



Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

17th September, 2023

Administrator Fr Denis Stanley
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CHILD PROTECTION - is everyone's responsibility

Check the Parish Website for:
Child Safety & Code of Conduct Policy
Parish Privacy Act / Professional Standards

A parent must accompany any child leaving the church during Mass.

Parish Email gisborne@cam.org.au
Parish Website <http://pol.org.au/gisborne/Home.aspx>
Secretary Hours Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am – 5:00pm

CONTINUING PRAYER LIST:

Please pray for those who are in ill health:

*Eileen S, Corrine V, Megan B, Michael W, Glenys O,
Anthony S, Ryan F, Jessica C, Cheryl L, Stephania C,
Kylie I, George T, Bill P, Jacqueline D, Beau S, Fran S,
Terry R, Sharon B & Helen K.*

We pray for the recently deceased and for those who have an anniversary at this time.

May they rest in peace ☩

Please email Tam if you would like an Anniversary included in the prayers.

ALPHA EXPERIENCE at St. BRIGID'S

We are excited to announce the Alpha Experience continuing in our parish where you can explore the deeper questions of life and meaning in a casual setting whilst getting to know new people.

**Alpha will recommence at St Brigid's on
Monday, October 2 from 7pm to 9pm
in the Presbytery.**

Limited seats available so register early.
For enquiries please call Madalin on 0412 301 618.
Please bring a plate to share prior to the meeting.

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.'

mtate@bigpond.com

WEEKDAY MASS – TUESDAY'S 5pm

Fr. Denis will celebrate Mass on Tuesday afternoons.

ALL WELCOME

CSSV – SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY

Sunday 17 September 2023, marks Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

On this day we give thanks to the dedicated work of the thousands of staff and volunteers who serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised. We acknowledge with gratitude Catholic Social Service Victoria's 40 member organisations, their 8,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who work together to serve and support over 211,000 people.

Catholic social services hold a unique position in social services because they serve and are part of an established, connected community of people sharing in the social mission of the Church.

We thank parishes for often being at the forefront of providing services to members of their community in need. In this challenging time of a cost of living and housing crisis, the Gospel message of love, care and welcome is needed more than ever.

On this day we consider how we all have a role to play. How might we be more involved in achieving justice in our own communities? How can we advocate for structural changes to build a more equitable society where no one is pushed to the margins, and all can prosper?



Rosters & Events



Ministers for next weekend's Masses

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

23rd & 24th September, 2023

6:00pm Mass **St. Brigid's**
Reader: N. Spiers
Offertory: to be chosen on the day.
Eucharist: M. McCormack

8:00am Mass **St. Ambrose's**
Welcomer: J. White
Reader: M. Hall
Offertory: to be chosen on the day.
Eucharist: -----

Counters:
Not currently needed.

Flowers:
J. Shumack

9:30am Mass **St. Patrick's**
Reader: K. Petherbridge
Offertory: to be chosen on the day.
Eucharist: D. Briffa

11:00am Mass **St. Brigid's**
Reader: B. Meyers
Offertory: to be chosen on the day.
Eucharist: T. Armstrong



THANKSGIVING BY DIRECT DEBIT

If you would like to contribute to the Thanksgiving Program, you may do so by direct debit to the acct below:

St. Brigid's Church Account
NAB

BSB: 083 347

Acct: 6742 95773

Please use your surname and TG number as the reference.

THE COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE - 2023

Please buy tickets in the raffle to support your parish and to have a chance of winning one (or more) of 7 great prizes, 1st prize being a new *Kia Picanto* car.
Tickets are \$2 each or (preferred) \$20 for a book of 10 and can be bought from parishioners at each of our masses.

St. Brigid's Sat 6pm – Tony Wilson St. Ambrose Sun 8am – Carolyn Peterson
St. Patrick's Sun 9:30am - Jayne O'Callaghan St. Brigid's Sun 11am - Kathy Page

Funds raised by the raffle will go into the Church account to either go towards expenses or as directed by the parish priest.

URGENT HELP REQUIRED PLEASE

We are desperately short of volunteers able to help clean the Gisborne Church. Given the number of attendees between the two Gisborne Masses, it should be easy to find some volunteers to help primarily with the vacuuming of the church on a weekly basis. It is hoped that enough people come forward that you would only need to contribute to the roster once a month.

If you feel you are able to help, please contact either Tam at the office, Lynne Scott (Sat 6pm) or Kathy Page (Sun 11am) to arrange an introduction of the ducted system.

