



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A - 13 September 2026



Sirach 27:30-28:7, Psalm 102:1-12, Romans 14:7-9

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?

As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him,

'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."



Meditation: Does mercy overlook justice? Justice demands that everyone be given their due. So when is it right to show mercy and pardon to those who have acted unjustly or wrongly? The prophet Amos speaks of God forgiving transgression three times, but warns that God may not revoke punishment for the fourth (see Amos 1:3-13; 2:1-6). When Peter posed the question of forgiveness, he characteristically offered an answer he thought Jesus would be pleased with. Why not forgive seven times! How unthinkable for Jesus to counter with the proposition that one must forgive seventy times that.

No limit to granting forgiveness and pardon: Jesus makes it clear that there is no limit to giving and receiving forgiveness. He drove the lesson home with a parable about two very different kinds of debts. The first man owed an enormous sum of money - millions in our currency. In Jesus' time this amount was greater than the total revenue of a province - more than it would cost to ransom a king! The man who was forgiven such an incredible debt could not, however, bring himself to forgive his neighbour a very small debt which was about one-hundred-thousandth of his own debt. The contrast could not have been greater!

Jesus paid our ransom to set us free from the debt of sin: No offense our neighbour can do to us can compare with our own personal debt to God for offending him! We have been forgiven an enormous debt we could not repay on our own. That is why the Father in heaven sent his only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who freely and willingly gave up his life for our sake to ransom us from slavery to sin, Satan, and death. Paul the Apostle states, "you were bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 7:23) and that price was Jesus' death on the cross. Through the shedding of his blood on the cross, Jesus not only brought forgiveness and pardon for our offenses, but release from our captivity to Satan and bondage to sin.

Set free from futile thinking and sinful living: The Lord Jesus sets us free from a futile mind and way of living in sin and spiritual darkness. "You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers ...with the precious blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18). Christ "gave himself to redeem us from all iniquity" (Titus 2:14). Iniquity describes the futile ways of wrong thinking, sinful attitudes and wrong behavior, and disregarding or treating God's commandments lightly. We have been forgiven an enormous debt which we could never possibly repay. We owe God a debt of gratitude for the mercy and grace he has given us in his Son, Jesus Christ.

Forgiving others is a sacred duty: If God has shown mercy to us in granting us pardon for our sins, then we, in turn, must show mercy and forgiveness towards every person who has offended us. The willingness to forgive those who offend us is a sacred duty. If we expect God to pardon us and show us his mercy when we sin and disobey his commandments, then we must be willing to let go of any resentment, grievance, or ill-will we feel towards our neighbour. Jesus teaches us to pray daily for the grace and strength to forgive others in the same measure in which God has forgiven us (Matthew 6:12,14-15). If we do not show mercy and forgiveness to our fellow human beings, how can we expect God to forgive us in turn? The Apostle James says that "judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy" (James 2:13).

Mercy seasons justice and perfects it: Mercy is the flip-side of God's justice. Without mercy justice is cold, calculating, and even cruel. Mercy seasons justice as salt seasons meat and gives it flavour. Mercy follows justice and perfects it. Justice demands that the wrong be addressed. To show mercy without addressing the wrong and to pardon the unrepentant is not true mercy but license. C.S. Lewis, a 20th century Christian author wrote: "Mercy will flower only when it grows in the crannies of the rock of Justice: transplanted to the marshlands of mere Humanitarianism, it becomes a man-eating weed, all the more dangerous because it is still called by the same name as the mountain variety." If we want mercy shown to us we must be ready to forgive others from the heart as God has forgiven us. Do you hold any grudge or resentment towards anyone? Ask the Lord to purify your heart that you may show mercy and loving-kindness to all - and especially to those who cause you grief and ill-will.

Photo taken by Fr Alex Chow, 09 Nov 2020, Confessional, Santa Maria Nuova, Viterbo (UNESCO), Italy.

