

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 13 Sept 2020



'How Often Must I Forgive?' There is truth in the proverb, 'to err is human, to forgive divine.' We all make mistakes. We all do or say things we later regret. And yet, when others wrong us, we can find it beyond our human strength to forgive. As we celebrate the mystery of Christ's love today, let us ask Jesus to heal our divisions and fill our hearts with his spirit of forgiveness.

Responsorial Psalm:

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

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

2020 Sacraments Program

We are very pleased to announce that our Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion will go ahead. There will be restrictions to ensure the health of our children and their families.

Confirmation sessions have now been completed.
No further candidates can be accepted.

Confirmation Ceremonies

**Friday 11 Sept @ 7pm, Saturday 12 Sept @ 12 & 3pm,
Friday 18 Sept @ 7pm and Saturday 19 Sept @ 2pm**
**No private prayer time is available on Friday evenings
of Confirmation Ceremonies.**

First Holy Communion - Sunday 1, 8 and 15 & 22 November at 11am
First Holy Communion Sessions begin
Monday 14 & 21 September
Monday 12 & 19 October

Please contact the Sacramental Coordinator for further information
sacraments@stambrose.org.au



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Principal: Ms Linda McFadden
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Sunday Masses: Sat Vigil 5pm, Sunday 9.30am & 5pm
**Live-streamed Mass: Sat Vigil 5pm. You can participate from your home online
& receive the Spiritual Communion.**

Weekday Masses: 9am Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri (or Fri 9.15am school Masses)
Tuesday evening 7.30pm

Saturday 8.30am Devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes
Saturday 9am Mass

Reconciliation: Sat 3.30 – 4.30pm

Adoration: Mon & Fri 6-9pm, Tues 5.45pm – 7.15pm,
Sat 3.30 - 4.30pm, Italian Cenacle: Mon 9.30am

Holy Hour & Cenacle: Wed after 9am Mass, Fri 9.30am

Baptisms: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11am by appointment.

Weddings: by appointment. Contact Parish Office.

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Please pray for the children of our parish and their families
as they prepare to receive the
Sacrament of Confirmation
through the Parish Sacramental Program
over the coming weeks.



Please remember in your prayers the following for whom Masses will be offered.



Recently Deceased: Fr John Langtry, Ray Hardman, Mary Kosmas, Chantal, Peter Economos, Milan Novacic, Ida Bova, Lorna Redolfi

Anniversaries: Arty Murphy, Antoinette Constable, Chakley George, Aronne Borg, Martin & William Toohey

Others: Fr Kevin McGovern, Patrick & Margaret Egan, Veronica & Anne Gough, Mario Iannacito, Angelo Iannacito, Mabel & Kevin Rice, Peter Waters, Helen Timpanaro, Paul Broderick, Harry O'Hara, Eugene & Aileen Morris, Ted & Laura Merlino, Harriet David, Terry Tully, Michael Culligan, Angelina Camuglia, Dr Leonado Dimaculangan, Jennifer Bast, Doug Kemp, Carmel Cullinan, Francesca Vizzari, Anthony Zovaro, Eric Pewal, Chris Elliott, Paola Pilosio, John Ferranda, Olivero Vendramin, Thomas Murickananickal & Kochappan, Joseph, Anna Nguyen, Gordon Bridges, John Baptist Nguyen, Giuseppe Rubbo, Teofilo Zamora, Paul, Filomena Agostino, Marie Madeleine Danev, Nicola Betto, Margaret Sharpe, Tamam Koloi, Helen Timpanaro, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, John & Gwen Kennedy, Ludivina Green, Agata Rodi, John Baptista Zammit, Catherine and John Manning, Joe and Mary Mangion, Rema Flannery, Margaret Jean Sharpe, John Pomroy, Mary & Ernest Vanzella, Gaetano Patamia, Filomena Agostino, Santina Martinelli, Ruby Madera, Peter Soosai, Rita Gomez, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guiseppe & Maria Idiotta, Whiteford Family, Culligan Family, Cootes Family, Zammit Family, DeBono Family, Moses Family, Nancy's Family, Dahdah Family, Wheeler & Higgins Families, Morson Family, Abraham, George & Cherote Families, Kennedy and McGovern Families, John White, June Bates, Dorothy Vantwest, Thelma & Stephen Muller & Family, Soloman Family, Merrell, Bourke, Gielis & Shields Families, deceased members of St Vincent de Paul Society, dearly departed souls and all souls in Purgatory.

