Sat Cleaning Roster:** 19/9/20

J Cunningham & K O'Brien 25/9/20 J Hutt and J Moran

**First Collection WEST TAMWORTH PRESBYTERY BSB 082105 Acc 001023642**

**Second Collection WEST TAMWORTH CHURCH BSB 082105 Acc 001041198**