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Parish Office tel: 03 9412 8499; Presbytery tel: 03 9877 2292

St Luke the Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

Email: foresthill@cam.org.au | Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au | Web: luktim.church

Parish Priest

Fr Alex Chow

Parish Secretary

Sonya O'Farrell

Wednesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays

10am – 2pm

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SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil: 5pm (SL)

Sunday: 8:30am (SL)

10:30am (ST)

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WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues. 6:30pm (SL)

Wed. 9:15am (ST)

1st Wed. Mass of

Anointing @ 11am

Thurs. 9:15am (ST)

Fri. 9:15am (SL*)

6.30pm (ST)

Sat. 9.15am (SL*)

*Rosary after Mass

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RECONCILIATION

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:10pm

Sat 9.45 - 10.15am

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm

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HOLY HOUR

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm

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HOSPITALITY AT ST. LUKE'S

2nd weekend of each month - BYO (optional)

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Saturday 19 Sept @ 2pm,
St Luke Church - Work
Sacristy

SALT YOUTH GATHERING

24 Sept @ 7pm, Library, St
Luke Primary School.

LEGION OF MARY -

Tuesday 15th Sept @ 9am
at St Luke's Parish Hall
Kitchen. Enquiries to
Lucy 0419 591 423

Next Week's Daily Readings 14 Sept - 20 Sept Ordinary Time

MONDAY Sept 14 Num 21:4-9

Ps 77:1-2, 34-38 Jn 3:13-17

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

TUESDAY Sept 15 Heb 5:7-9

Ps 30:2-6, 15-16, 20 Jn 19:25-27

Our Lady of Sorrows

WEDNESDAY Sept 16 1 Cor 12:31 -

13:13 Ps 32:2-5, 12, 22 Lk 7:31-35

**Sts Cornelius, pope, martyr, and
Cyprian, bishop, martyr**

THURSDAY Sept 17 1 Cor 15:1-11

Ps 117:1-2, 15-17, 2 Lk 7:36-50

FRIDAY Sept 18 1 Cor 15:12-20

Ps 16:1, 6-8, 15 Lk 8:1-3

SATURDAY Sept 19 1 Cor

15:35-37, 42-49 Ps 55:1-14 Lk 8:4-15

SUNDAY Sept 20 Is 55:6-9

Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 Phil 1:20-24, 27

Mt 20:1-16

25th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

CHILDREN'S LITURGY / FAMILY MASS

ST TIMOTHY'S: Sunday 27th Sept
@10.30am Mass

ST LUKE'S: Next Family Mass will be on
Oct. 10th and on the second Saturday of
each month

Young Adult GATHERING 18-35 YEARS OLD

A SAFE SPACE AND INCLUSIVE SPACE TO DEEPEN
YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST, THROUGH
FELLOWSHIP PLUS BYO NIBBLES.

When: SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Time: 2PM - 3PM

Where: ST. LUKE'S WORKING SACRISTY

CRAFT SOCIAL

IN PREPARATION FOR ST. LUKE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
FETE, LUKTIM YAM IS PREPARING...

HAND-MADE ROSARY BEADS

✉ EMAIL US: LUKTIMYAM@GMAIL.COM
📱 FOLLOW US: @STLPARISH

ST VINCENT de PAUL NOTICE

Blackburn South St Vincent de Paul
conference members are very grateful for
any donations of non-perishable food items.

All other donations such as clothing,
footwear, towels etc should be taken to one
of the local Vinnies' stores at
Mont Albert, Heathmont or Ringwood.

Margaret Gearon, Conference President

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST

12 and 13 SEPT

Lucy Ferris
Peter McKeown
Alfred Lee

19 and 20 SEPT

Mia Perang
Darren McLean
Trevis Yee

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST

Marg Yore
Margaret Gearon
Anico Yee

Godfrey Thong
Megan McLean
Pat Kawalevski

SLIDE OPERATORS

Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST

Choir
Megan McLean
Manny Gonzalez

Choir
Paul Tierney
Lee Min Yee

SL WELCOMERS 12-13 Sept

5pm Val Gardiner
8.30am Marie Pekish
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

26th Sept - Megan's Team
Megan McLean, Janette Clark,
Maureen Davis & Rita Gibb

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

12 Sept - Marie Parker
19 Sept - Fr Alex

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 19-20 Sept

5:00pm John Ryan
8.30am Janette Clark
10.30am Volunteer

ST CHURCH CLEANING

18th Sept
Anico, Ryan & Trevis Yee

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 8
Sarah Ahmed & Ann Abrero
Next week Team 1
Raj Fonn & Harin Perera

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Seng Chan, Fran Davidson, Filomena Italiano, Derek Koh, Ann Jones, Shirley Prabha, Helen MacKay, Kevin Ryan, Suzy Bookluck, Emilio Moreno Garcia, Agatha Wink, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Stewart Davis, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft, Marilene Japour, Paciencia Cabral and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

