

The Freedom to Forgive

There are wounds we carry that no one else can see. A harsh word, a betrayal, an injustice, a broken relationship, or something that happened years ago can remain alive within us long after the event itself has passed. We may tell ourselves that we have “moved on”, yet sometimes the memory still has the power to disturb our peace. We replay conversations, imagine what we should have said, and quietly keep an account of what another person owes us.

In today’s Gospel, Peter asks Jesus a very human question: “Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me?” Peter is looking for a limit. Jesus gives him something very different: “Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.” In other words, forgiveness is not meant to be measured like a debt. It is to become a way of living.

Psychologically, resentment can become a kind of inner prison. When we refuse to forgive, we may believe that we are holding the offender accountable, but often we are the ones who continue to carry the weight. The person who hurt us may have moved on, forgotten the incident, or may not even realise how deeply we were wounded. Yet we continue to revisit the pain. The past then begins to occupy space in the present.

This does not mean that forgiveness makes the wrong insignificant. Nor does it mean pretending that nothing happened. Forgiveness is not the denial of justice, nor does it always require reconciliation. Sometimes healthy boundaries are necessary. Rather, forgiveness is the gradual decision to stop allowing another person’s wrongdoing to possess our heart.

This is why Jesus places forgiveness at the centre of Christian life. The servant in the parable has received an immeasurable mercy, yet he immediately becomes merciless towards another. He has received forgiveness, but he has not allowed forgiveness to transform him.

Spiritually, this is the great danger: we can become deeply conscious of what others have done to us while becoming less conscious of how much mercy we ourselves have received from God.

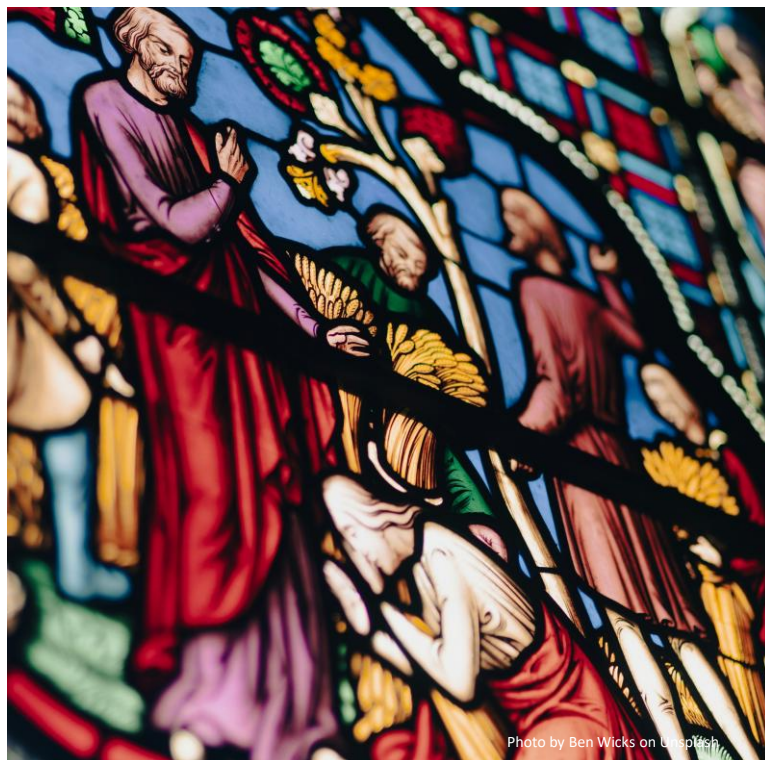


Photo by Ben Wicks on Unsplash

Every time we pray, “forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,” we are reminded that God’s mercy is not simply something we receive; it is something we are called to embody.

Perhaps there is someone we still need to forgive. Perhaps the person is no longer part of our life. Perhaps they cannot apologise, or perhaps they never will. We can still bring that wound before God.

Forgiveness often begins not with a **feeling**, but with a **prayer**:

“Lord, I am not yet able to forgive completely. But I am willing to begin. Take from me the burden of resentment, heal what has been wounded, and give me the freedom to let go.”

The heart that forgives is not a heart that forgets everything. It is a heart that refuses to remain imprisoned by yesterday—and chooses, with God’s grace, to become free for tomorrow.

Fr Sebastian

High School Aged Youth Group

All Welcome to NEXT SUNDAY’S, 20th SEPTEMBER, Gathering.

Straight after 6pm Mass until 8.30pm – Food included

Parent/Guardian please come in person to pick up the explanation and guideline details the first time your son/daughter attends

- 1st Sunday nights of the month during School Terms

- Parent Helpers are always needed.

Thank you

Faith B4U...

Extraordinary Minister of Communion at Mass



Do you want to serve the community by offering the presence of Christ in Holy Communion?

Do you want to become an Extraordinary Minister of Communion at Mass?

Please register your interest using this QR code or contact the Parish Office on 9631 8135 or parishoffice@olqp.org.au



Greystanes Maltese Seniors

Monday 14 September @ 10:30am

St George Preca Centre.. Celebrating "Maria Bambina".

Members & Friends always welcome.

