

The Unforgiving Servant

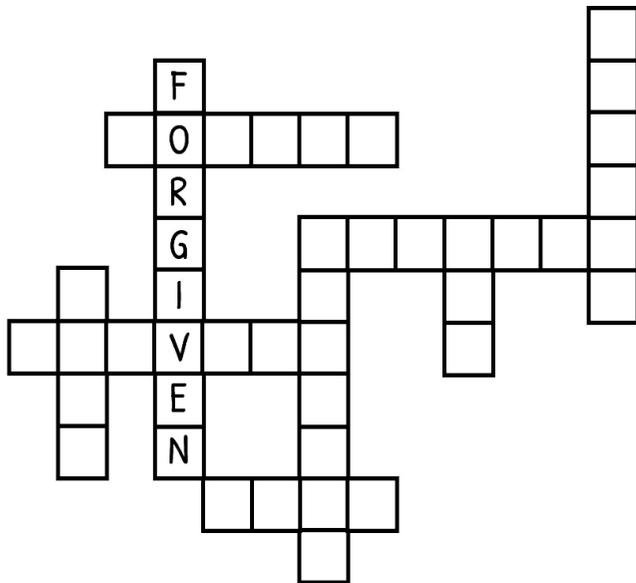
Read the parable of the two debtors told by Jesus in Matt 18:23-33 .
Then put the **green** words from the parable into the crossword puzzle.

One of the king's servants owed the king a great deal of money. However, he did not have the money to pay the **king**, so he asked the king to be **patient** and give him more time to repay the **debt**. The king felt bad for his servant and told him he did not have to repay the money. The entire debt was **forgiven**.

Once the **servant** left, he went looking for a worker who owed him a very small amount of money. The **worker** begged him to be patient. But the servant, who had just been forgiven by the king, had this man thrown in **jail**.

When the king heard how unkind his servant had been to the worker, he was angry. He told his servant, "Shame on you for treating your debtor this way, after all I did for you. Now you will go to jail, and you will pay me everything you owed me."

What good lessons we can learn from this **parable**. First, to treat others the way we would like to be treated, and second, to have a **loving** and forgiving heart.



SAINT JOSEPH'S
BROOMHOUSE



13th September 2020

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

PLEASE TAKE THE BULLETIN WITH YOU—
IT CANNOT BE REUSED.



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24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

First Reading

Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you; 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

OUR VIRTUAL COFFEE MORNING IS BACK!

Following a brief break, our virtual coffee morning returns this Sunday 14th September at 12:30pm. We use this as an opportunity to catch up with friends old and new.

We use Zoom for our virtual coffee mornings. Don't worry if you've never used Zoom before, because it's not too difficult. You can use a smartphone, tablet, laptop or a desktop computer. If you don't already have Zoom installed, just go to www.zoom.us, click on join a meeting and use the following details:

MEETING ID: 839 6638 7559

PASSCODE: 482061

If you don't have internet access but would like to join us by phone, you can also call **0131 460 1196** and then dial in the details above.

We'd love to see more new faces joining us.

BYOB: Bring your own biscuits!



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our clothing collection for Mary's Meals last weekend. We are pleased to say that an incredible **246 bags of clothing** were collected. To put this into perspective, two bags of clothing can help feed a child for an entire school year so your donations have made a real difference.

We were also able to bank **£523.23** in cash donations into the account for the school which the parish sponsors in Limbe, Malawi.

As a parish, you never fail to amaze with your generosity, but it is even more staggering at the current time. **Once again, thank you very much!**

POUND CLUB

Following the draws of the pound club for April—August, draws will resume as normal from September. **Remember, you've got to be in it to win it!** If you have not paid up, please do so as soon as possible. There are also still plenty of numbers which have not been taken so if you would like to join contact Shirley Cooney or Elizabeth McGuire. All proceeds from the Pound Club go back in to parish funds.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 102

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

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. ®

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. ®

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. ®

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. ®

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. 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

Communion Antiphon

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

MONEY MATTERS

During this time when attendance at Masses is limited and many parishioners are still unable to come to Mass, we recognise that it has been difficult for parishioners to maintain their regular financial contributions. There are several ways to make your offerings, which can also be gift aided, if you are willing and able.

You can hand in your offerings as you enter and exit the church, or post your donations through the letterbox of the parish house.

It is also possible to donate via bank transfer or standing order. The parish bank account details are:

Sort code: 80-02-27

Account number: 00126361

Account name: Archdiocese of St Andrew's & Edinburgh - St Joseph's

Please remember to include your name as a reference.

**Last Sunday's collection: Not yet counted.
Total will be printed in next week's bulletin.**

BOOKING FOR MASS

Parishioners must book in advance before attending weekend Masses. As you leave the church today, you can book your place for next weekend. You can also contact Ewan Walker on 07913 824 258. Contact details are also available on the parish website.

