



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C - 23rd Feb. 2025

Administrator

Fr Alex Chow

Parish Secretary

Sonya O'Farrell

Wednesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays

10am – 2pm

=====

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil: 5pm (SL) &

6.30pm (ST)

Sunday: 8:30am (SL), 10:30am (ST), 5pm (ST), Vietnamese

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues. 6:30pm(SL*)

Wed. 9:15am(ST)

1st Wed Mass of Anointing @10am

Thurs. 9:15am(ST)

Fri. 9:15am(SL*)/6:30pm(ST)

Sat. 9:15am (SL*)

*Rosary after Mass at SL

RECONCILIATION

SL: Tues 5:30-6:10pm

Sat 9:45 - 10:15am

Sat 4:30 - 4:50pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & EVENING PRAYER

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm

HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS AT ST. LUKE'S

Second weekend of each month - bring a plate to share (optional)

1 Samuel 26:2-23, Psalm 102:1-13, 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
Gospel Reflection on Luke 6:27-38

Meditation: What makes Christians different and what makes Christianity distinct from any other religion? It is grace - treating others, not as they deserve, but as God wishes them to be treated - with loving kindness and mercy. God is good to the unjust as well as the just. His love embraces saint and sinner alike. God seeks our highest good and teaches us to seek the greatest good of others, even those who hate and abuse us. Our love for others, even those who are ungrateful and selfish towards us, must be marked by the same kindness and mercy which God has shown to us. It is easier to show kindness and mercy when we can expect to benefit from doing so. How much harder when we can expect nothing in return.



Love Lives ©Nov 2013
Word Among Us

Give and forgive - the two wings of prayer: Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD) describes Jesus double precept to give and forgive as two essential wings of prayer: Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given you. These are the two wings of prayer on which it flies to God. Pardon the offender what has been committed, and give to the person in need. Let us graciously and fervently perform these two types of almsgiving, that is, giving and forgiving, for we in turn pray the Lord to give us things and not to repay our evil deeds.

Love Your Enemies: Previously Jesus pronounced the paradoxical blessings and curses of the New Covenant (Luke 6:20-26) in the Sermon on the Plain. The poor, the hungry, the weeping, the hated are paradoxically called blessed. Those who are rich, filled, laughing, and spoken well of are given a warning. In today's Gospel, Jesus' Sermon on the Plain and paradoxes continue. He gives a series of exhortations and commands his disciples to love their enemies, do good to those who hate them, bless those who curse them, pray for those who mistreat them. This is the exact opposite of an earthly or worldly approach. Jesus commands his disciples to not retaliate when harmed and to be generous to those in need. Jesus summarizes these exhortations with the golden rule, "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31), and "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36).

Bless and do not curse: Our prayer for those who do us ill both breaks the power of revenge and releases the power of love to do good in the face of evil. How can we possibly love those who cause us harm or ill-will? With God all things are possible. He gives power and grace to those who believe in the Lord Jesus and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit. His love conquers all, even our hurts, fears, prejudices and griefs. Only the cross of Jesus Christ can free us from the tyranny of malice, hatred, revenge, and resentment and gives us the courage to return evil with good. Such love and grace has power to heal and to save from destruction. That is why Paul the Apostle tells those who know the love and mercy of Jesus Christ to "bless and not curse.. nor take revenge.. and to overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:14,17,21). Do you know the power of God's love, mercy, and righteousness (moral goodness) for overcoming evil with good?

The virtue of charity, by Ambrose of Milan, 339-397 A.D.
"Love is commanded when it is said, 'Love your enemies' so that the saying which was uttered already before the church may be fulfilled: 'Set in order love in me' (Song of Solomon 2:4). For love is set in order when the precepts of love are formed. See how it began from the heights and cast the law underneath the backs of the Gospel's blessing. The law commands the revenge of punishment (see Exodus 21:23-36). The gospel bestows love for hostility, benevolence for hatred, prayer for curses, help for the persecuted, patience for the hungry and grace of reward. How much more perfect the athlete who does not feel injury!" (excerpt from EXPOSITION OF THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 5.73)

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Next Week's Daily Readings 24 February - 2 March 2025

MONDAY, Feb 24: Sir 1: 1-10, Ps 92:1-2,5, Mark 9:14-29.

