

‘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

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

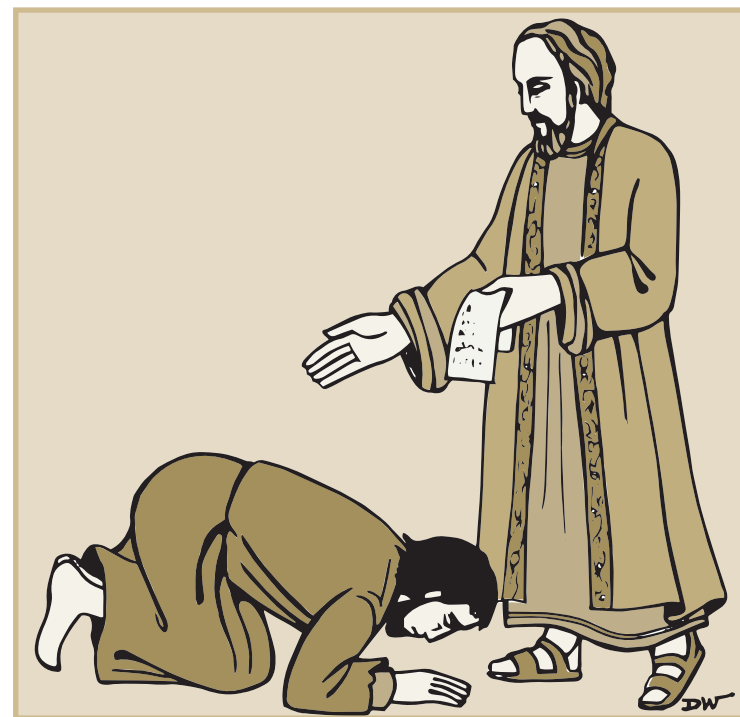
R. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

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.



Parish Clergy & Staff:

Fr Cassius Correya sdb (Parish Priest)
Fr Peter Varengo sdb (Assistant Priest)
Fr John Gandini sdb (Assisting Priest)
Fr Anthony Nguyen sdb (Assisting Priest)
Virginia Carter (Parish office Administrator & Finance Secretary)
Rafelina De Donato (Sacristan & Parish Office Assistant)
Natalia Tawaf Molini (Faith Formation Coordinator)
Jason Vu (Website Content Manager)

Parish Office:

Phone: 03 94817333 | Email: office@olsc.org.au

Website: olsc.org.au | Facebook:

facebook.com/people/Our-Lady-of-the-Southern-Cross/61560645217161/

We welcome any suggestions or comments from our Parishioners.

It helps us to help our Parish.

Church Communities:

St John the Baptist Community

61 Queens Parade, Clifton Hill; Tel: 9481 7333

St Joseph's Catholic Church Community

46 Otter Street, Collingwood;

School: Tel: 9419 4918; Principal: Matthew Shawcross

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd

St Heliers Street, Abbotsford Tel: 9417 2909

Pastoral Care:

For a pastoral visit with Fr Cassius, or one of the Salesians of Don Bosco seminarians, we invite you to contact the Parish office.

For Urgent Pastoral Need Call: 0401 887 115

Mass Times:

St John the Baptist Church:

Tuesday to Friday at 9.15am, Saturday at 8.30am.

Sunday at 9:00am (Italian), 11:00am and 5:00pm.

St Joseph's Catholic Church:

Monday to Saturday at 8:30am, Saturday at 6:00pm (Vigil).

Sunday at 9:00am (Vietnamese).

The Chapel of Good Shepherd:

Sunday at 9:30am.

Sacramental Reception:

Baptism: Booking form is at: olsc.org.au/sacraments.

St John's: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month—12pm.

St Joseph's: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month during Sunday 9am Vietnamese mass, or contact the Parish Office.

Marriage: Booking form is at: olsc.org.au/sacraments.

Reconciliation: Fridays 7:15pm—8:00pm except for 1st Friday of the month—Holy Hour 7pm-8pm.

Holy Communion, Reconciliation & Confirmation: Please contact the Parish office.

Envelopes & Loose Collections 5-6 September 2026:

St John's: \$624.60 (includes EFTPOS) | **St Joseph's:** \$1,007.30

Thank you for your thanksgiving offerings and donations.

These help sustain and support our Parish gospel mission.

SAFEGUARDING

At the Parish of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our Parish.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding/commitment-to-the-safety-of-children-and-young-people>

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people and offer our respects to the elders past, present and future. We recognise and respect the cultural heritage of this land.

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 12-13 SEPTEMBER YEAR A

For All Those We Remember

Condolences & Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Simon Ryan, Simmaco Golino, William Puli and Joan O'Donnell.

Mass Offerings

We pray for Giovanna Bertoli on her 1st month anniversary.

May they all be welcomed into eternal joy in God's kingdom.



Prayers for Healing

We pray for those who are physically ill, anxious, or carrying heavy life burdens, that they may experience the comforting and restoring presence of Christ.

Please pray for Tony Addamo, Cecily Hollingworth, Rachel Bartolo, Teresa Boetti, Ruzica Coric, Greg Andrews, Paul Sutherland, and all those who need prayers for their physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing.

