



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.'

Reflection by Greg Sunter

This gospel passage follows directly from last week's passage. It concludes the whole of Matthew Chapter 18 that deals with sin, forgiveness and reconciliation. Peter's question to Jesus and suggested answer is a reflection of the view that there is a limit to the number of times we should forgive someone. Seven is a significant number in scripture and implies a 'perfect' amount. Even though by his use of seven, Peter is suggesting that he should forgive someone many, many times, Jesus quickly corrects Peter and says not seven, but seventy-seven times (or seventy times seven). Jesus plays on the use of the number seven and multiplies it to indicate that one should forgive as many times as is required – without keeping count; without keeping score.

The story of the unforgiving servant is a familiar one of forgiveness and mercy being shown but not passed on. The sting in the tail of this parable is Jesus' final warning that, 'So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.' This is an unsettling statement, as we believe God's forgiveness to be without measure and without end. Jesus warns that unless we seek to imitate God's forgiveness and forgive others 'from our heart' (with compassion) then we are not going to recognise the forgiveness of God and will cut ourselves off from it.

The whole idea of forgiving from the heart is a powerful contradiction of a popular concept: 'I can forgive, but not forget.' Is it really possible to forgive but refuse to forget? Surely holding on to a memory of hurt is holding on to the hurt itself and does not display that any forgiveness has occurred at all. To forgive but not forget is to keep count. How many times should I forgive the one who has hurt me? As many times as it takes!

The Living Word

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 17 September 2023

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

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Catholic Parish of St Mary Queen of Heaven Georges Hall

Parish Priest: Rev. Peter Krigovsky
Secretary: Mrs. Zenna Azar (Tuesday 9.30am—5.30pm)
Address: 15 Georges Cres, Georges Hall NSW 2198 **Telephone:** 9727 3759
Website: <http://www.smgh.org.au> **Email:** parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com
Facebook: [fb.me/smgh2](https://www.facebook.com/smgh2) **Streaming:** <https://cutt.ly/StMarys>

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Georges Hall
God and us Together

Principal: Mrs Monica Palmer **Website:** www.stmgeorghall.syd.catholic.edu.au
School Tel: 9727 0000 **School email:** info@stmgeorghall.catholic.edu.au

Matthew 18:21-35



MASS TIMES (English):
 Vigil Mass 5 pm (Saturday)
 Sunday 8.00 am & 10.00 am
 Weekdays: Wednesday 6 pm
 Mon. Tue. Thu. Fri. Sat. 9.00 am

VIETNAMESE MASS
 Vigil Mass 6.30 pm (Saturday)
 Sunday 5.30pm

RECONCILIATION
 Saturday 4.30pm-4.55pm
 or anytime on request

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
 Wednesday 5.00pm—6.00pm
 Friday after Mass 9am-10.30am

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK
 Offered to those in need on
 1st Tuesday at 9.00am Mass

Baptisms: Sunday 11.00am
 Bookings are necessary

Children first Sacraments:
 Please contact Elaine Nehme email:
nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au

Parish site maintenance:
 John Impala Phone TBA
 Ivan Leskur Phone TBA

Parish Pastoral Council:
 Bernie Freeburn, Veronica Dening,
 Elaine Nehme, Zenna Azar,
 Paul Abdul Ahad, Natalie Goetz,
 Monica Palmer, Linh Bui,
 Jannette Samawi, Grace Mokdassi

Finance Committee:
 Bernie Freeburn, Michael Anderson,
 Ted Goetz, Veronica Dening, Eileen
 Stevenson

Golden oldies:
 Lorraine Impala

St Vincent de Paul:
 Mary Scott

Scripture:
 Lorraine Corkeron

Music Ministry: TBA

Youth Ministry: TBA

COVID-19 is still around, Please use sanitiser when you enter the church.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES If you are interested in any diocesan events, please collect a copy of additional bulletin at the back of the church.

HANDLING COLLECTION MONEY In light of recent incident in our church the Finance Committee at the meeting last week proposed the following in regards to handling the collection money:

- it is never to be left out of view unattended
- it is to be brought to the altar immediately after each collection
- it is to be collected from the altar by a collector and carried as part of the recessional procession and left in the front sacristy
- once the altar servers clear the back sacristy, it is to be transferred there into money bags by at least two unrelated people and deposited in the safe.

Thank you for your understanding.

MONEY COUNTERS NEEDED

Our parish is inviting retired parishioners to help with money counting. We are hoping to establish 3-4 counting teams of 2-3 unrelated people. All training will be provided. Please see Fr. Peter for more information. Thank you.

WATER LEAK There is a water leaking into the church during sprinkler irrigation. Please use manual irrigation until the problem is rectified. Thank you.

AUDIO SYSTEM UPGRADE Recently our PA Audio system underwent a major upgrade. It may take another week or two to fine tune the volumes. Any observations/suggestions are welcome.

