

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

**Matthew 18:21-35**

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 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**

**BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING**

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

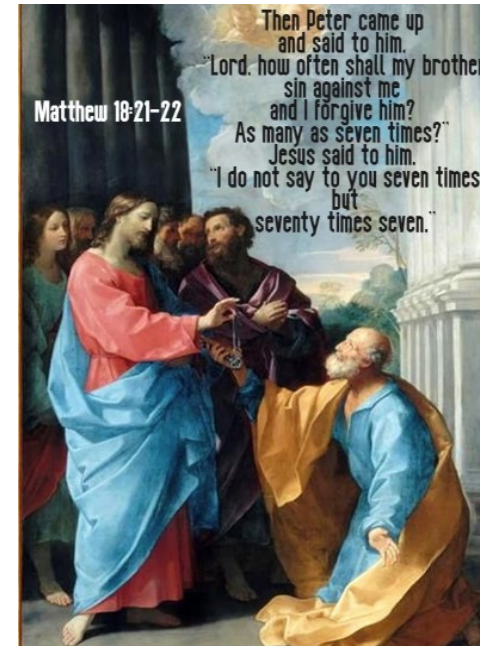
There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.



# Parish Bulletin

**24th Sunday Ordinary Time, Yr A**

**16-17 September 23**



There is much 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.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**  
**Sir 36:18**

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

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING**

**Sirach 27:30-28:7**

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.

**The word of the Lord**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
**Psalm 102:1-4,9-12**

**Response: . 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 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**  
**Romans 14:7-9**

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.**

St Joseph's Catholic Church  
484 Magill Rd, Kensington Gardens  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5068

**Parish Priest**  
Fr Roy John Elavumkal SMM  
parishpriest@stjosephsparish  
tranmere.org.au

**Parish Secretary**  
Pat Kwok – Tue to Fri

**Planned Giving Coordinator**  
Helen Mysak – Monday

**WHS Officer**  
Angela Girolamo – Thursday

**Sacristan**  
Sundays: Terence Yeow  
& Roger Worth

**Parish Office Hours**  
Mon to Fri 9:30am – 12:30pm  
Ph: (08) 8431 6932  
info@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au

**Mass Times**  
Sunday 9:30 am  
Saturday Vigil Mass 6:30 pm  
Tuesday to Friday 9:15 am

**Confessions**  
Saturday 6:00 pm

**Rosary**  
Tues to Fri 8:45am

**Adoration of the Eucharist**  
Friday before Mass 8:30am

**Novena to St. Joseph**  
Wednesday after Mass

**St. Joseph's Primary School**  
Principal - Adrian Grbin  
Ph: 8431 2834

**Knights of the Southern Cross**  
Michael Boyle Ph: 8337 3270

**Parish Pastoral Council**  
Chair – Alan Tyson

**Parish Finance Council**  
Chair -Edward Konieczny

**Child Safe Contact Person**  
Anne Dudzinski Ph: 0418 847 804

**Vinnies Assistance Hotline**  
1300 729 202 - 9:00am to 4:30pm

Rosters—23-24 Sept 2023 25th Sunday Ordinary Time	
Time	Commentator/Readers
6.30pm Vigil	Edward Konieczny Fil Cianio Bronwyn Gleeson
9:30am	Alan Tyson Sandy Mazzarolo Sheila Hoogland
Children's Liturgy	Anne Dudzinski Angela Mealey
Count team	Paul Halliwell Paul Roocke Danielle Roocke Denise Rutt
Altar and Flowers	Dolores Arboit Christina Wong Sarita Ingham and volunteers

*All those who have volunteered please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start time and report to the commentator for that Mass*

SUNDAY COLLECTION SUMMARY	9-10 Sept 2023
Planned Giving (Envelopes & Electronic)	\$796.00
Open Plate	\$258.00
<b>PARISH TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1054.00</b>

This week's contribution to the Diocesan Presbytery Fund : \$505



**Please remember in your prayers**

We pray for those listed and all the deceased relatives and friends of our Parishioners.

*Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them; present them to God the Most High.*

**Sick:**  
*We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish and our relatives and friends who are unwell.*

**If you know of sick or elderly parishioners who are housebound or in care and would appreciate a visit, please phone and leave a message with the parish office.**

**Pope Francis @pontifex**

Let us pray together in the face of the many challenges and difficulties of our age. We should not remain idle spectators. Rather, may we actively engage for a more just and peaceful world.

**Migrant and Refugee Sunday – ALL INVITED**

You are invited to the Archdiocesan Migrant and Refugee Sunday – Multicultural Mass in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral on **Sunday September 24 at 2.30pm.**

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

The Knights of the Southern Cross will be having Sausage Sizzle after 9:30am Mass on Sunday **24 Sep 2023.** Cost: \$2.50

## Parish Announcements

**SILENT RETREAT AT THE MONASTERY**

Join us for some quiet, personal reflection on our silent retreat led by Fr Tony Edgar CP and Fr Pastor Mumburi CP. The retreat will commence with dinner on Friday October 6 and conclude with breakfast on Thursday October 12. Contact The Monastery office on 8338 8700 or conference@themonastery.net.au

**HEART ON FIRE, FEET ON THE MOVE**

October is Mission Month and Catholic Mission Appeal for 2023 will be held on October 22. Over the coming weeks Diocesan Director, Tony Johnston, will be calling out to meet with every parish administrator or parish priest to discuss parish needs and appeal details. During his visit he will provide all items required for the appeal from speakers notes to summary forms, posters and flash drives. If you have any concerns, please contact Tony Johnston, Diocesan Director Adelaide on (08) 8210 8199 or E: tjohnston@catholicmission.org.au

**KANGAROO ISLAND PARISH FUNDRAISER**

Adelaide Cathedral Parish invites you to a fundraiser for the Kangaroo Island Parish to watch the upcoming Hercule Poirot Film, *A Haunting in Venice*. There will be raffle prizes too. Tickets \$25 (inc. Movie, Choc Top, popcorn and bottle of water)  
Date: September 24, 2pm  
Location: Regal Theatre, 275 Kensington Road, Kensington Park.  
Purchase tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/CKGCO> or 8210 8155 or acp@adelaide.catholic.org.au

**FRIDAY ADORATION**

Due to Fr Roy's annual leave, we will not have Friday Adoration from 15th September to 13rd October 2023.

**FR ROY ON ANNUAL LEAVE**

My brothers and Sisters, I will be out of the office for an annual leave from 11<sup>th</sup> September to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and will not have access to my emails during this time. If your message is urgent, please contact Pat (the Parish secretary) on Phone: (08) 8431 6932  
Email: [info@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au](mailto:info@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au) who will be able to assist you. Otherwise, I will respond promptly when I return. I also acknowledge and sincerely thank Fr. Michael Romeo, Fr. Leon Czechowicz, Fr. Paul McCormack and Fr. Swamy Nadan who are kind and generous in supporting our community in my absence. May I earnestly request your valuable prayers on me and my family, be sure of my love and prayer always with you.

**Yours in Christ,**  
**Fr Roy John Elavumkal SMM**

# The Kids' Bulletin

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 17th, 2023

*What did the king in today's parable do to the servant who owed him much but asked for forgiveness? Use the numbers to sort the letters and find out!*

## If you want to be forgiven...

In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells the story of a king whose servant owed him a lot of money. The king was going to punish the servant, but when the man knelt down and begged for mercy, the king forgave him. Then that same man went and punished a servant who owed him money. When the king found out about this he was very angry.

In this story Jesus is telling us that if we want God to forgive us our sins then we have to forgive the people who have hurt us.

Has anyone ever done something mean to you? How do you feel when that happens? Do you feel loving toward that person? Jesus tells us that we must forgive those people, even when they really hurt us, because we want God to forgive us too. Every time we sin we offend God, and He will still forgive us if we are sorry. If we want God to forgive us, then it's only fair for us to forgive others.

Answer to puzzle on front: He forgave him.  
Answer to Word Find: Saint Helen