TUESDAY, Feb 25: Sir 2:1-11, Ps 36:3-4,18-19,27-28,39-40, Mark 9:30-37.

WEDNESDAY, Feb 26: Sir 4:11-19, Ps 181:165,168,171-2,174-5,Mark 9:38-40.

THURSDAY, Feb 27 : Sir 5:1-8, Ps 1:1-4,6, Mark 9:41-50.

FRIDAY, Feb 28: Sir 6:5-17, Ps 118:12,16,18,27,34-35, Mark 10:1-12.

SATURDAY, Mar 1 Sir 17:1-15, Ps 102:13-18, Mark 10:13-16.

SUNDAY, Mar 2 Sir 27:4-7, Ps 91:2-3,13-16 , 1 Cor 15:54-58, Luke 6:39-45.

*(Taken from
ORDO 2025, Liturgy Brisbane, ACBC 2024)*



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

22 and 23 Feb

Catherine Koh
Maria Deayton
Darren McLean
Joelle Rousetty & Genevieve Hemsley
Mai Le & Thuy Vu

1 and 2 March

Lucy Ferris
Peggy D'Cruz
May McKeown
Alfred Lee & Ryan Yee
Thu Ngo & Hieu Nguyen

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

Edna Lee
Mary Italiano
Margaret Gearon
Anico Yee
Hoang Nguyen

Tony Fernandez
Jane D'Souza
Melina Barcellona
Daphne Hickman
Hung Dinh

SLIDE OPERATORS

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

Nigel Tauro
Michelle Chen
Paul Tierney
Manny Gonzalez
Toan Tran

Nigel Tauro
Michelle Chen
Rosemary Donaldson
Lee Min Yee
Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 22/23 FEB

5:00pm Tony Fernandez
8.30am Marie Pekish
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

1st March - Bernard's team
Bernard O'Malley, Joanne Nolan,
Melina Barcellona & Anne Allsopp

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

22nd Feb - Edna Lee
1st March - Joan McHugh

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

January - Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 1/2 MAR

5:00pm John Ryan
8.30am Margaret Gearon
10.30am Volunteer

ST CHURCH CLEANING

8th March @ 8am
Toan Tran, Dao Dinh,
Hieu Nguyen & Dieu Nguyen

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 7:
Barry & Christine Silvester
Next week Team 8:
Fela Colasanti & Chin L Tay

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Margaret Anderson, Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Grace Dimattina, Margaret Hogg, Bernadine O'Meara, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Therese O'Donoghue, Stewart Davis, Jerry Donoghue, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

All who have died and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Tony Alexander, Tom Macrory, Harold Leach, Frances McGrath, Giovanna Di Totto, John Byrne, Maddalena Iaccarino, Paul Blanchfield, Errol Flynn, Mary Miller, Carlos Arciaga, Clem Rabel, Lulu Oracion, Francis Dalmau, Augusto Monzon. May they rest in peace.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY:

For vocations to priestly and religious life: Let us pray that the ecclesial community may welcome the desires and doubts of young people who feel called to serve Christ's mission in priestly and religious life.

TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR MINISTERS OF THE WORD: Sat. March 1st at St Luke's @ 10:30am

TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST: Save the date - 10.30am on either Sat. 15th March or Sat. 22nd March at St Luke's

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE and WELCOME

Dear parishioners, it is with joy I invite you to witness the Rite of Acceptance for David Adam West next weekend (**02 March**), during **8:30am mass at St Luke The Evangelist**. This ceremony marks the beginning of the Catechumenate journey, the next step on the way to the Sacraments of Initiation to be received during our Easter Vigil. Following Mass, we ask you to stay for a cuppa and an opportunity to welcome David. Please bring a plate to share for this date.

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: Create beauty, reveal truth, inspire hope

MAJELLAN MEDIA: A day to think of others

THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK: On The Journey This Week: Fr John Nguyen OFM says we should show kindness to all, even the ungrateful and the wicked, as true disciples of Jesus. Mother Hilda urges us to open our hearts, extend compassion, and hold the hand of someone in need. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Christy Honeysett, and Peter Abela. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

The First collection is for the priest and retired priests.