All who have died, especially Maria Deayton & Bonnie Fung who died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time including Maria Abadilla, Kath Tobias, Stella Mary Hammett, Francis Joseph Tyrrell, Eileen Mayo, Audrey Barry, Annie Calleja, Sir Michael Curtain, Ken West, Jeffery Lawrence, Maria Delores Salinas, Robert Mead, William Searle, Edward John McGrath, Kathleen Williams, Henry Gleeson, Michael William White & Eileen Leach. May they rest in peace.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER:

For the care of water. Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

PARISH & SCHOOL FETE: Five weeks to go until our fete on **Sunday October 18th**. You can now bring your pre-loved books and pre-loved clothes donations to the church foyers. The next fete committee meeting is on Thurs. 24th Sept. at 7pm in St Luke's parish hall kitchen. To volunteer to help on the day please use this link: <https://volunteersignup.org/BPDAA> Contact Sonya in the parish office or email stlukesfete@gmail.com for more information. **More volunteers are very welcome to join us, as many hands make light work!**

SILVER CIRCLE STARTS THIS WEEKEND: Our Silver Circle raffle tickets are on sale after all Masses this weekend. Tickets are \$25 each and one lucky person will win the \$500 prize at the fete. Card and cash payments are accepted.

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: Attentive hearts

MAJELLAN MEDIA: Our Precious Water



iSTAND Camp: An opportunity for Year 8-12 students (Ages 14-18)

You are invited to Youth Mission Team's iSTAND Camp, STEADFAST; a two-day retreat



for high school students. This is a great opportunity for young people to dive deeper into their faith, meet new friends and take some time out during the school holidays. You can expect: Games, team-building and fun, inspiring talks and testimonies, particularly reflecting on the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians,

Time for prayer and reflection, Live music and great food. Contact us with the information below, take a flyer from the church foyer or Scan the QR Code.

DATE: Wednesday 23rd & Thursday 24th September (10.30am - 8.30pm each day)

LOCATION: St Timothy's Parish Hall, 17 Stevens Rd, Forest Hill, Vic 3133

CONTACT: Anthony Bolling, YMT Manager – 0419 103 511 or melbourne@ymt.com.au

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

The First collection is for the priest and retired priests.

The Second collection is for parish expenses.

Please note that collection totals will no longer be published each week in the newsletter. Presbytery and Church donations will be reported on a monthly basis at all weekend Masses. To donate regularly via envelope, credit card or bank account, please contact the parish office.

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters:

*Kelvin & Susan Chen (ST),
Margaret Gearon (SL)*

Baptism Preparation: *Fr Alex*

Parish Collection Preparers

*ST: Barry Silvester &
Michael Kawalevski*

Parish Safeguarding Committee

*Fr Alex, Sonya O'Farrell,
Darren McLean & Janette Clark*

Parish History

SL: Margaret Gearon

Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

SL & ST: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

*ST: Roster of Parishioners
SL: Greg Grant*

Church Cleaning & Flowers

*SL: Megan McLean
ST: Susan Chen*

Church Linen: *SL: Beryl Chelliah*

Parish Garden Maintenance

*ST: Des Connors
SL: Darren McLean*

Parish Choirs

*ST: Miguel Ilagan
SL: Fr Alex*

Bible Timeline: *Chris Lim*

ALPHA: *Lynda Kilroe-Smith*

Young Adult Ministry:

Sarah Santilli & Jersy Soesanto

RCIA: *David West*

St Vincent de Paul Conference

*For Assistance: 1800 305 330
(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)
ST: John McCoy
SL: Margaret Gearon &
Steve Kilroe-Smith*

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.

Response to the Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Eucharistic Acclamation: We proclaim your death O Lord and profess your resurrection until you come again.

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

AMALGAMATION – One Mission, Two Churches:
A Journey Towards One Parish

A transition team has been established with representatives from both parishes: St Luke's: Sonya O'Farrell, Lynda Kilroe-Smith and Darren McLean as well as from St Timothy's: Kelvin Chen, Peter Naughtin and Joelle Harin Perera as well as Seng Fook as secretary. The first forum will be held at **St Timothy's Church on Sunday, 11th October from 11:45am till 1:15pm** with the following program:

Welcome; Prayer/Reflection; Celebrating the last 4 years on the highlights, achievements of the two parishes; Overview of current financial structures, Archbishop's vision for the Melbourne Archdiocese—Presentation of the framework of the 'Take the Way of the Gospel'; Group Reflection on the themes of Parish's Vibrancy, Vitality and Viability; Q & A Having heard all this – How can we respond to this vision.

All parishioners are invited to attend this Forum

May the Holy Spirit guide St Luke's and St Timothy's as we discern how we can become one parish, united in mission and committed to being disciples that proclaim the Hope, Peace and Love of Jesus Christ in this local area.