Please pray for the sick especially:

Patricia Christosi, Dalton James Bonnici, Maria Manno, Joseph Borg, Yuan Sheng Ye, Theresa Tan's mum, Veronica Rutherford, Baby Willow Rose Frazer, Paul Dovico, Jim Branley, David Bagnato, Angela, Rosaria Natalina Patamia, Felice Minutillo, Charlie Rossini, Kelly & Ursula, Giuseppina Algozzino, Peggy Kerr, Viru, Fr Paul Boyers, Kevin McGrath, John and Betty Gattenhof, Esther Tully, Gary and Leslie McGrath, Rosa Mastro, Tanya Greenaway, Gianna, Matthew, Luisa, Zia Pina, Grace Comare, Sean Peters, Elizabeth Esguerra, Juliet Walsh, Barbara Wayne, Marilyn Deguara, Elijah, Adrian Vanzella, Matthew Chan, John Rodrigues, Belinda Nicholls, Nan Peters, Carmela Smigliani, Shinta Widzaza, Alan Borg, Rosa Maria Santos, Bhupinder Tamber, Rebecca Sinclair, Marina Arasaratnam, Teresa Domalewski, Adel Abraham, Anne Vassily, Gloria Clark, Kim Long, Bob & Marion Merrell, Terry Murphy, Stacey Spencer, Joanne Ford, David, Celia and Gomes Family, Warwick Cook, Louise, James Anthony Manassa, June Corcoran, Rosina Morson, Celina Shaw, Laurence O'Connell, Sam Carroll, Dr Bede Muller, Robert Carey, Carmen Zammit, Mario Bianco, Rochelle Rodrigues, Kevin Desouza, Pat Toohey, Charmaine Yu, Anne Collins, Anna Viteznik, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Sara Benjamin & Family, Peter Weinfroe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

COVID-19 Update

The NSW Government has recommended parishioners wear face masks when attending religious services as an additional safeguard to help combat the spread of COVID-19.

HELP NEEDED FOR LIVESTREAMING OF MASS



Thank you to the Parishioner who has offered to assist with this new Ministry in our Parish. As we all become accustomed to the restrictions due to Covid, the livestreaming of our 5pm Saturday Mass each week is being welcomed by those who are not able to join us in the Church.

We would like to form a group of Parishioners who would be appropriately trained to continue to provide the livestreaming each week. This would be on a rostered basis so you would not be required to do it every week.

Sean, Tyler and Zack and Audrey have done a superb job over recent months and will be happy to share their knowledge and skills with others. Sean has set up a single camera system to simplify the livestreaming and is asking for volunteers willing to learn how to operate the equipment available in the Church.

If you are interested in being part of this group please come along to 5pm Saturday Mass and have a chat to Sean or, if more convenient, contact the Parish Office on 9743 1023 or email admin@stambrose.org.au.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

During these times of uncertainty, many are experiencing anxiousness for the first time and this Sacrament gives us strength, courage and awareness of God's loving presence in our lives.

Mark your calendar for the date of the next Mass with Sacrament of the Sick on **Friday 16th October** at 10:30. VASA can provide transport if needed.



Anointing the sick

CatholicCare outreach to the lonely and isolated

CatholicCare and the Parishes of the Sydney Archdiocese are here to support vulnerable people in our local communities during lockdown. We can connect local volunteers to people who need help with their shopping and errands or even just for a regular friendly chat over the phone. If you, or someone you know, could use a little help during this time, CCareline 13 18 19 can connect you with a local volunteer from your community. CCareline 13 18 19 is a free and confidential helpline for counselling, relationships, parenting, ageing, disabilities, addictions and mental health. CCareline is here to help. Call 131819 Monday - Friday 8am to 6pm.

Tax Receipts 2019/2020 – thank you to all who have contributed financially to parish and appeals on behalf of other agencies. Anyone needing a tax receipt for giving to CFW, Project Compassion and or Priests Retirement Foundation please email admin@stambrose.org.au Receipts can be printed out for you and left in the foyer of the church or can be emailed to you. Please include your preference in your email.