GOLDEN OLDIES BUS TRIP

- this Wednesday 20 September. For those who have already booked - we will leave from the church at 8.30am, enjoy a scenic drive, coffee stop, some time in the Botanical Gardens, lunch at Camden Valley Inn. Coffee and lunch extra. Enquiries: Lorraine 9724 9519



IGNITE CONFERENCE 23 - is a gathering of Catholics for four days of real-world formation, renewal of faith, great people and powerful worship. It's a bold vision for the future of the Church. For more information please see the poster and brochures in the church or visit igniteconference.com.au

BIBLE STUDY We're looking to begin a Bible study group for young

adults in our Parish. Please register your interest to assist us with planning our nights <https://forms.gle/Bz1mVDjw72SAwW1Y8> or contact Grace: gracemokdassi@gmail.com

2023 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Registration and Information night occurred last Wednesday 13 September. If your child is yet to register, please send all enquiries via email: nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au

FHC COMMITMENT MASS - this weekend, children who have enrolled in the sacrament of First Holy Communion will attend Commitment Mass. We welcome these children and their families to Mass.

CHOIR PRACTICE - There will be choir practice on Thursday 21 September at 7.00pm in preparation for the 8.00am Mass on Sunday 24 September. New members are always welcome. Please ring Pat Falvy on 0425 219 660.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY Our parish church is calling for children of all school ages K-12 who wish to be part of our parish music ministry and join our parish church choir. We encourage everyone who loves to sing, can read music and can play an instrument to join. This act of service is a wonderful opportunity to get involved in our Mass and beautiful community. If you are interested and would like further information please message Jess on 0414 187 081 and Natalie on 0431 102 408 by 17 September.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - the next Children's Liturgy will be held on 24 September during the 10am Sunday mass. We encourage all primary school-aged children to attend.

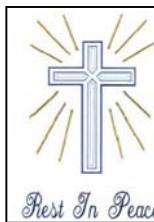
FAMILY MASSES 2023: 10am Sunday
 22nd October - Year 2. *This will be the final family mass for 2023.*

Date/Mass	Greeters	Commentator	Proclaimers	Extraordinary Ministers	Acolytes	Altar Servers	Altar Servers
September 16/17 - 24th Sunday A							
5.00 pm Sat	Lorraine Impala	Abraham Family	Tony Re	Eileen Stevenson Pauline Tonkli	Laurie Simpson	Gabriel Azar	Anthony Torbay
8.00 am Sun		Coorey Family	Coorey Family	Veronica Dening Karen Worley	Mike Anderson	Lucas Ross Joseph Ross	Nicholas Coorey
10.00 am Sun		Alex Driessen	Cramp Family	Alex Driessen Maurice Gili	Chaben Azar		
September 23/24 - 25th Sunday A							
5.00 pm Sat	Chris Lockart	Pauline Tonkli	Mary Gibbons	Annette Simpson Eileen Stevenson	Laurie Simpson	Gabriel Azar	Anthony Torbay
8.00 am Sun		Jenny Freeburn	Danuta Maka	Nat Goetz Ted Goetz	Bernie Freeburn	Lucas Ross Joseph Ross	Nicholas Coorey
10.00 am Sun		Ghanem Family	Maurice Gili	Gill Cramp Alex Driessen	Andrew Driessen		



Please Remember in Your Prayers Our Sick

Joseph Akkary, Beryl Moran, Paul Tonkli, Daniel Clarke, Warren Clarke, Azelia Donati, Eileen Ellery, Paul Evans, Kerry Gibbons, Kathleen Gibson, Christine Hughes, Sue James, Barbara Kains, Daniel Matesic, Phillip Nehme, David Sanders, Mary Strambio, Tony Strambio, Cornelius Van Baardwyk



Let us Pray For All Those Who Have Died

Eddie Counihan, Mervyn Thompson, Antoine Wehbe, Halina Donarska, Tamam & Serg Nohra, Ross Williamson, Eugene Bugden, Marian Pientka, Trevor Newton, Claudia Tabares, Emilio Nohra, John Kolodziej

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.
 May they rest in peace. Amen.*

PARISH EMAILS - a recent upgrade to our parish webmail has resulted in our email distribution lists not carrying across correctly. If you want to receive email notifications from the parish re the bulletin and other matters please email parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com and request to be added to the distribution list.

BEWARE OF SCAMS One of our parishioners has received a scam email soliciting money in the name of Fr. Peter. Please note Fr. Peter will never ask you for money. If in doubt always check with Fr. Peter personally. Simply ignore any such requests without responding to them.

SAINTS ANDREW KIM TAE-GŎN, PAUL CHŎNG HA-SANG AND COMPANIONS
MARTYRS 20 September 2023

SAINT MATTHEW
APOSTLE, EVANGELIST 21 September 2023

SAINT PIUS OF PIETRELCINA
PRIEST 23 September 2023

MINISTRIES ROSTER is now also printed in the

SAFEGUARDING OUR PARISH - Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding Office at 02 9390 5810 or Email: safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org
 The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Our parish has a folder with Safeguarding information in the church for parishioners to view. Check out the latest safeguarding newsletter. A link to the Archdiocese's Child Safeguarding Policy is available from the homepage of our parish website and on display in the folder. Enquiries: Veronica via email: parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com