Contact: Marisa Previtera OAM, JP Mb: 0414 863 123

Eucharist28 Update: Walking with Christ

The journey to Eucharist28 has begun! In the years leading up to this moment and beyond, the prayer of Eucharist28 is that across Australia, Eucharistic renewal will continue to flourish, and Eucharistic processions and pilgrimages will become a commonplace way for all to walk with Christ in their lives.

Scan the QR code to access Walking With Christ: A Companion for Eucharistic Renewal, a resource designed to accompany you in your spiritual preparation for the continuing journey with Christ. To discover more, visit eucharist28.org



Saint Padre Pio – Feast Day

On Sunday 20th September at 10am, St Padre Pio Parish, Glenmore Park will have a Solemn Procession with the Relic of St Padre Pio followed by the Feast Day Mass, blessing with his Relic and fellowship meal.

All warmly welcome.

Catholic Theological College

Invites you to our **Engaging your Faith** online presentations in October 2026.

From \$25 per session

For more information:

ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith



Pro-Life rally outside NSW Parliament House

A pro-life rally is to be held outside NSW Parliament House, at 6pm on **Tuesday September 15th** in support of a bill banning the practice of sex-selective abortion. A show of significant numbers will greatly help this cause as we advocate for the protection of all unborn children and particularly our baby girls who are especially vulnerable. They have no voice but ours. Please do all you can to attend and bring others with you. This will be a family friendly event. More information can be found at:

<https://www.drjoannahowe.com.au/nswrallyforlifeseptember2026>

Rosary Workshops

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese.

The craft evening will be held on the following days: **23 September, 15 October, 5 November.**

Cost: \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials).

To **register and for more information**, please visit parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

Let us pray...

FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.

Chantel Adrien, Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Catherine Buttigieg, Mary Camilleri, Karl Croning, Charlie D'Anastas, Kathleen Davies, Jeanette Dib, Nerida Fabri, Gabrielle Farfus, Delina Galea, Dorothy Gatt, Mary Ghantous, Kay Jaunais, Margaret Jones, Tulla Kavich, Patrick Kelly, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Martin Portelli, Jeizek Reyes, Benjie Santiago, Martin Shaw, Barbara Stanton, Carmel Thompson, Cathy Vella, Eddie Vella, Joe Vella, Sue Watters, Gerard Watts, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb, Joseph Zerafa, Melissa Zerafa, Muna Zora

FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, that they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's Mission

Gino Biocca, Alicia Corea, Mario Gatt, Paul Gatt, Michael Moller, Bernadette Moon

FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope. *Funeral details are correct at time of print, but it's best to not make this your only source.*

Charlie Camilleri, Emmanuela Sammut

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Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal – Honour a lifetime of faithful service

We give thanks for the fathers, grandfathers, mentors and spiritual fathers who have guided us with love, wisdom and faith. Among them are our priests, who have devoted their lives to serving God's people. They have celebrated the Sacraments with us, prayed with us, accompanied our families and helped bring us closer to Christ. After a lifetime of faithful service, many of our senior priests now need practical care and support as they face the challenges of ageing, illness and retirement.

Your generous tax-deductible gift will help care for our retired and unwell priests and ensure they can live with the dignity, care and support they deserve.

Please give generously at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan the QR code.

Thank you for caring for those who have spent their lives caring for us.



Catholic Care WSBM

Pregnancy & Infant Loss Memorial Day at Mamre House & Farm: 13 October.

Catholic Care and White Lady Funerals will be holding a memorial service followed by the opportunity to place a plant in memory of your lost loved one in our Garden of Remembrance.

Where: Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills.

Free to attend, please RSVP by 8 October to Lisa 0439 917 129 or Christy 4731 4385.

Express your interest to be a Stall Holder or Performer at LIFTED Live in the Forecourt 2026!

Be part of a vibrant evening filled with music, dance, activities, food, and community fun hosted by Catholic Youth Parramatta on **Saturday, 24th October**, within the precinct of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

We invite local performers, small business and organisations to express their interest via the links below!

Expressions of Interest close Sunday 20th September 11:59pm.

Stall Holder EOI: <https://forms.gle/9cbyafAiumdgWW1dA> Performer

EOI: <https://forms.gle/cza7pTd48eNL9MxM6>

FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate

14th Monday The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

15th Tuesday Our Lady of Sorrows

16th Wednesday Sts Cornelius, pope, martyr, and Cyprian, bishop, martyr

Positions vacant

- Parish Secretary – St Madeline's Sophie Barat Parish, Kenthurst
- Paralegal & Compliance Support – Diocese of Parramatta

More details at: parracatholic.org/jobs

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Sirach

27:30 – 28:7

2nd Reading

Romans

14:7-9

Gospel

Matthew

18:21-35

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Isaiah

55:6-9

2nd Reading

Philippians

1:20-24, 27

Gospel

Matthew

20:1-16

Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - 9:15am (except January

- Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

Mass for Peace - all welcome - followed by Anointing of the Sick - 1st Saturdays 9:15am (except January)

Memorial Mass - all welcome - and offered for recent losses and 1st/2nd anniversaries - 2nd Saturdays 9:15am

Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, olqp.org.au, every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Rosary in the church:

Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at 6:30pm

ZOOM option available Friday night for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary

P: 9631 8135 | E: parishoffice@olqp.org.au
Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

Parish Office Hours: 9am – 1pm, 2pm – 4pm Monday to Friday
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