The Second collection is for parish expenses

ST: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$92

Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$165

Vietnamese Donation: \$179.90

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$319

Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$373

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo

SL: Margaret Gearon

Baptism Preparation

ST: Mary Italiano

Vietnamese Community

Hoang Nguyen

Andy Tran

Vietnamese Youth

Theresa Nguyen

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalewski

Stewardship Counters

SL: Dale Dixon

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Parishes Safeguarding Committee

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,

Darren McLean

Janette Clark

Parish history

SL: Margaret Gearon

Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

SL: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the

Parish Office – 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

ST: Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

SL: Greg Grant

Church Housekeeping

ST: Margaret King

Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean

Church Linen

SL: Beryl Chelliah

Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,

Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community

SL: Darren McLean

Parish Choirs

ST: Mary Italiano & Theresa Nguyen

SL: Lina & Maria Mafi

St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

Parish Contacts:

ST: John McCoy

SL: Tony Lobo &

Steve Kilroe-Smith



Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

Response to the Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful.

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

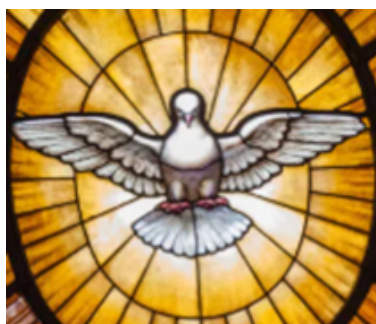
Eucharistic Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon: I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.



TRY ALPHA: Why Did Jesus Die? Why the cross is the symbol of Christianity? Explore why Jesus was crucified on a cross about 2000 years ago and what relevance that has today. St Luke's Blackburn South, Feb 26th 2025, Wednesday 7-9pm. Free dinner, video and small group sharing. For registration, use this QR Code or visit the Alpha table in the Church foyer.

Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation



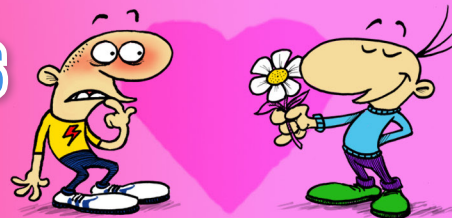
Calling parents of children in the parish of St Luke The Evangelist, Blackburn South and St Timothy's, Forest Hill studying in non-Catholic Schools or in other circumstances (> 9yrs old) who wish to have their children receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion and/or Confirmation, kindly contact the parish office at blackburnsouth@cam.org.au or call at 03 9412 8499 for registration. Candidates will be joining the St Luke the Evangelist Primary School Sacramental Program 2025. The following are important dates:

- a. **Mass of Commitment:** Saturday 22 March @5pm, St Luke the Evangelist Church, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South.
- b. **Sacrament of First Reconciliation preparation classes;** Tuesday March 4, 11, 18, 25 @7:15pm, Working Sacristy, St Luke the Evangelist Church (1 hour).
- c. **Sacrament of First Reconciliation:** 1st/2nd April 2025 between 3.45 - 5.45pm, St Luke the Evangelist Church
- d. **Confirmation Parents & Students Workshop:** Tuesday 3rd June @7pm, St Luke the Evangelist Primary School
- e. **Sacrament of Confirmation:** Friday 20 June 2025 @6pm, St Luke the Evangelist Church
- f. **First Eucharist Parents & Students Workshop:** Wednesday 13th August @7pm, St Luke the Evangelist Primary School
- g. **Sacrament of First Communion:** 24 August @10:30am, St Luke the Evangelist Church
- h. **Mass of Thanksgiving:** Saturday, 13 Sept 2025 @5pm, St Luke the Evangelist Church

It is a requirement for parent(s) and their children to attend Sacramental preparation classes (usually 4 classes per sacrament) prior to the actual date of receiving of a particular Sacrament. More details of these classes will be provided once you have registered your child(ren). Please do not hesitate to contact the parish office if you need further information or clarification. Thank you.



Love your enemies



7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

How can we love our enemies? Tick the best answers in the boxes below.



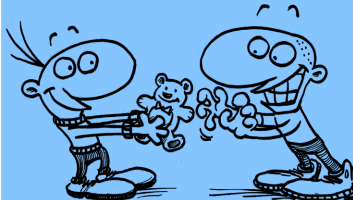
If someone slaps you on the cheek, do you...