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK is being celebrated from Sept 6th to Sept 13th throughout all Parishes in the Archdiocese of Sydney. It is a good time to remind ourselves as a community of faith here at St. Ambrose' what practices we have for the purpose of keeping safe all our children and vulnerable adults. The recent effort we have made as a Parish Community through our efforts to ensure that all volunteers are covered by the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Policy has been quite demanding but nevertheless most rewarding, and gratitude is due to all who participated so willingly.

**'LOVE GOD.....LOVE OTHERS'
CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES FOR THE NEEDY CHILDREN
OF SOUTH EAST ASIA....**



These are unusual times, so we need to think in an unusual way....re our

ANNUAL OUTREACH to the NEEDY

"Operation Christmas Child" in our Parish will be going ahead as Samaritan's Purse still continues to co-opt volunteers, to collect, to pack, and to prepare boxes for transport to Asian children in time for their Christmas. Boxes will be available this weekend at the side door of the Church OR if the Church is closed, there will be BOXES on the verandah of the Convent, with brochures which remind you of the importance of what gifts are suitable for sending these children.

Please READ the Brochure carefully. Since the opportunity for particular shopping is in many ways curtailed, maybe you have NEW items at home which could be suitable for a GIFT BOX....or you might be able to shop. Any small offering you can make will be appreciated by those packing the boxes.

RE RETURN OF YOUR GIFTBOX WHEN READY TO SEND

If you are coming to Mass, please leave your GIFTBOX under the Altar as part of your Offertory at the Mass.

As the church is often closed at various times feel free to leave your GIFTBOX on the front verandah of the Convent, Unit 2/90 MacKenzie Street (park at the front of the house...easy to drop/or pick up BOX on the front verandah)

Would there be any SEWERS in our Parish who are prepared to stitch together some library bags if we supply you with the material? Please contact Sr Judith judith.clark@rscsisters.com.au 97361477 or 0455727501

Alternatively, if you are unable to pick up and fill a BOX....just leave your gifts for the children in the plastic box on the Convent verandah and they will be taken to the despatch centre by our generous volunteer Parishioner. Thank you for helping us to continue this loving service to the needy children this Christmas 2020.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS" COPIES AT SIDE CHURCH DOOR

FAITH DEVELOPMENT: In his homily last week, Fr. Chaminda mentioned reading as an important way of helping your faith to grow.

The above MAGAZINE...is excellent reading to stimulate and enliven your faith....its contents are the work of Year 11 and 12 students at our Catholic Colleges.....and present most stimulating reading about many of the simple aspects of our every day life.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU TAKE A COPY HOME WITH YOUTH

These copies are provided through the generosity of our St Vincent de Paul Group in our Parish.

Priests' Retirement Foundation Appeal continues this weekend.

Support our retired priests. In 2007, the Priests' Retirement Foundation of the Archdiocese of Sydney was established to ensure all priests can receive the accommodation, health care and support they need in their retirement. There are now over 70 retired priests in Sydney with more requiring assisted living. The Priests' Retirement Foundation covers needs such as: Convalescence care, Assistance in transitioning to retirement, Health insurance, medical and dental expenses, assistance with board and lodging expenses, Minor repairs and maintenance of accommodation.

All donations to this appeal over \$2 are tax deductible and will be tripled by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. **Please mark the payment slip if you require a tax receipt.** Alternatively, online donations can be made at www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-prf

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or call (02) 9390 5810 or You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Br Julian's Reflection 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***"Resentment and anger are hateful things,
yet the sinner hugs them tight."*** Sirach 27, 30 – 28, 7

***"The life and death of each of us has its influence on others;
if we live, we live for the Lord; if we die, we die for the Lord...
So where does that leave you when you criticise a brother?
And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister?"***
Romans 14, 7-10

"The king summoned the man and said: 'You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?' The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy." Matthew 18, 21-35

I am sometimes left with the impression that Matthew has used Peter's reputation for speaking out without thinking as a cue for Jesus to launch into a story or parable to teach some lesson to those who had gathered to hear him. It's as though Peter has been planted in the crowd to ask a leading question. Today's gospel reading opens with one of those questions, to which Peter even volunteers an answer: "Peter got up the nerve to ask: 'Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?' Jesus replied: 'Seven? Hardly. Try seventy times seven'" (Matthew 18, 21-22). That brief exchange was the trigger for Jesus to launch into another "kingdom of God" parable about how harbouring resentment and failing to forgive and seek forgiveness imprison people in their own bitterness.

