



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.

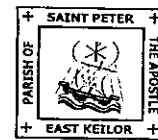
We could pause for a moment to pray:

'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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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

COVID-19 STAGE 4 RESTRICTIONS

With Stage 4 restrictions still in place, our Parish Office is closed. Parish Secretary, Helena Meredith is working remotely from home. These are challenging times. Please email if you need anything or call 9337 4141 and leave a message. We will respond to calls as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

If you have envelopes for the weekend collections, please contact me if they need to be collected, or keep them with you until we are able to open again. Please consider changing to credit card, direct debit or direct online banking. We can assist you with setting this up. May God bless you all.

Fr Arockia Sebastian

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Visal Prum, Kathleen Gillies.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Girolama Guerrisi, Leigh Wallmeyer, Clare Hornsby, Clare Ross

ANNIVERSARIES

Vincenzo D'Agostino, Janina Paradowski, Peter Wolff

PARISH SUPPORT

We are most grateful for your contributions during this challenging time. Thank you all for your support. Online donations can be made as follows:-

Presbytery Collection – 1st Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Presbytery A/C BSB: 083 347 Account No. 66541 7521 Reference as your first initial then surname, or remain anonymous

Church Collection – 2nd Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Church Account BSB: 083 347 A/C No. 53530 4676 Reference as your first initial then surname and if known, your giving number e.g. ASmith T/G 500

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 14 Sep	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Tuesday 15 Sep	Our Lady of Sorrows
Wed 16 Sep	Sts Cornelius & Cyprian

CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY – 11th September "Put Children First"

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. The Church takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse. 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. Find out more at: www.catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday Stay tuned for further information coming soon from our Parish Safeguarding Committee.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who sent well wishes and kind words on my recent Australian Citizenship. It was much appreciated.

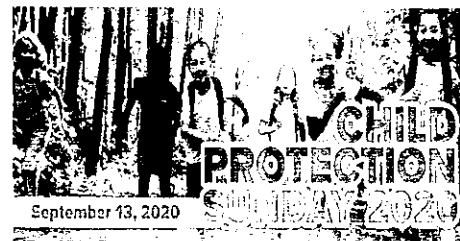
Fr. Arockia Sebastian

FACE MASKS – VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are supporting a reusable mask making project for disadvantaged people in our community. Materials of fabric, elastic, design and template provided. Simple design with only a moderate amount of sewing skills required. 5 masks per pack. Please go to the Parish Website if you can volunteer to make them (only 5 volunteers needed). Contactless pick-up and drop off. Kits available from Monday 14th September and return of completed masks a week later please.

PARISH REMEMBRANCE BOOK

The Parish Remembrance Book will soon be updated. If you would like to add the name of a departed loved one, please email or telephone the Parish Office. Details required for inclusion in the book are: full name, month, date and year of death. Thank you.



Prayer

Gracious God, you love and care for all of your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable. We entrust to you the lives of children and adults at risk who have been sexually abused, and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed.

Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for those whose lives have been broken. Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those wounded by abuse, and the failure to be heard.

We pray that with the help of your grace communities and families will find understanding and support, so that now and in the future their wounds may be healed and they may find lasting peace.

Let your grace and love fall gently now upon our children, giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience to seek out assistance when required.

We ask this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

Amen

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<http://pol.org.au/keiloreast/Home.asp>

x

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277>

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal: Ms Linda Tarraran

Phone: 03 9337 4111

Email:

principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au

Administration: Ms Belinda McPherson & Mrs Sherrill Johnson

The Parish of St Peter's, Keilor East and the Diocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community.

All staff and volunteers in our parish must have a current Working with Children Check.

ST COLUMBA'S COLLEGE, ESSENDON

Applications for Year 7 in 2022 will close Friday 9th October 2020. Our next Virtual Tour will be held on Wednesday 2nd September. Book your place at columba.vic.edu.au

AVE MARIA COLLEGE YEAR 7 – 2022

Applications for Year 7 in 2022 close **Friday 9th October 2020**. Contact the Registrar on 9331 9308 or via email at registrar@avemaria.vic.edu.au