

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-9

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

R. O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. *R.*
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us: for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. *R.*
3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' *R.*

SECOND READING *Romans 13:8-10*

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!
God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 18:15-20

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. 'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. 'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord, *(All bow during these two lines)*
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
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 Church's teaching on penance and reconciliation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that sin is before all else an offense against God, a rupture of communion with him. At the same time it damages communion with the Church. For this reason conversion entails both God's forgiveness and reconciliation with the Church, which are expressed and accomplished liturgically by the sacrament of penance and reconciliation. Only God forgives sins. Since he is the Son of God, Jesus says of himself, "The Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" and exercises this divine power: "Your sins are forgiven" (CCC 1441).

Binding and loosing. The Catechism of the Catholic Church goes on to explain the meaning of the "binding and loosing" in today's Gospel. This ecclesial dimension of their task is expressed most notably in Christ's solemn words to Simon Peter: "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (CCC 1444). The office of binding and loosing that was given to Peter was also assigned to the college of the apostles united to its head. The words bind and loose mean: Whomever you exclude from your communion, will be excluded from communion with God; whomever you receive anew into your communion, God will welcome back into his. Reconciliation with the Church is inseparable from reconciliation with God (CCC 1445).

Christ instituted the sacrament of penance for all sinful members of his Church: above all for those who, since baptism, have fallen into grave sin, and have thus lost their baptismal grace and wounded ecclesial communion (CCC 1446).

More than forgiving and forgetting. Forgiveness never means to overlook what someone has done to us. The emotions we feel when someone has wronged us are genuine, real, upsetting, and they must be honestly and painfully acknowledged and dealt with. They can provide a way of healing with the hurt and of moving toward healing and forgiveness. Harboring feelings of resentment, unforgiveness, anger, hate and rage can prevent the healing process from ever beginning. To forgive is not to say that what others did to us was okay. To genuinely forgive means that I refuse to allow the hurt to prevent me from growing and moving forward. If I refuse to move forward, wallowing in my own hurt and anger, I become paralyzed by the evil that has taken place. An unforgiving spirit and festering resentment harden my heart and block it up from any flow of love. I am terribly diminished when I cannot forgive others. If I am sincere about forgiveness, I must allow God to remove my hard-heartedness and meanness of spirit. Forgiveness does not mean forgetfulness. It is rather a conscious decision that I make in my head, and pray that it slowly descends to my heart.

What are some painful examples of forgiveness in action today? Forgiving the person who murdered my innocent child does not mean to push for them to be released from prison. To forgive the husband who has been routinely violent does not necessarily mean choosing to take him back after violence and infidelity. To speak rationally to the wife who left her husband and children for another partner does not condone the terrible suffering that followed for the entire family. To forgive the priest who has abused children does not mean advocating for his return to active ministry around children. To speak honestly to the boyfriend who abandoned the young woman when she found herself pregnant and refused to have an abortion as an easy way out of the mess is the beginning of forgiveness and healing for all involved. We need clear thinking when it comes to making wise, compassionate judgments about the great, ambiguous situations in which we often find ourselves.

The frequently used expression "forgive and forget" is not a scriptural or particularly Christian saying. Jesus offers us another way in which we can forgive even while remembering a past hurt. When I forgive in the name of Jesus Christ, and with his strength and presence, I can actually help others who have been deeply hurt and begin the healing process. Just as there is nothing that one human being cannot do to another, there is nothing that one human being cannot forgive another, with the help and grace of Jesus.

Father Thomas Rosica, CSB

WE PRAY FOR

We pray for those in our local community who are **sick** and vulnerable: may they see in us the followers of a God who heals and serves.

Let us pray for those who have died recently, Carmen Pantalleresco, Pina Maria Bonacci, and those whose anniversaries we remember at this time, that they may enter the peace of God.