The first reading from Sirach, the reading from Romans and Peter's question cause us to stop and reflect on what can happen inside us when we rush to take the moral high ground when somebody hurts us in word, action or attitude. Sirach asks: "Should anyone nourish anger against others and expect healing from God?" Paul, in today's second reading asks: "Where do resentment, condescension and seeking vengeance against your brothers and sisters leave you?" And Peter asks: "Isn't there a limit to how many times I'm expected to forgive those who make my life miserable?"

Yet the parable that Jesus tells rises above wanting to measure out rules for forgiving. It challenges us to give our energy to working out the kind of family, community, parish, church and world in which we want to live our lives. Jesus makes the point that forgiveness and reconciliation are

attitudes for living and relating rather than behaviours that we measure our when someone hurts or insults us.

In his book *The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality*, Oblate priest and theologian, Ronald Rolheiser invites his readers to enter imaginatively into the following scene:

You are sitting one night with your family. You feel irritated, overtired and unappreciated. Something happens to push you beyond your patience, and you lose your temper suddenly. You yell at everyone, tell them they are selfish and stupid, throw your cup on the floor, and storm out, slamming the door behind you. Then you go and sulk in your room, feeling alienated, and sorry for yourself. Slowly, sanity and contrition get the better of your self-pity, but wounded pride and the rawness of what has happened make it too embarrassing for you to go back and apologise. Eventually, you fall asleep, leaving the situation unreconciled. The next morning, now feeling doubly contrite and somewhat sheepish, but still with your pride wounded, you come to the family table. Everyone is sitting around having breakfast. You collect your cup, which somebody has picked up, washed and put back in the cupboard, pour yourself a coffee, and, without a word, sit down at the table. - your remorse and wounded pride evident in every move. Your family members aren't stupid, and neither are you. They all know the meaning of your actions. What is essential is being said, but wordlessly. You are making the basic move towards reconciliation. Your body and your actions are saying something more important than words: I want to be part of you again. At that moment, the haemorrhaging stops - even if only for that moment. If you dropped dead on the spot, you would be reconciled with your family.

When all is said and done, today's readings are all about the limitlessness of God's mercy and forgiveness and the need for us to imitate that to the best of our ability if we really want to be credible as disciples of Jesus. The high point of today's readings comes in the parable that Jesus tells on the prompting of Peter. The irony, of course, is that Peter, who suggests seven as the number of times for forgiving others, will later be forgiven by the Jesus whom he will disown and deny. However, in Jewish tradition, the number seven represented fullness and completion. In suggesting seventy-seven or even seventy times seven, Jesus made the point that our readiness to forgive others must be endless. To emphasise the message Jesus told the parable of the king who forgave his servant a debt that was almost incalculable. Understandably, the king couldn't believe what he was hearing when he learned that the servant, whose debt he had cancelled, refused to forgive a fellow servant who owed him a comparatively insignificant amount. A quick calculation of the debts reveals that the first servant owed the king ten thousand talents. - the equivalent of 60 million denarii or two hundred thousand years of wages, while the second servant owed his fellow worker the equivalent of one hundred days' earnings. In forgiving the first servant, the king knew that there was no way that he could repay his debt. But he gave in to the

man's pleas and cancelled the debt. The second servant pleaded for mercy from his fellow worker, using identical words, but met with no compassion at all. Instead he was thrown into prison until the debt could be paid.

Sadly, the first servant failed to grasp that the consequence of being forgiven is an open-hearted readiness to forgive others. That, clearly, is a reminder to us all to look again at the only part of the prayer that Jesus taught which has a condition attached: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us!"

We all know from painful experience just how difficult it is to forgive and to ask for forgiveness. To forgive is not to pretend that we have not been hurt. But forgiving and asking for forgiveness does involve coming face to face with our sisters and brothers. But isn't it true that, when we find the courage to do that, we actually come to see our own failure, fragility and brokenness. We come to realise that we all have the same struggles, and that, ultimately, we are entirely dependent on God's bountiful love and mercy. The near incredible numbers in Jesus' parable convey the message that forgiveness is not something that is measured out in small or even large doses. Rather it is an attitude with which we are to approach everyone with whom we engage; it is an attitude which mirrors the love and mercy of God.

