



24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2023

REFLECTION By Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

The opening verses of this Sunday's gospel reading have Jesus advocating limitless forgiveness (not seven, but seventy-seven times). The parable that follows is anything but consistent with this teaching, however, and with the teaching of Jesus in the gospel as a whole. We are all familiar with the beatitude, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall be mercied" (5:7) and with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (6:12).

How then do we read today's story of a king who is prepared to forgive the debt that his slave has incurred, only to resort to torture when that slave fails to forgive his fellow slave? This story raises endless issues: the unquestioning acceptance of slavery and the plight of slaves; the absolute power of the king over his subjects; the institution of debt slavery; the treatment of women and children; the collection of crippling taxes to finance the power of the king; an unjust and cruel ruler as an image of the God of Israel; imaging God as a loving parent who nonetheless acts in tyrannical ways. In other words, the parable encodes institutions and practices of the time that Jesus and the Matthean community seem to accept without question.

Does the parable come from the lips of Jesus or from the Matthean community? It would be anachronistic to expect a critique of slavery in the first century since the institution of slavery was simply taken for granted in the Graeco-Roman world. It persisted without critique for some 1800 years. It has now taken a new and sinister turn with the widespread practice of sexual and labour slavery of the vulnerable. It is totally out of character, however, for Jesus to image his "heavenly Father" as a merciless torturer. It may be that Jesus did in fact tell such a story in another context and that the Matthean author has rather arbitrarily linked the sayings on forgiveness (forgiving 77 times and forgiving from one's heart) with this story. It is conceivable that Jesus insisted on the consequences of refusing to forgive.

While God is merciful and forgiving, disciples must not exploit God's capacity to forgive. Bad behaviour is not to be tolerated. It has its consequences and those who exploit others or fail to forgive can expect to suffer the consequences of their actions. Whatever we make of the story of the merciless king and the unforgiving slave, we might take on board Jesus' response to Peter. We might also note the reminder that true forgiveness is "from the heart". In the biblical world, the heart was the core of the person's being, the seat of cognition as well as of emotion. To forgive from the heart is to forgive with the whole of one's being. We are all in need to God's forgiveness if we are to find the freedom to address "from the heart" the plight of the planet.

17 September 2023



Social Services Sunday

A day to reflect and give thanks



marginalised, and to reflect on how you might be more involved in work to achieve to justice in your own community.

Sunday 17 September

2023 marks Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day, we give thanks for the dedicated work of the thousands of staff and volunteer who stand with and serve the poor, disadvantaged and

Departure of Cathedral Dean Fr. Utri and Arrival of Msgr. Hall

This Wednesday the 20th of September Fr. Werner Utri officially concludes his term as Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral and Msgr. Stuart Hall begins his appointment.

On behalf of the Cathedral parishioners, I thank Fr. Werner for his years of dedicated service and assure him of our prayers and best wishes for his future appointments. Likewise I extend a warm welcome to Msgr. Hall whom we look forward to meeting at the Sunday Masses next weekend.

Fr. Michael Buck, Master of Ceremonies

Thank You and Farewell

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to thank you all for your support and kindness during my years at St. Patrick's.

You will remain in my prayers and I am grateful for yours.

I am sure you will all make the new Dean of the Cathedral, Monsignor Stuart Hall, most welcome.

May God bless you all. Fr Werner Utri

Special SIX30 Holy Hour Event

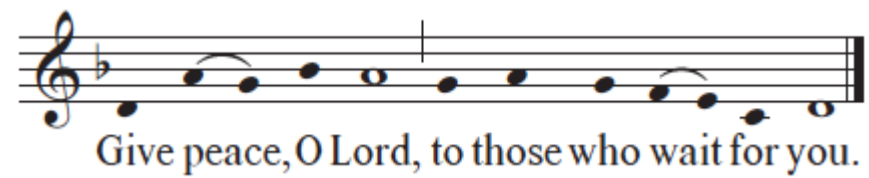
Thursday 21 September, 6:30pm – 7:30pm

St Patrick's Cathedral

Join Archbishop Comensoli for SIX30 Holy Hour with international speaker and reformed gangster, John Pridmore, who has shared his inspiring story of conversion with millions through his powerful talks and conferences.

Entrance Antiphon

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.



Entrance Hymn CWB II 624 v1-3

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea, and forgiveness in his justice sealed for us on Calvary. There is plentiful redemption through the blood that Christ has shed; there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind. But we make his love too narrow by false limits of our own, and we magnify his strictness with a zeal he will not own.

