



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

I don't like the phrase: 'Forgive and forget'. Remembering can be an important part of healing. Forgiving is about giving up the desire 'to get even', making sure that the 'punishment fits the crime'. It is that sort of forgiveness which we dare to ask of God for ourselves. But here's the catch: it is that sort of forgiveness which we must practise towards others.

When we don't, we are like the principal debtor in Jesus' story. In harshly dealing with a minor debtor, he refused to share his king's quality of forgiveness. If we don't pass on this aspect of God's life to others, then we are warned that we will end up in a hellish situation unable to share in the fullness of Divine life.

It is easy to talk 'Big Picture' forgiveness. It is much harder within the family or circle of acquaintances. It seems impossible to simply will it. But we have to ask for the grace to do it.

We could pause for a moment to pray: 'Our Father who art in Heaven . . . forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'

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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.'

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The Living Word

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

13 September 2020

First Reading Sir 27:30-28:7

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? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his 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.

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

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.

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

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.'

'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



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Under the care of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel
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Michaelite Fr Stan Kluk CSMA PP Fr George Gorzkowski CSMA

Community: Fr Anthony Casamento CSMA

SUNDAY MASS: Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am & 5:00pm

WEEKDAY MASS: Mon 8:30am, Tues 7:00pm, Wed 8:30am, Thur 8:30am, Fri 7:00am,
Sat 8:30am. Public Holidays 8:30am

Reconciliation: Saturday after morning Mass or by appointment.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00am to 3:00pm Mon – Fri

ST VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL HELP CENTRE: 9809 2757

Next Week: 25th Ordinary (A) Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:20-24, 27; Matthew 20:1-16.



Father Stan is home from hospital and is continuing his rehabilitation following hip replacement surgery. He is doing well and wishes to thank everyone for the prayer support and lovely messages he received.

He hopes to return to his usual duties very soon.

Please continue to pray for him.

HOLY LAND APPEAL – Sunday 13th September

This year, due to the closure of churches during Holy Week and the cancellation of the annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection, Pope Francis has rescheduled this collection to the **weekend of Sunday September 13th 2020**. This is so it coincides with the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on 14th September. On this weekend will be the whole Church's opportunity to stand in solidarity with the people of the Holy Land in their ongoing needs for pastoral and humanitarian assistance, made much greater due to the Covid-19 pandemic. **THIS WEEKEND – LEAVING COLLECTION**

COVID-19

Parishioners are exhorted to **wear face masks** as a safeguard to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Congregational singing, the sign of peace and passing of the collection plate continue to be suspended at this time.

Church attendance numbers are limited to a maximum of 100 people, providing there is a four square metre space around each person, with the exception of people from the same household.

Our Flame Gift Shop is OPEN! Check out the great selection of cards and gifts for all occasions. Come in and visit us and see our range of sacramental and general gifts. There is something for everyone. All proceeds benefit our parish!



We welcome into our Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism
Giselle Mia Valentina Brosas and Cuba Alexander Mirzaian
Also, through the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist
Sally Flower Wentriro.
Congratulations to everyone!

Child Protection Sunday – 13 September 2020

This day, marked by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, acknowledges the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children, including by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts. It makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people, especially children and other people who are at risk. It invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING: Barbara Kortynski, Dorota Gorzkowski.

PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF: Katherine Armstrong, Hilda Prandolini recently deceased.

Also, the Escalante & Venal families, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Ignazio (Jim) Torrissi, Walter Gaspari, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, Mary & Sam Bietola, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale Papandrea, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Rosina, Giuseppe, Salvatore & Bruno Panetta, Luigi, Rosina, Pasquale & Santa Genova, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Antonino & Tindara Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Angelina & Antonino Rando, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Emmanuela Delia, Angelo, Carmela & Paul Scicluna, Gregory Zammit, Christopher Cissie, Pauline Zahra, Lina Maria & Joe Mallia, Joe Locantro, Helen Henclewski, Bernie & Pal Hanson, Kevin Sheedy, Kevin & Mary Muller, Jan Daisley, Mary Kovacs, Elizabeth Weinert, Kevin & Marie Cowley, David & Charlotte Schneider, Mary Griffiths, George & Mary Paterson, Noeline Wall, Arthur & Gwen McKenzie, Marc & Rosalie Marino, Neville Anderson, Norma Mead, John MacAndrew, Salvatore Tedesco and the deceased members of the Zammit and Zahra families.



On Monday 14th September we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – Mass will be celebrated at 8:30am.

The Mass of Dedication of our church took place on **14th September 1980** – 40 years ago! The principal celebrant at the Mass of Dedication was the Late Cardinal James Freeman, the Archbishop of Sydney. The building of the church was a huge financial undertaking at the time and was a very big financial commitment.

We are grateful to the Late Fr Greg Weaver, the then Parish Priest, as well as the generosity of parishioners that were involved in the building of our church.