

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

FORGIVE FROM THE HEART

Have you ever been hurt by another? How do you act? Can you forgive? Hurts, misunderstanding and at times serious ruptures can occur amongst Jesus' members. The question which Peter asks Jesus is relevant: 'How often should one forgive another? Seven times?' Jesus replies, 'Seventy times seven,' meaning forgiveness is beyond calculation.

Jesus then offers a parable to highlight the essential truth about forgiving others 'from the heart'. The story involves two servants. One owes his king 1000 talents. In Matthew's day a talent was worth a year's wage. The servant owes the king 1000 years' wages! An impossible debt to honour, even though the servant promises to pay it in time. The king, out of compassion, cancels the debt. Whew! Leaving the judgement hall, that same servant comes across a fellow servant who owes 100 denarii. A denarius is a day's wage, so the debt is a hundred days' wages, a paltry sum by comparison. But in this second scenario, compassion and debt cancellation are absent. The king gets to hear of this and imprisons the first servant for his lack of forgiveness.

Meanness of spirit and forgiveness of heart will have their divine repercussions, the point of the final words of today's Gospel. Matthew's Jesus invites us to reflect upon our own forgiving and compassionate spirit towards those who have hurt or wronged us. As we pray in the Lord's Prayer, '...forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.' The measure of our forgiveness is ultimately not God but our own hearts.

Fr Michael Trainor

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.

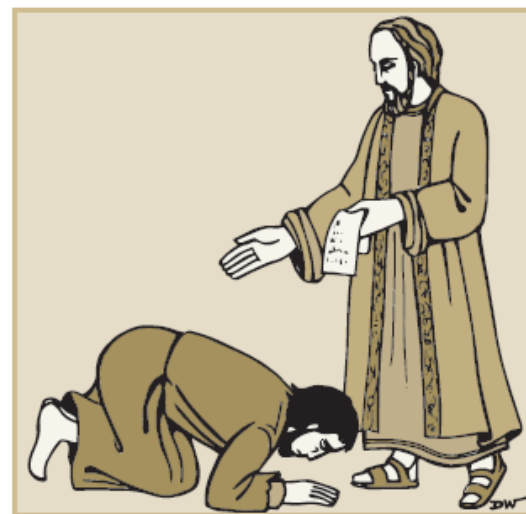
RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 102: 1-4, 9-12. R. v. 8
R. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

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.'

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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13 September 2026

24th Sunday

Year A

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>

Email: westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au



Parish Priest Fr Vic Ignacio M.S.
Office Admin Kaytie Walther, Di Bolitho
Sacristan Elaine Smyth
School Principals Greg O'Toole & Maree Holland

OFFICE HOURS:
Mon & Fri: 9.30 am - 1.30pm
Presbytery 67658211
St Josephs School 67654079

WEEKEND Sat: 5.30pm **Sun:** 9am & 5pm

MASSES Mon: 5pm (The Exaltation of the Holy Cross)

WEEKDAY Tues: 9am (Our Lady of Sorrows) **Wed:** 12pm (St Cornelius)

MASSES Thurs: 9am **Fri:** 12pm **Sat:** 10am Mass Our Lady of La Salette

CONFESSIONS

* **Sat: 4.30 - 5.00pm**

* **During Adoration**

11.15 - 11.45am

* **By appointment**

ENTRANCE Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true.

ANTIPHON: Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

COMMUNION How precious is your mercy, O God!

ANTIPHON: 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: Fr Bernard Frize, Nev Michell

ANNIVERSARIES: Matthew Moloney (9/9) Chris Morris (12/9), Clara Urner (12/9), Hugh O'Brien, Val Chillingworth (14/9), Deacon Peter Harrison (21/9)

DECEASED: We pray for our loved ones now in God's care: Fr Michael Mullane, William Smith, Jeanette Whale, Jean Wellwood, Julie Michell, Pat Jones, Paul Karam.

SICK: Sienna Baker, May Press, John Betts, Norma O'Brien, Elaine Murray, Shane Davidson, Lisa Bond, Sr Cecilia Pistacchio, Judy Murphy, Monica Austin, Brian Rodway, Yvonne Tarrant, Barry McNamara, Bill Dennis, Carmel Koppman, Eileen Hudson, Julie Moran, Ruby New, Elizabeth Coroneos, Elizabeth William, Michael Jones, Veronica Frost, Mary Gallaher, Beryl Flood, Enid Wright, Doalis Fester, Michelle Asbury, Jacinta Bentley, Maureen Harrison, Joel Porter, Rose Pace and retired Diocesan Clergy.