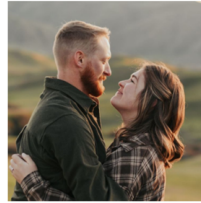
RCIA is starting soon! NEW

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or know someone who is? Want to learn more about the faith in a friendly environment?

We will be meeting at St Luke's on Tuesday nights at 7pm, starting from the **20th of October**.

To join us or for more information, contact Fr Alex (alexander.chow@cam.org.au) or simply scan the QR Code.

Rite of Christian
Initiation of Adults



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

Loving Smarter:

Keys to Relationship Success

Anchored Webinar with Francine and Byron Pirola

NEW

Tuesday 27 October 2026, 7.30-8.30pm, Online, Zoom.

Join Drs Byron and Francine Pirola, founders of SmartLoving, as they share practical insights into what makes relationships flourish. During this online webinar, you will discover how understanding your spouse's unique needs can strengthen communication, deepen emotional connection and help you avoid common relationship pitfalls. To register, go to weblink or register, go to weblink

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events/anchored-loving-smarter>

Made for More:

*Discovering Who We Are
and How We're Called to Live*

NEW

CORDIS
A NIGHT FOR YOUNG ADULTS

What does it mean to discover our identity in Christ and recognise that our lives have a deeper purpose? This talk invites us to move from simply knowing we are loved to living boldly as joyful disciples, open to where God is calling us and the life He is inviting us to live.

DATE & TIME Sunday, 13 September 2026, 6.30pm to 9.30pm

LOCATION: Symons Centre, St Monica's Parish,
820 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds.

SALT Youth Ministry (Yr 7 - 12)

NEW



Date: 24th Sept 26: 7pm to 8:30pm

Where: Discovery Centre, St Luke's Primary School,
46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South.

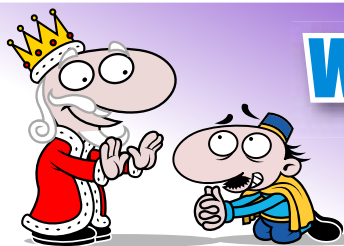
Please join us for our second gathering. With our name decided - SALT Youth - we'll now be continue with exploring the sacrament of BAPTISM. The session will include fun games, snacks, and a dive into what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches about sacraments, and their place in the spiritual life.

ST LUKE'S FETE in partnership with ST TIMOTHY'S - 18th October '26

We have started to promote the fete on our social media. Please like and share our posts to encourage everyone to attend the fete and support our generous sponsors.

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesfete2026/>

<https://www.instagram.com/stlukesfete/>



We forgive others as God forgives us

7x77x777x77

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Jesus told the following story to show how we need to forgive others. Use the words below to fill in the blanks.

One day a _____ gathered his officials to find out how much _____ they owed him. One official owed the king fifty million _____ coins, but could not pay back what he owed. The king ordered that he, his family and _____ be sold to pay back the debt. The official _____ for mercy. The king felt sorry for him and set him _____. As the official left, he met a man who owed him one hundred silver _____. He grabbed the man and said, "Pay me back what you owe me!" The man begged for _____ but the official had him thrown in prison. When the other officials found out they told the king. The king was so _____ he called the official back and ordered him to be _____ until he paid back everything he owed.



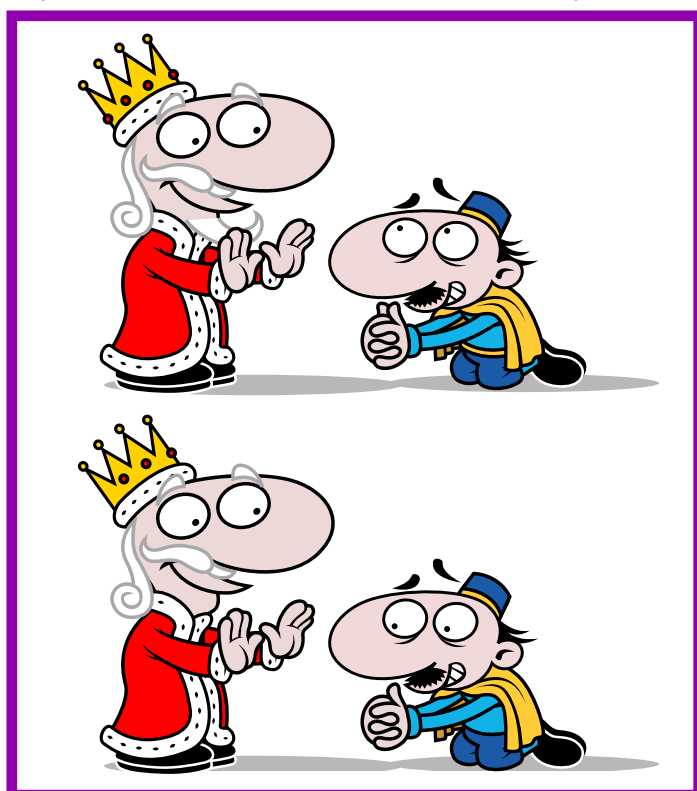
coins **mercy**
punished **money**
king **angry**
free **possessions**
begged **silver**