It is great to see the numbers of parishioners returning to Mass rising. However, this also means that most weekends our Masses are fully booked. If you cannot get a space at weekend Mass, please consider coming to morning Mass which is celebrated every day at 9.30am.

Also, if you book a space at Mass but can no longer make it, **please get in touch to cancel so that the space can be allocated to someone on the waiting list.**

Please note that the latest updated regulations from the government on the maximum size of gatherings have not yet been applied to places of worship so at the moment there is no change to our arrangements.

Remember that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended so if you feel unwell, are showing any symptoms related to Covid-19, or are in the vulnerable category you should stay at home.

A Short Reflection from Fr Shinto

Forgiveness is the hallmark of our Christian faith and practice. The Gospel of the Day is an exhibition of the aspect of the Lord going beyond mathematical boundaries in dealing with the beautiful virtue of forgiveness. The passage begins with Peter raising a query to his Master, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" (Mt 18: 21) Peter sought to know what are the exact boundaries that one must limit oneself, while forgiving. He wanted clear-cut rules to define the maximum threshold and frontiers of generosity in pardoning.

To his surprise Jesus is not impressed and tells him firmly, "I say to you, not seven times, but seventy seven times" (Mt 18:22). The Lord does away with the mathematical rules in forgiveness! "Seventy seven times" would refer to a number, unlimited and uncountable! For the nature of the Lord is, as we read in the Psalm of the day: "The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy; the Lord does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities."

As the Lord spoke these words to Peter, the apostle would himself have recalled the many times he had sinned against the Lord and caused pain and ache to the Lord. Many times he had abandoned and betrayed the Lord. But every time, the Lord forgave, wholeheartedly! The Lord was truly the Master, who practised what He preached, who forgave unconditionally and without any limit.

The Lord today seeks to impress on us this same attitude of forgiveness. The teaching on forgiveness, is most certainly easier said than done! To forgive repeatedly, is certainly no easy task. But it would require a deeper experience of the Unconditional Love of the Lord and our own determination, along with His grace, to reach out in forgiveness and pardon to our constantly erring brothers and sisters!

Are we ready to cast away mathematical limitations in forgiving, and extend the mercy of the Lord to others knowing that we ourselves have received this favour from the Lord?

May God Bless us!

FEASTS OF THE WEEK

Monday 14th September **The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

What are these Christians about, exalting an instrument of torture?

First, we rejoice that something so terrible should have been transformed into a means of redemption for the whole human race. Second, we remind ourselves of the fact that Christianity is not an abstract and spiritual religion. It springs from God's direct intervention in the affairs of the world, a real historical event involving real people and, in the end, a real execution on a real cross. Our annual celebration of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is an opportunity for us to remember how God can use the worst and darkest human actions to accomplish his divine will. It is also an important annual reminder of how we are called to embrace the cross.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, for by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Tuesday 15th September **Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows**

The title Our Lady of Sorrows, given to our Blessed Mother, focuses on her intense suffering and grief during the passion and death of our Lord. Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows flourished in the Middle Ages and the hymn the *Stabat Mater* was composed for it. Traditionally, the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows is celebrated the day after the feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Wednesday 16th September **St Ninian**

He was born in Cumbria and was ordained bishop in Rome in 394. He landed at Whithorn in Galloway in 397 and built a white-painted stone church there which was called Candida Casa, "White House." From here he

preached the Gospel in Scotland. St Ninian is widely acknowledged as Scotland's first Saint. He is also credited as the person responsible for first bringing Christianity to the Southern Picts, the people living in the places we know today as Perth, Fife, Stirling, Forfar and Dundee.

Thursday 17th September **St Robert Bellarmine**

He was born in Montepulciano, in Tuscany, and became a Jesuit. He taught theology in Rome, and was active in disputation against the Protestants, where his effectiveness was increased by his charity and moderation. He was a moderating influence in the Galileo affair, and gave Galileo much friendly advice. In due course he was nominated a cardinal and archbishop of Capua; but it is for his writings that he is chiefly known. He did not only write controversial works: he also wrote two catechisms and some devotional commentaries on the Psalms and on the Seven Last Words.

Saturday 19th September **St Januarius**

Nothing is really known about St Januarius. The tradition is that he was a bishop of Benevento who was martyred at Puteoli in the early fourth century, but no historical records exist. His body lies in Naples, where his cult is taken very seriously indeed.

NEXT SUNDAY

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

First Reading	<i>Isaiah 55:6-9</i>
Responsorial Psalm	<i>Psalm 144</i>
Second Reading	<i>Phillipians 1:20-24,27</i>
Gospel	<i>Matthew 20:1-6</i>