If you are in need, or know of fellow Parishioners who are in need and wish to be included in our prayers, please contact the Parish office.

Sacraments Celebrated this Weekend



Caitlin Ryan & Adam Bortoletti will be untied in the Sacrament of marriage this Saturday 12 September at St John's, celebrated by Fr Cassius Correya.

Marianna Norma Maloni will receive the Sacrament of Baptism from Deacon Silao this Sunday 13 September, also at St John's.

Please pray for a faith-filled life for them.



Appealing for Help, Natural Disasters

Salesian Missions Australia is continuing to raise funds for the emergency relief on the ground in both Colombia and Nepal. If you can donate, please use the QR codes on the church noticeboards.

Please pray for the victims and their families.

Reading Roster—St John's

Date	First Reading/Psalm	Second Reading/Alleluia	Prayers of the Faithful
13 Sep	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
11am	Salesian Youth Club	Salesian Youth Club	Salesian Youth Club
5pm	Lorraine Lipson	John Andrews	Gabrielle McMullen
20 Sep	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
11am	Samoa Community	Samoa Community	Samoa Community
5pm	Teens' Group	Teens' Group	Teens' Group

You are Invited to Celebrate Fr John sdb

Our Parish will honour the remarkable anniversaries of our own **Fr John Gandini sdb** next **Sunday 20 September** at **St John's** at **11am**.

Fr John will celebrate 60 years of Religious Profession as a Salesian of Don Bosco, and 50 years since his Priestly Ordination.

Please join this joyful celebration with mass celebrated by Fr John, and then a luncheon, to thank Fr John for decades of service to God and his people.

Safeguarding Sunday 13 September

From the *Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC)* and the *Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese*.

The Catholic Church in Australia marks **Safeguarding Sunday** on the second Sunday of September each year at the conclusion of *National Child Protection Week*.

On Safeguarding Sunday, we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters.

We recognise and apologise for the harm done by anyone in Church settings and acknowledge the vulnerability of some within our parishes and communities.

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.

Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance.

This year the theme is **Love Protects** and the readings show us that real love is not passive goodwill. Rather it actively shields the vulnerable, tells the truth, and never lets silence stand in for safety.

Young People Meetups at St John's

Salesians Youth Mass & Club - 13th September

For ages 18 to 35 years, this Sunday, please join us for Mass at 5pm, followed by a social and relaxed gathering where we share a meal, play games, and enjoy a faith-filled conversation.

Teens' Youth Mass & Group - 20th September

We welcome you to join us for Mass at 5pm, then a get together with your peers in faith, fun, friendship and prayer (and of course, with some food to begin!).

If you require more information, please contact Natalia at community@olsc.org.au.

Hope to see you there!



Unbounded Forgiveness

Have you ever thought of prayer as a dangerous enterprise by seriously reflecting on the words of the Lord's Prayer, where we turn to Our Father asking him to 'forgive us our sins, AS we forgive those who sin against us'? Yes, that is uncomfortably contradictory to me.

In the Christian economy, every aspect of life and time exists in a situation of duality and it can only become reality through the daily living out of two dimensions: (a) *God's call to relationship and trust* and (b) *in the concrete experience of our relationships with each other*. Thus, Incarnation is God's love and forgiveness made visible and real through the human story and personal experience. In a strange paradox, God seems unable to exercise his saving presence of life and healing forgiveness, except through the human intervention of people rubbing shoulders with each other.

As for love and other God-enriched gifts, forgiveness reminds me of a coin whose value rests in the diverse engraving on its two sides. If mistakenly both sides were to carry the same image or if only one side showed an imprint while its opposite remained blank, that coin would be totally valueless, economically a useless piece of metal to be thrown away. Like faith and love, forgiveness becomes a powerful energy in establishing and nurturing our personal relationship with God, only to the extent that this human and divine relationship is discovered and realized through the factual, concrete, but unavoidable relationships with people we encounter each and every single day of our life.

Unless we are prepared to accept and incarnate this unavoidable double dimension of divine and self with others, our claim to faith as loving relationship with God will be nothing more than vacuous sentimentality, a performance founded on personally-styled asceticism or ritual purity. To ignore the human dimension of forgiveness and love as tangible signs of God's active and healing presence means to deceive ourselves into self-righteousness fed by empty ritual. Likewise, ignoring the God dimension of the whole dynamics engenders a shallow sense of humanism at best or, at worst, of absolute self-seeking personal comfort and palliative security.

Unconditional forgiveness is the gift received and given in return that Jesus puts to Peter and to us. God's forgiveness is not a self-centred personal right of purification to quieten our troubled conscience but a commitment to be lived out unconditionally in community. Forgiven by God, as Christians we must respond by living out the gifts of forgiveness and love in daily experience: breaking down all barriers, reserving and reversing judgement, standing with and never against those who may have hurt us, and reaching out in welcoming support human brokenness in our own life and to the broken ones around us. Let us pray then that we may have the courage, wisdom, and committed faith to forgive each other AS God forgives us!

Fr Peter Varengo sdb