Show Forgiveness

How does God forgive us when we do wrong things?

How can we show forgiveness to others?

Spot the 7 differences between these pictures



24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 13 SEPTEMBER 2026



COLLECT

Look upon us, O God,
Creator and ruler of all things,
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

‘Always treat others as you would like them to treat you’. With these words, Jesus sums up the teaching of the sermon on the Mount which began with the beatitudes (Mt 7:12).

One of the hardest lessons to learn is forgiveness. When we encounter it, it is life-changing, inspiring. The mother who forgives the hit-and-run driver who killed her son. The young adult raised in an abusive household who reaches out to a parent in trouble. The person who lost out on a deserved promotion at work but who refuses to harbour a grudge.

How is forgiveness possible? How do we bring ourselves to forgive repeatedly? Only because we have been endlessly forgiven ourselves...

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

27:30-28:7

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.

First Reading

Ecclesiasticus is sometimes called the Wisdom of Sirach. It is a loose collection of sayings compiled in the second century before Christ. The book does not offer a systematic treatment of its subject matter but groups together a variety of thoughts and maxims.

The material is organised into couplets, a form we often see in the psalms. Today's collection clusters around the themes of resentment and vengeance, forgiveness and compassion. One thought leads to another in a kind of 'stream of consciousness'. The word 'remember' forms a verbal link in the last four sayings.

The themes here prepare the listeners well for the reading of the gospel parable which we will hear in a few minutes.

'A man' occurs twice and can be read as 'someone'.

Responsorial Psalm Ps

102:1-4, 9-12

R. The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.

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.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 102/103 continues the overall theme of mercy and forgiveness. The centre of attention is God's mercy and compassion rather than the mutual forgiveness we need to offer one another. Each couplet beautifully emphasises God's forgiveness. God does not treat us as we deserve. He withholds anger and removes our sins.

The message is clear. The verses are regular. The cantor/reader can easily proclaim these verses with warm thanksgiving and joy.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the 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

Second Reading

This short text brings our semi-continuous readings from Paul's letter to the Romans to a close. We have been reading from this letter since Eastertide. Some may know this reading from funerals they have attended.

came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Paul recognises that, while people are different, they interact with one another. What is common to everyone in the Christian community is Christ – we belong to Christ. The passage ends with a fine acclamation of faith: Christ is Lord of the living and the dead.

The phrases are well balanced. Because it is a short text, the reader should claim the people's attention from the beginning and pace the reading deliberately.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to 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.'

Gospel

We regularly pray: '*forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.*' This is a dangerous prayer. As we seek God's endless mercy, we are committing ourselves to limitless forgiveness of one another. Thinking himself generous, Peter asks, *How often... seven times?* No, says Jesus, *forgive without limit.* We are repeatedly forgiven by God, so we ought to keep on forgiving one another.

The servant asks the king for time to pay; the king cancels the debt entirely. This is what the kingdom of God is like.

Now this servant doesn't follow the Golden Rule: do unto others... His behaviour is the opposite of the king's and his fellow servants are scandalised; they report the situation. The servant comes to a horrible end. We can avoid such an outcome if we do what is right.

In Luke's gospel (6:36), Jesus says, *Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven.*

The story has vivid contrasts and gripping dialogue. It can be read energetically. At the beginning of the reading and at the end, 'brother' should be read as 'brother and sister'.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing (Ordinary Time III)

May almighty God bless you in his kindness
and pour out saving wisdom upon you.

Amen.

May he nourish you always with the teachings of the faith
and make you persevere in holy deeds.

Amen.

May he turn your steps towards himself
and show you the path of charity and peace.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son,† and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time III, Roman Missal p. 715)



St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South

We are Taking Enrolments for All Year Levels

Book in for an Open Morning or a Personal Tour

SCAN TO
BOOK A
TOUR



We are Companions on The Journey

2026