- A: Slap them back
- B: Forgive them
- C: Call the police



If someone teases you and calls you names, do you...

- A: Throw a tantrum
- B: Find nice things to say about them
- C: Ask God to punish them



If someone wants to share your favourite toy, do you...

- A: Tell them to go away
- B: Let them play with it, but only for 5 minutes
- C: Let them have it for as long as they like



If someone is cruel and mistreats you, do you...

- A: Ask God to bless them
- B: Tell everyone how bad that person
- C: Get even with them



Jesus taught us to forgive others. He even asked God to forgive those who crucified and taunted him. Write down three other occasions when Jesus showed love for those who were against him.

Complete the Text Maze:

"Forgive others and God will forgive you."

START

F	E	P	I	T	Y	H	A
O	E	N	E	M	I	E	S
R	G	I	S	R	M	K	P
S	E	V	P	I	L	B	R
R	O	V	R	S	A	N	A
E	T	H	E	U	G	D	I
W	Q	R	Y	D	O	B	S
A	I	E	I	W	C	I	E
R	O	R	L	O	T	L	Y
D	G	T	L	F	G	I	N
S	R	L	O	O	R	V	I
R	M	F	O	J	I	E	T
L	A	S	X	V	K	Y	O
J	U	D	G	E	E	Z	U

*CAN YOU FIND THE SIX HIDDEN WORDS FROM THIS WEEKS GOSPEL READING?

FINISH

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 23 FEBRUARY 2025



COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, always pondering spiritual things,
we may carry out in both word and deed
that which is pleasing to you.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

'Pay back' is an ambiguous term. Sometimes it means to take revenge, to retaliate, to avenge, to exact vengeance, to fight back or get even. But it can also mean to make restitution, to reimburse, to repay or refund, to compensate, to make amends or to indemnify. The first is nasty and destructive; the second can be respectful and loving.

In today's gospel, Jesus takes payback to a whole new level. He advocates paying back hatred with love, violence with peace, robbery with gift-giving. Jesus' teaching often turns human wisdom on its head. It presents an unbelievable challenge which is exactly what it means when the reign of God breaks into our broken world. We do not just stop the cycle of evil. We reverse it and transform it into a spiral of good. Sometimes we speak of 'paying it forward'. As we have been helped, so we help others – *Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate.*

A reading from the first book of Samuel 26:2, 7–9, 12–13, 22–23

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1–4, 8, 10, 12–13

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

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.**

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repays us according to our faults. **R.**

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R.**

First Reading

The first two kings of Israel were Saul and David. The king was God's anointed and ruled over God's people. However, both Saul and David are presented as flawed human beings, though this reading shows David in a favourable light.

Saul grows increasingly erratic with the passing years and becomes jealous of the younger and more successful David. In this passage, as he is being pursued by Saul, David has the opportunity to assassinate his rival and seize power, but he chooses not to repay injustice with vengeance. The final sentence which explains this choice portrays David as a forerunner of Christ.

The broken verses of chapter 26 indicate that this is a shortened version of the story. It is worth reading the whole to get a fuller sense of what is happening. Still, the story as we have it is clear and dramatic. The reader should make good use of the drama of the direct speech and the tensions of the narrative. David and Abishai sneak into the camp in the dark: *no one saw, no one knew, no one woke up...*

Check the pronunciation of Abishai and Abner in the guide at the end of the book.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 102/103 looks forward to the text of the gospel: it also calls the Lord 'compassionate', slow to anger and rich in mercy. In fact, the word *compassion* occurs three times in four verses. For this divine blessing, the psalmist gives heartfelt thanks and praise. The response is a simple statement but should be sung with gratitude and awe.

The third and fourth stanzas pick up the words of God's self-revelation to Moses as he receives the tablets of the law (Ex 34:6-7). This authoritative declaration of God's kindness and mercy captures the essence of the entire covenant with Israel. It is the oft-repeated heart of Israel's faith.

Clearly the reader/cantor needs to express their joy with a warm proclamation of this psalm.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:45– 49

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 6:27–38

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

Second Reading

For once, we really need this reading to be longer. Verses 40-44 make sense of this text: *There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies... it is the same with the resurrection of the dead: what is sown is corruptible, but what is raised is incorruptible; it is sown in contempt but raised in glory; it is sown in weakness but raised in power; it is sown a physical body and it is raised a spiritual body...* Then follows the parallel between the first Adam and Christ (the second Adam), between the one fashioned from earth and the one come down from heaven.