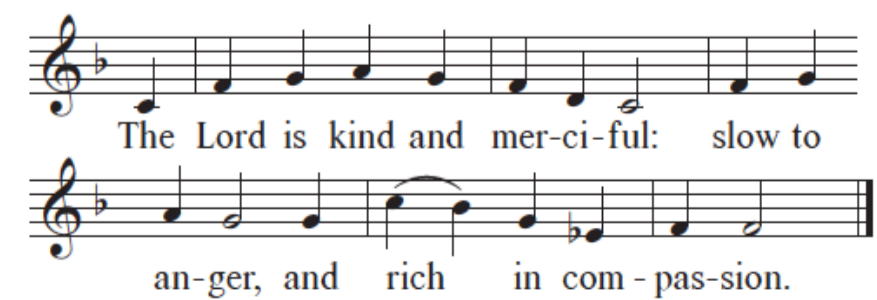
Restless souls, why do you scatter like a crowd of frightened sheep? Foolish hearts, why do you wander from a love so true and deep? If our love were but more simple we should take him at his word; and our lives would be illumined by the goodness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick William Faber 1814-1863, alt
Tune::IN BABILONE 87.87d; Oude en Nieuwe Hollanste Boerenlieties c1710

First Reading Ecclesiasticus 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 94:1-2.6-9



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

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 (11 am Mass)



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

Chepponis, James. ‘Festival Alleluia’ (Refrain). In Festival Alleluia, 7, 1st edition. St Louis: Birnamwood Publications, 1999.

Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

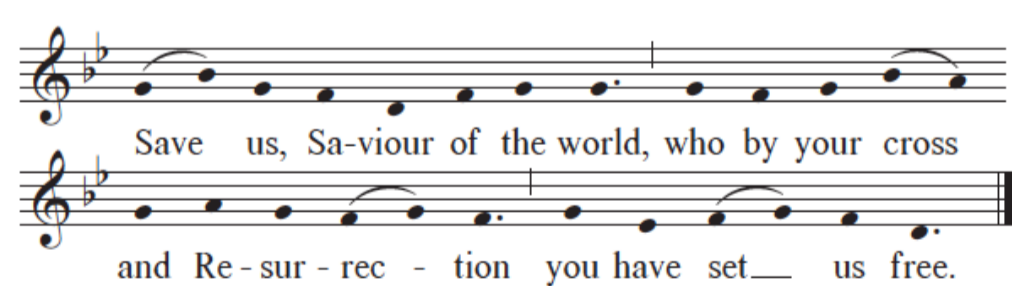
Peter went up to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. ‘And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders 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 Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

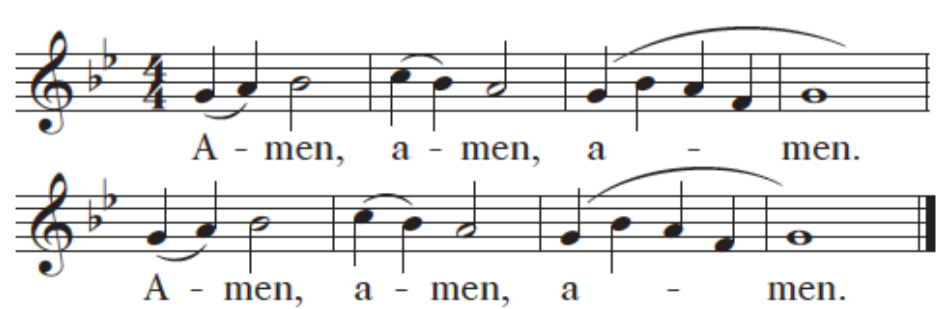
Memorial Acclamation



Save us, Sa-viour of the world, who by your cross
and Re-sur-rec-tion you have set us free.

Text: English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010, ICEL
Music: Chant from The Roman Missal, adapt. ICEL, © 2010

Amen (11am Mass)

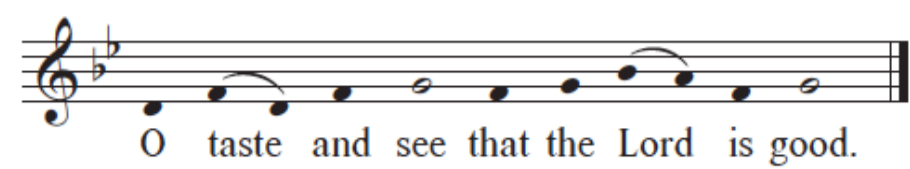


A - men, a - men, a - men.
A - men, a - men, a - men.

Haugen, Marty. ‘Amen’ from Mass of Creation. Chicago: GIA Publications, 2010 (ICEL).

Communion Antiphon

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.



O taste and see that the Lord is good.

Communion

CWB II 507 v1,5,6,7

Humbly we adore thee, Christ, Redeemer, King;
thou art Lord of heaven, thou to whom we sing.

