

'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 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



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

17 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

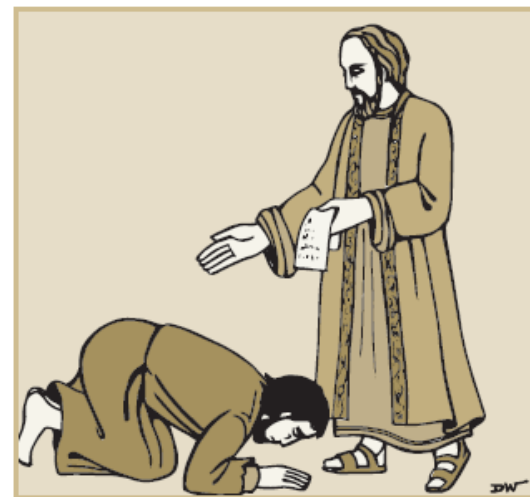
R. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

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.'

17 Sep 23
Wk 24 Yr A

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>
Email: westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au



Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman
Pastoral Associate: Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.
Administration Di Bolitho, Anne Bowden
Sacristan Elaine Smyth
School Principals Greg O'Toole and Maree Holland

Office Hrs: Wed & Thurs 8.30-11.30 am

Presbytery 67658211
Pastoral Associate 0411703608
St Josephs School 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES	Sat: 5.30pm	Sun: 9am	Sun: 5.00pm	CONFESSIONS
	Wed: 12 noon Mass			Sat: 4.30-5.15pm
WEEKDAY MASSES	Sts Andrew Kim Tae-Gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang and Companions			*Or by appointment
	Thur: 9 am Liturgy Service St Matthew	Fri: 12 noon Liturgy Service		

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Sr Petra Ries RSJ, Joy Graham, Shirley Collier, Nell Flexman.

ANNIVERSARIES: Blake Hallam (1/9), Bernaro Roworth (14/9), Mary Betts (24/9), Barbara Scott (25/9).

DECEASED: Josephine Galea, Sr Betty Kennedy, Eva, Joe and Bill McLean, Mel and Mary Hutchins, Suzanne Roberts, Tony Williams, Eric Johnston, Sr Margaret Lambert RSJ, Sr Katharine Louis RSJ, Fr Lewis Fenton, Sr Janet Cummings RSJ, Wilma Grimer, Sophie Littlejohns.

SICK: Monica Austin, Margaret Doyle, Baby Walker MacAlpine, Sandra Sheedy, John Betts, Gerard Dunn, Sr Gerard Joseph, Shane Davidson, Joan Crowe, Lisa Foster, Norma O'Brien, Terry Dean, Barbara Brennan, Colin MacPherson, Graeme Bussell, Kate Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Alison and baby Huxley Gallagher, William Bonner, Fr Bernie Flood, Pauline Wiley.

VEENA'S VERSIONS - A man buys a parrot and brings him home.

...but the parrot starts insulting him and gets really nasty, so the man picks up the parrot and tosses him into the freezer to teach him a lesson. He hears the bird squawking for a few minutes, but all of a sudden the parrot is quiet. The man opens the freezer door, the parrot walks out, looks up at him, and says, "I apologize for offending you, and I humbly ask your forgiveness." The man says, "Well, thank you. I forgive you." The parrot then says, "If you don't mind my asking, what did the chicken do?"

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: **BSB 082 105**

1st. Collection - West Tamworth Presbytery Acc No: 001023642 (Diocesan collection)

2nd Collection - West Tamworth Catholic Church (St Patricks) Acc No: 001041198

**Direct Debit or EFT donations are preferred for planned giving; (envelopes are still available)

COMING EVENTS:

Sept 24 - Migrant and Refugee Sunday

Oct 15-20: Events for Marriage & Family Week

Sept 28-1 Oct: - Ignite Conference in Sydney

COVID: * FACE MASKS RECOMMENDED; * SANITISER AVAILABLE

"Try to keep God with us by charity of thought, word and act." (1890)



PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND: Thank you for your support of this and the Good Shepherd fund. If you requested a receipt for the donation, please collect from the back of the church.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL: This annual appeal will be held the weekend of 23 and 24 September 2023. We would be grateful for your financial support to this appeal.

POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY: A service will be held at St Patricks Church to commemorate this special day on 29 September. All are invited to the church service at 10 am.

PARISH APPOINTMENTS: A number of movements of priests within the Diocese have recently been announced. Fr Paul Chandler at Inverell, Fr James Poovathinkal at Tenterfield effective 22 September. Fr Damian Locke at Cathedral Armidale effective 12 October. Fr Roel Llave at South Tamworth, and Fr Paul Anthony Aguilar at Cathedral Armidale effective 7 November. Please keep these priests in your prayers as they take appointments in their parishes.

PALMS AUSTRALIA: Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills and knowledge with those who have few other chances for training. Build enduring global relationships while assisting sustainable, self-reliant, community development. Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. If you would like to know more about PALMS AUSTRALIA please see the notice on the board.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP PILGRIMAGE: An Australian Pilgrimage led by a Sister of Saint Joseph & the inaugural Director of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Melbourne. 17 October – 28 October 2023. Please see the Noticeboard for more information or visit our website: www.marymackillopplace.org.au

PRAYER FOR OUR NEW BISHOP

God our Father, in Jesus, your Son,
You have given to your Church the perfect model of priest,
prophet and king, and so You have blessed us through His sacrifice,
taught us through His Word, and guided us through His rule.
We ask You, Father, to guide and enlighten those who will be tasked
with helping to choose the next bishop of our diocese.
May the person they choose be one of deep and true prayer,
a person of a compassionate heart and firm resolve,
and a person of joy and peace, who desires above all to do Your will.
We entrust our prayers to our Patroness, Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary,
and ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen



WEEK 5 ROSTER: 17/9/23

Vigil: R C Ledwos D Bolitho
9am Sun: R J Ryan G Clout
5.00pm Sun: R J Murray A O'Halloran
Counting Team Volunteer A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 22/9 S Brown V Griffiths
Altar Linen: E Jackson

WEEK 6 ROSTER: 24/9/23

Vigil: R D Gowing, G Styman
9am Sun: R S Brown, A Sartori
5.00pm Sun: R M Murray C Lavell
Counting Team G & M Thrift, A Bowden
Fri Cleaning 29/9 K O'Brien M Brown
Altar Linen: M Vella

We acknowledge the First Nations people who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of First Nations people to this land and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