Thank you for your consideration.

COLUMBAN PARTNERSHIP FUNDRAISER OCTOBER 8

"Sounds of Freedom" – Reading Theatre Sunbury

Well, it's been 4 years since our last movie fundraiser, but we are up and running again. You may recall Fr Robert McCullough's recent visit to our Parish asking for our support of St Elizabeth's Hospital in Hyderabad, Pakistan. We are hoping with this fundraiser to contribute towards the cost of the theatre lights in the new orthopaedic ward.

We invite you to join us on **Sunday, 8th October**, for a screening of the movie **"Sound of Freedom"** at Reading Cinemas in Sunbury. As has been the case in the past, we will provide pre-show nibbles and accompanying wine/soft-drink/tea/coffee, all included in the **price of \$25**. We have booked the function room for a **2.00pm start with the movie to be screened at 3.00pm**.

If interested in purchasing a ticket/s, please contact Marcia (0400 261 979) or Bill (0497 991 226). Alternatively, tickets will be available for purchase after our Parish masses, over the coming weeks. Feel free to promote this event with your family/friends. Thanks for considering and hope you can join us.

WEEKDAY SERVICES & RECONCILIATION

Weekday Mass

Tues 5:00pm – 5:30pm

St. Brigid's with Fr. Denis

Reconciliation

By appointment only

Please phone Sunbury Parish Office 9744 1060 to book a time.

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

Thursday 10am – Presbytery

Enquiries: Bernie 0414 890 377

KARATE CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Thursday evenings 6pm - *1st TWO lessons free then \$7 per class*

No term commitment required; pay as you come.

Enquiries: Kathryn Aprile—0404 340 892

Weekly Social Cards Night

St. Brigid's Hall – Tuesday 7:30pm start - Entry \$10 per player

Light supper served on completion of play

EVERYONE WELCOME

St Brigid's Parish Weekly Thanksgiving Sunday – 10 September, 2023

Total Amount received	\$	727	(envelopes)
Total Amount received	\$	40	(credit cards)
Total Amount received	\$	245	(direct debit)
Presbytery Collection	\$	602	(cash, c/c & d/d combined)

*Thank you for your ongoing support through the Thanksgiving Program.
May the Lord bless you all.*

Introduction: Once again we hear of the standards Jesus set for the early Christian community. Jesus set new standards that were a challenge to his listeners. They are still a challenge to us.

1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27: 30-28:7

We hear a passage that is chosen to link with the Gospel. Two centuries before Christ we hear a standard that is beyond an eye for an eye and similar to what Jesus encourages.

2nd Reading: Romans 14; 7-9

We hear a brief passage from Paul that is powerful as a witness to the early Christian community's understanding of the death and resurrection of Christ.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18: 21-35

We hear a question from Peter that makes us wonder how much he absorbed of Jesus' teaching. Jesus not only gives a direct answer to his question, but tells a marvellous parable to bring home his message.

Prayer of Intercession: Saint Paul teaches us that "none of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself." Prayer for others is one of the ways in which we manifest the truth of what he says.

1. We pray for our Church leaders in the College of Bishops with the Pope. May their upholding of Gospel standards consistently be a challenge to the fads and fashions of our world.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

2. We pray for all Christians that we be open to accept the standards and values of Jesus and not harden our hearts to his standard of forgiveness.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

3. We pray for television journalists and talk back radio hosts. May they accept a responsibility to emphasise values that will shape the common good, rather than feed the hurt and bitterness of a few.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

4. We pray as Christians who do not live for themselves. May we always be willing to aspire to live for the Lord.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

5. We pray for those in our parish who are sick and in need of healing, especially *Eileen S, Corrine V, Megan B, Michael W, Glenys O, Anthony S, Ryan F, Jessica C, Cheryl L, Stephania C, Kylie I, George T, Bill P, Jacqueline D, Beau S, Fran S, Terry R, Sharon B & Helen K*. We pray for all those who have recently died. We pray also for those whose anniversary occurs at this time.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Gracious God, hear our prayers today for others in their time of need. Let your surpassing love be toward those who cry out to you. Through Christ our lord. Amen.

Next weeks readings: Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:20-24, 27; Matthew 20: 1-16

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ,

Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

You take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us;

You take away the sins of the world; receive our prayer;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (*all bow*)

born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried; "he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen

The Living Word

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

17 September 2023

First Reading

Ecclesiasticus 27:30–28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 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

Romans 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

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:

love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 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.'

'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.