

FIRST READING

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 102

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

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| 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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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. |

SECOND READING

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

Alleluia. Alleluia! Speak Lord, your servant is listening; you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

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 the 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 master's servant 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 until he could pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what 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.

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Holy Family Church

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Website: <http://holyfamilyparish.weebly.com/>

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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70×7 = Infinity

In Scripture, numbers usually point beyond a numerical value to a symbolic significance. The number seven is one of the most significant in the Bible. Scholars say it denotes completeness or wholeness and $70 \times 7 = \text{Infinity}$. In today's gospel reading Jesus is telling us that forgiveness is not a quantifiable event. It is a quality; a way of being, a way of living, a way of loving, a way of relating, a way of thinking and seeing. It is nothing less than the way of Christ. If we are to follow Christ then it must become our way as well. It is infinite compassion. There are no limits to his forgiveness.

C.S. Lewis writes, "Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until there is something to forgive". When we look at our lives we will find broken promises, hurt feelings, betrayals, harsh words, physical and emotional wounds. Beneath the pain, the wounds, the losses, and the memories lies the question of forgiveness. Forgiveness does not originate in us. It begins with God. We do not choose to forgive. We only choose to share the forgiveness we have already received. The merciless servant was tortured when he refused to forgive his fellow servant. An unforgiving spirit creates its own suffering. It builds up walls of bitterness and resentment and there is no escape until we come to forgive.

Jack Kornfield reminds us that "if your compassion does not include yourself, it is incomplete." Forgiving others begins by "having compassion for all those unwanted parts of ourselves." (Pema Chodron) Forgiveness also extends to reality itself: to forgive it for being so broken, a mixture of good and bad. We can only surrender to the mystery of that paradox by trustfully allowing God to lovingly hold together the opposites within us, within our neighbour and even our enemy, and within reality itself. After being imprisoned in South Africa for 27 years for his protest of apartheid, Nelson Mandela said "As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison." Forgiveness creates space for new life.

(Adapted from various sources incl Michael Marsh, Richard Rohr)

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

13th September 2020

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DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 12th September 2020

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joan Penney	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Kevin O'Neill	<i>24th Sunday of the Year</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	For our parish	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Tom & Marie Hooper	
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Regina LaValle	<i>Feast: Exaltation of the Cross</i>
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Norman Mercer	<i>Feast: Our Lady of Sorrows</i>
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joan Anderton	<i>Feast: Ss Cornelius & Cyprian</i>
Thur 9.15am	<i>H. Family</i>	Private Intention	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Donor's Intention	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	for our parish	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Chris & Angie Strickland (25th)	<i>25th Sunday of the Year</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	Graham Tyers	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	

Last Weekend: Offertory £90; Attendance 72. Thank you for all your generosity.

Masses received this week: Margaret Watson.

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.

Welcome into the family of faith

... Zachary Bosanko who was baptised in Holy Family last Sunday.

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: Annie Beck, Annie Short, Walter Hollinhurst, Kathleen Holmes, Eric Jones, 15th Richard Jackson, Elizabeth Nickson, Frank Daly, Derek Monk, George Henry Ronson, Wilfred Napoleon, Christopher Joseph Burns. May they rest in peace.

First holy Communions

We are hoping to help the children complete their preparation for their first holy Communion very soon. We may well not be able to have first Holy Communions during an 11am Mass on Sundays because we are currently at full capacity. We'll make other arrangements.

School Children at Mass. Happily we have been able to return to our practice of having school-children at Mass on Thursday mornings.

Care of Creation

Living Laudato Si': 'Your Parish and Your Planet' - Zoom Retreat 16-19 October (led from Boarbank Hall). No fee but voluntary donations welcome. Guest speakers and lots of practical advice. To apply, simply email Sr Margaret Atkins on margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk

Jesuit Missions are holding a virtual webinar Tuesday 22nd September. Please see: <https://jesuitmissions.org.uk/season-of-creation-jubilee-for-the-earth/> 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.

September Faith & Justice E-Bulletin

This can be downloaded from <https://tinyurl.com/yyq84etu> Reports and newsletters are available at <http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/newsletter/>

Fulwood Farmer's Market will take place on Saturday 26th September 9.30am-1pm at the front of Fulwood Methodist Church on Watling Street Road,

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.