

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-9

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, "Son of Man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 94

0 that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.
3. 0 that today you would listen to his voice!
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work."

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-10

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour, that is why it is the answer to every one or the commandments.

**Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord,
consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: "If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them."

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Holy Family Church

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Priests: Fr. Peter Draper, Fr. John Moriarty (Tel: 725193)

Sunday Mass: 11.00 am.

Weekday Mass: Thur: 9.15am. (Other weekdays: 9.15am at St. Anthony's)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: on request

Holy Family Primary school: 727471 **Covenant Books:** 735993

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Forgiveness

"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." These words have appeared in the gospel 3 times in the past few Sundays. Today, Jesus is not just addressing Peter, he is talking to all 'his disciples'; he is talking to us. We have the power to bind one another up by our unforgiveness, gossip, criticism, negativity. We have the power to loose and release one another from those bonds by the mystery of forgiveness. Nothing new happens without forgiveness. Without forgiveness, we remain frozen in the past, frozen in our negative memories, frozen in anger. Unless we become people who let go of our past, let go of our hurts, we just keep repeating that past over and over again. Forgiveness is the only way to free ourselves from the entrapment of the past. Forgiveness is God's job description: to unbind, to free us so that something new can happen.

We may initially wonder if forgiveness is being advocated in Jesus' words at the beginning of this gospel reading where he says that if a person refuses to repent after a process that involved three different encounters calling for repentance, then he should be "treated like a pagan or tax collector". What is our immediate understanding of these words? Many of us would say that it means that the offender must be put out from the community and be regarded as an outsider and we would justify our decision by saying that this drastic and final step was to be taken not in a spirit of revenge or vindictiveness but out of real concern for the wellbeing of the whole community. Let's read that verse again. Jesus said, "Treat him like a pagan or tax collector." How did Jesus treat pagans and tax collectors?..... Jesus showed them unending love and respect. He treated them with the dignity that was due to someone created in the image of God. When we speak and act with love, God will act through our words, our actions, our attitudes, our gestures. "Whenever two or three of you are gathered in the right spirit, there I am." Forgiveness could almost be described as the very name of God.

(Richard Rohr and an unknown source)

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

6th September 2020

Missal page 769

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 5th September 2020

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Margaret Watson	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joan Anderton	<i>24th Sunday of the Year</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	Joe Connolly	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Celia Park	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Peter Hothersall	<i>Nativity of Bl. Virgin Mary</i>
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Margaret Watson	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H. Family</i>	Private Intention	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Banks & Noblett families	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joan Penney	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Kevin O'Neill	<i>25th Sunday of the Year</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	For our parish	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Tom & Marie Hooper	

Last Weekend: Offertory £150; Attendance 49. Thank you for all your generosity.

Masses received this week: Tom & Marie Hooper, Peter Hothersall, Banks & Noblett families.

Covenant Books: The book shop at Holy Family has re-opened Thurs & Fri. 10am-4pm; Sat 10.00-12.30pm.

Schools are back: Children and staff have got off to a great start. Its an exciting time, though difficult at present. We ask God's blessing and protection on them all.

Please remember in your prayers

Celia Park, Mildred and Harold Slack, Bill O'Shaughnessy, Malaya, Ray Mannion, Bill York, Lawrence Dunnagan, Trevor Hughes, Claire.

Also the isolated and lonely, all medical staff and carers and those in research, the Government and all world leaders, all who are assisting the public in any way.

those who have died recently:

and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Joe Connolly, John Eric Brade, Joe Moore, Michael Masheter, John Hodgkinson, Esther Taylor, Bert Rogers, Annie Beck, Annie Short, Walter Hollinhurst, May they rest in peace.

Father, may these, and all we have known who have gone before us, be received into the glory of the Resurrection, won for us by your Son Jesus, the risen Lord.

Care of Creation

Pope Francis established 1 September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in 2015, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home. The day is inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth.

Jesuit Missions are holding a virtual webinar Tuesday 22nd September. Please see: <https://jesuitmissions.org.uk/season-of-creation-jubilee-for-the-earth/> On 22nd September at 7.30pm: An Evening with Leah Casimero and Joel Thompson SJ: On 'Beauty, Justice and Hope in the Amazon— Webinar for Season of Creation'.

You will find a poster <https://jesuitmissions.org.uk/season-of-creation/> and a link to the Zoom invitation <https://jesuitmissions.org.uk/our-events/> on our website

This World Day of Prayer begins the Season of Creation, which runs until 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. This is an ecumenical season dedicated to prayer for the protection of creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles.

WINGS: 'Peanut Butter Machinery Purchase'

We reached our project funding target of £250, but due to some amazing generosity, we could eventually send a total of £350! The much needed extra funding will help Fr Spencer (Chivuna, Zambia) with the project set-up, purchasing jars, salt, sweetener and oil. Spencer purchased the machinery 31 August, immediately after receiving our donation. 'He sends his deep gratitude to all involved at Holy Family for answering his prayers for help'. - John Scarborough on behalf of WINGS.

Face coverings must now be worn in places of worship. We will still keep the 2-metre distancing but please bring face coverings with you. If you have forgotten to bring a mask just ask and we can let you have one.

There are some circumstances, for health, age or equality reasons, where people are not expected to wear face coverings. Please be mindful and respectful of such circumstances, noting that some people are less able to wear face coverings, and that the reasons for this may not be visible to others.

- Priests in the sanctuary do not need to wear face coverings during Mass, except when distributing holy communion, provided they are at least two metre distance. Similarly Readers do not need to wear face coverings when proclaiming the scriptures.

THANKS to our volunteer stewards we are able to celebrate Mass each Sunday. Our stewards will ask you for your telephone number. This is simply so that we can contact you in the event of anyone at your Mass later being diagnosed with covid 19. Hopefully we won't need to use this and the record will be destroyed after one month.

Baptisms We can now celebrate baptisms though there are some restrictions and we are limited to 30 people and masks will have to be worn.

Weddings are similarly restricted though people are naturally being cautious about arranging weddings because of the uncertainty about how the situation might change.

First holy Communion. Sadly we were not able to complete the children's preparation for this great sacrament nor celebrate their first Communion. We'll get things going quickly when schools get back but it may not be possible to have one first holy Communion Day for all the children because we are limited to a maximum of 60 people in church. We'll have to come up with a suitable way of celebrating with them.

Catholic Voice—a new issue if our Diocesan Newspaper has been published but again it is only available online.