STEWARDSHIP:

“You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel.” - EZEKIEL 33:7

Many of us are generous with our gifts. However, how often is our generosity at the minimum level required? We do just enough or give just enough. Remember, the Lord calls us to be generous with all the gifts He has given us, to grow them and return them with increase.

REFLECTION: Giving out of Love

Brothers and sisters: Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another. Romans 13:8

After Mass, the congregation was milling about in the convent courtyard. An acquaintance caught my eye from across the way. We smiled and nodded, and then before I knew it, she had rushed toward me, and there she was, sharing some surprising, sad news about her family. It was difficult and challenging, and of course, I said what one does, sincerely: “Whatever I can do...I’ll be praying for you.” Not an isolated incident, of course, as I’m sure is the case with you too. The previous day, another acquaintance had shared a similar story about her own adult child, and as I glanced around at those who’d gathered that morning, I knew that every smile and every hug was offered by a person bearing some sort of pain. We may not know what we mean when we assure another, “Whatever I can do,” but rooting whatever we give in love is the only place we can start.

Loving Father, help me to respond to each person I meet today with love.
Amy Welborn

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

That we go beyond the minimum required and give generously in proportion to what God has given each of us.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK – Change

Nothing in this world is permanent.

German Proverb

VOCATION VIEW

How much would the world be changed if everyone were completely forgiving? Probably totally! Jesus’ stories of forgiveness are so loved because they are so needed. Re-tell them! Re-live them!

FATHERS’ DAY APPEAL FOR PRIESTS ON SUNDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, FATHERS’ DAY. PLEASE BE GENEROUS,

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NEWS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

Project Compassion 2020 result.

Dear friends,

The final result for the Project Compassion 2020 campaign are in, and I wish to thank everyone in Melbourne who has contributed to an amazing result, considering bushfires, lockdowns, and the well-known difficulties that our schools, parishes and other institutions have had to work under since March.

The people of Melbourne contributed **\$1.216 million** this year - a truly outstanding result which speaks to generosity, and the willingness of so many people to send their contributions directly to Caritas, and to the many priests and people in parishes, and school families and staffs, that made the extra effort to raise donations and send them in. We’re very aware that many of our contributors are themselves dealing with the economic effects of lockdowns and restrictions, including unemployment and loss of business, which makes the contributions even more exceptional. All of us in Caritas are deeply, deeply grateful for your dedication to this part of the Catholic church’s work with those in need. This work is even more vital at a time when the whole world is in crisis.

To put this year’s figure in context, it compares with the \$1.524 million donated in 2019, a very different time when many of us in Australia were in very different personal circumstances. Overall, Project Compassion throughout Australia this year raised \$7.9 million, as compared to \$10.9 million last year.

Finally, this is probably the last communication you’ll have from me as Diocesan Director for Caritas Australia. This has been a privilege for me. In my three years in this ministry I’ve been deeply moved by the generosity of so many Melbourne people, and their passion for justice. Thank you.
Jim Curtain

Emergency Appeal for Lebanon. Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Australia has launched a national emergency appeal for Lebanon, requesting prayers for victims and their families, and raising funds in the wake of the deadly explosion in Beirut on the 4th of August, which has killed at least 135 people, injured 5000 and decimated the capital city. The funds raised will be used to support the most urgent needs in Lebanon (such as emergency food packages) but they will also respond to the physical and spiritual needs that arise in the coming weeks, months and years.

History of Father’s Day. While the date of the first celebration of Father’s Day in Australia is hard to pinpoint, credit for Father’s Day in the USA goes to Sonora Dodd, [Spokane](#), who celebrated Father’s Day in 1910 to honour her father who had raised six children as a single parent. In 1966, President [Lyndon B. Johnson](#) issued the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers, designating the third Sunday in June as Father’s Day in the USA. In Australia, Father’s Day is celebrated on the first Sunday of September. [Mother’s Day can be traced back much further, at least to ‘Mothering Day’ in the 1600s in England.]

HAPPY FATHER’S DAY TO ALL DADS, YOUNG AND OLD.