In brief, Paul is saying that we who are fashioned in the image of the earthly Adam will be refashioned in the image of the heavenly one; by our resurrection, we shall be like the risen Christ in glory.

The reading is short but difficult to follow. The reader will need to make the best of the parallels and contrasts: earth-heaven, physical-spiritual, first-last, soul-spirit. The tone is probably best to be analytical and explanatory in order to let the reader into Paul's reasoning.

Gospel

The words are well-known, but they should be read in such a way as to preserve their original shock value. The instructions are extreme and certainly counter-cultural. The harsh challenge of the opening lines are softened a little when it comes to, *Treat others as you would like them to treat you.*

But it is then that we are asked to go the extra mile. It's easy to love those who love us! Christ asks us to do more. If we reflect on the intractable examples of war in the world today, we realise at once that the cycle can only be broken through drastic action. A 'proportionate response' to violence will not achieve true peace.

The reading concludes with an extraordinary image of the abundance of God's grace and compassion: *a full measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.* This assurance calls for a warm and generous proclamation to contrast with the more determined tone of earlier challenges.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

May God bless us with every heavenly blessing,
make us always holy and pure in his sight,
pour out in abundance upon us the riches of his glory,
and teach us with the words of truth;
may he instruct us in the Gospel of salvation,
and ever endow us with fraternal charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Amen.

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time VI, Roman Missal p. 717)

An alternative translation of the scripture readings is given here from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). This may be particularly useful for those in parishes which use the NRSV Lectionary.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING (NRSV)

A reading from the first book of Samuel 26:2, 7–9, 12–13, 22–23

Having heard that David was hiding out in the desert,
Saul rose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph,
with three thousand chosen men of Israel,
to seek David in the Wilderness of Ziph.

David and Abishai went into Saul's army by night;
there Saul lay sleeping within the encampment,
with his spear stuck in the ground at his head;
and Abner and the army lay around him.

Abishai said to David,
"God has given your enemy into your hand today;
now therefore let me pin him to the ground
with one stroke of the spear;
I will not strike him twice."

But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him;
for who can raise his hand against the Lord's anointed,
and be guiltless?"

So David took the spear that was at Saul's head and the water jar,
and they went away.

No one saw it, or knew it, nor did anyone awake;
for they were all asleep,
because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen upon them.

Then David went over to the other side,
and stood on top of a hill far away,
with a great distance between them.

David called aloud to Saul,
"Here is the spear, O king!

Let one of the young men come over and get it.
The Lord rewards everyone for his righteousness
and his faithfulness;
for the Lord gave you into my hand today,
but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (NRSV)

Psalm 103.1-2, 3-4, 8+10, 12-13 (R.8)

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits. **R.**

It is the Lord who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy. **R.**

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities. **R.**

As far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him. **R.**

SECOND READING (NRSV)

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15:45–49

It is written:

"The first man, Adam, became a living being";
the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

But it is not the spiritual that is first,
but the physical, and then the spiritual.

The first was from the earth, made of dust;
the second is from heaven.

As was the one of dust, so are those who are of the dust;
and as is the one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven.

Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust,
we will also bear the image of the one of heaven

GOSPEL (NRSV)

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke 6:27–38

Jesus addressed a great crowd of his disciples,
together with the multitude from Judea, Jerusalem,
Tyre and Sidon.

"I say to you that listen:

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you,
pray for those who abuse you.

If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also;
and from anyone who takes away your coat
do not withhold even your shirt.

Give to everyone who begs from you;
and if anyone takes away your goods,
do not ask for them again.

Do to others as you would have them do to you."

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?

For even sinners love those who love them.

If you do good to those who do good to you,
what credit is that to you?

For even sinners do the same.

If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive,
what credit is that to you?

Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

But love your enemies,

do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.

Your reward will be great, and you will be
children of the Most High;

for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged;

do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.

Forgive, and you will be forgiven;

give, and it will be given to you.

A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over;
will be put into your lap;

for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."



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