COMING EVENTS:

13 Sep: First Eucharist Celebration
9am Mass followed by our
regular parish morning tea

13 Sep: Safeguarding Sunday
- 'Love Protects'.

18 Sep: Adoration 11am,
Mass at 12pm

19 Sep: Mass for Our Lady of La Salette
10am



Remember, Our Lady of La Salette, true Mother of Sorrows, the tears you shed for me on Calvary. Remember, also, the care you have always taken to keep me faithful to Christ your son. After having done so much for your child, you will not now abandon me.

Inspired by this consoling thought, I come to cast myself at your feet, in spite of my infidelities and ingratitude. Do not reject my prayer, O merciful Virgin, but intercede for my conversion, obtain for me the grace to love Jesus above all things, and to console you by a holy life, that I may one day see you in Heaven.

Amen

TWENTY - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

WELCOME TO ALL THOSE JOINING US AT ST PATRICKS.

FR BERNARD FRIZE FUNERAL: The requiem Mass For the repose of the soul of Fr Bernie Frize will be held at 11am on Monday 14 September 2026, at St Mary & Joseph's Cathedral Armidale. The funeral will be live streamed through Paddington's website- link here for when live.. [Bernie Frize](#)
After the committal at the Armidale cemetery you are welcomed to join the Clergy & Family for light refreshments at Armidale services Club, 137 Dumaresq Street Armidale.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 'LOVE PROTECTS':

"Your mission is to help ensure that abuse is prevented. Yet prevention is never just a set of protocols or procedures. It is about helping to form, throughout the church, a culture of care, in which the protection of minors and persons in vulnerable situations is not seen as an obligation

imposed from outside, but as a natural expression of faith" Pope Leo XIV, 16 March 2026

PIOUS GOODS: We had had several payments transferred back to the Church Account for Pious Goods which have used the **incorrect account number**. Unfortunately we do not see who these are from, to contact you, and luckily ADIG have corrected the funds to our account as the error is a simple number switch. If paying online for Pious Goods please use the **Church Account** details as per the page opposite to pay and check your details before sending. Thank you.

READERS NEEDED: We are in great need of more readers. If you can help by joining this team, please do not hold back and speak to Father or a parish sacristan or staff. Training can be provided if required. We really appreciate your help.

SINGING AT MASS: Please! "**Sing to the Lord**", and participate in the praise of Our Lord in this way. To sing in church is to express worship and devotion to God or as one priest has said, *to sing in Mass is to pray twice*. . . Let us all praise the Lord in song in our celebrations.

RALLY FOR LIFE - PARLIAMENT HOUSE SYDNEY: Tuesday 15 Sept. 6pm-7pm. Every year in NSW, thousands of unborn babies lose their lives to abortion - right through all 40 weeks of pregnancy. In 2024 alone, 17,740 babies lost their lives to abortion in NSW. NSW law allows abortion through all 40 weeks of pregnancy. We cannot stay silent. This is our opportunity to send a clear message to every NSW MP before the next election in March 2027: The public is watching, we will not accept abortion up to birth, and we expect our elected representatives to act. For more information about the how and where go to this link: [NSW Rally For Life September 2026](#)

If unable to attend and wish to send a letter to your NSW Nationals MPs go to this link which will assist you with email addresses of MPs etc : <https://www.drjoannahowe.com.au/natsumustact>

COLLECTIONS: BSB: 082 105 (For electronic bank transfer donations)

West Tamworth Presbytery: (Armidale Diocese-1st Coll'n) BSB: 082 105 Acct. 001023642

West Tamworth Catholic Church: (Church-2nd Coll'n) BSB: 082 105 Acct. 001041198

ROSTER: 13/09/26

Vigil:
9am Sun:
R: C Ledwos, D Bolitho
R: St Joseph's School

5.00pm Sun:
Counting Team:
R Volunteer/s please
P. Sheils, S. Brown

Fri Cleaning:
****No cleaning this week**

ROSTER: 20/09/26

Vigil:
9am Sun:
R: N Pullman, P Bamford
R: A Sartori, R. Paull

5.00pm Sun:
Counting Team:
R: Volunteer/s please
M. Vella & A. Bowden
V. Griffiths, S. Karam

Gifts:
Gifts:
A & C Lyons
St Joseph's School

Altar Linen:
***Morning Tea:**
H. Reid
S. Brown

Gifts:
Gifts:
B & M Watson
G & U McKay

Altar Linen:
J. Hutt