Refrain: *Christ, our God and brother, hear our humble plea;
by this holy banquet keep us joined to thee.*

Thou who died to save us, live on as our light;
through our eyes are blinded,
yet our faith gives sight. *Refrain*

Christ, do thou be merciful, Lamb for sinners slain;
we in grief confess our guilt;
cleanse our souls of stain. *Refrain*

Make us one in loving thee, one in mind and heart;
from this holy unity, let us not depart. *Refrain*

Text: Melvin Lloyd Farrell 1930-1986
Music: ADORO TE DEVOTE 11.11.11.11; mode V ©1955. 1961 World Library Publications.

Post-Communion/
Recessional Hymn

CWB II 588

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet
your tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored,
forgiven who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour to our fathers in
distress; praise him still the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
Praise him! Praise him! Alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

Father-like he tends and spares us; well our feeble
frame he knows; in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Praise him! Praise him! Alleluia!
Widely as his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him, you behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Praise him! Praise him! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Text: based on Psalms 103 (102) Henry Francis Lyte 1793-1847 alt.
Tune: PRAISE MY SOUL (LAUDA ANIMA) 87.87.87; John Goss 1800-1880

Mass Setting

11am: Messe Solennelle, Op.36 – Widor

Communion

11am: *How precious is your mercy, O Go* (plainchant)

6.30pm: Humbly we adore thee (CWB II 507)

Recessional

11am: Non nobis Domine – Patrick Doyle

‘Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us; but to your name be the glory.’

6.30pm: ‘March’ from *Scipione*, HWV 20 – Handel

Migrants & Refugees

SUNDAY MASS

"Free to choose
whether to
migrate or to stay."

Theme chosen by Pope Francis for the 109th
World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Celebrate
with migrant
communities from
all over Melbourne

Sunday 24 September 2023

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL • EAST MELBOURNE

2pm Rosary (in various languages)

3pm Mass (celebrated by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli
and Migrant Chaplains of the Archdiocese)



ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
MELBOURNE

Music for Brass & Organ

Sunday 17 September, 3pm
St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne

Join us for an afternoon of brass and organ music, featuring the
Cathedral Brass and the Cathedral Organist, **Dion Henman**.
Conducted by **Brett Kelly**.

Greensleeves (Trad.)

Bach – Three Chorales

Handel – Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

Scott Joplin – The Easy Winners

Morricone – Gabriel's Oboe from 'The Mission'

Rutter – A Gaelic Blessing

And more...

Tickets \$30
Concession \$25

At door or from trybooking.com/BRYBS
Children aged 15 years and under admitted free



Caritas Australia's Emergency Appeals – Morocco / Libya

Caritas Australia needs
your support to respond
to the devastating
earthquake in Morocco
and floods in Libya.
Thousands of people
have died and others
have been injured.
Communities need
shelter, food, water and
medical assistance.
Please support Caritas
Australia's emergency
appeals.

Donate at
www.caritas.org.au

EXTRAORDINARY FORM LATIN MASS

In the Sacred Heart
Chapel at
St Patrick's Cathedral
every Wednesday at
5.30pm

HOLY HOUR HELD IN THE CATHEDRAL EVERY THURSDAY AT 6.30PM

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Each Friday at the
conclusion of the
1.00pm Mass,
in the Sacred Heart
Chapel.
Exposition until
2.15pm.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

We pray for the sick
and for all who have
asked for our
prayers.

We pray for all those
who have died
recently, especially
Clancy Dighton and
those whose
anniversaries we
remember at this
time, especially
Kum Mary Lam.

Archbishop

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

Dean of

St Patrick's Cathedral

Very Rev Werner Utri

Master of Ceremonies

Rev. Michael Buck

Assistant Priest

Rev. Jaycee Napoles

Priest in Residence

Rev. Philip Mathew

Chaplain: St Vincent's Hospital

Director of Music

Dr. Philip Matthias

Cathedral Organist

Dion Henman

Cathedral Singers

Christopher Mason

Director

Thomas Grubb

Organist

St Patrick's Cathedral Choir

in partnership with

St Kevin's College, Toorak

Cathedral Parish

Office Coordinator

Julie Allan

Cathedral Office

T: 9662 2233

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www.stpatrickscathedral.org.au

Cathedral Administration

Assistant

Huong Nguyen

SAFEGUARDING.

Child Protection Officer:

Rev Jaycee Napoles

Please refer to the two new posters
'Rights and Responsibilities' and
'Feel safe and be Safe at Our Church'
at the entrances of the Cathedral

[https://
melbournecatholic.org/
safeguarding](https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding).

St Patrick's Cathedral Young Adult Ministry (SPCYAM) (age 18 to 40 yrs old)

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at
Cathedral Room, CKC Centre,
383 Albert St, East Melbourne

Last Saturday of each month;
6pm mass, followed by meal.

Contact Fr. Jaycee Napoles
(Jaycee.Napoles@cam.org.au)