

Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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 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 canceled 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

A distinctive feature of the teachings of Jesus is his exhortation to forgive. Very explicit about this, Jesus left us his own example by forgiving his executioners while he hung dying on the cross. Until recently we thought that forgiveness begins with the offender repenting of the offence and then asking for pardon. Today many maintain that reconciliation must begin with the one offended offering forgiveness. This willingness to forgive transforms a victim into a survivor. Such magnanimity might then touch the heart of the offender, who may thus be transformed from being an offender to becoming a friend.

If God has been so generous in forgiving us, surely we should be generous in forgiving others. The process of becoming a forgiving person takes time. For some, it may take a lifetime. Only little by little are our pettiness and indignation reduced and our desire to strike back diminished. Still, as disciples, we are expected to give the forgiveness that we have been given.

Such forgiveness does not provide an easy way out for offenders, for ultimately justice will prevail. If we remain untransformed by God's forgiveness of us, we will be liable to judgment. Our unwillingness to forgive can eat away at us, and we can carry hurts from childhood far into adult years. Forgiving others, as difficult as that may be, is in the long run much easier than bearing the weight of resentfulness, vindictiveness and unresolved frustration. When we forgive we truly begin to be healed.



ST MARTIN DE PORRES

Catholic Parish

Avondale Heights

Today's Celebration is on pages:

Old Missal: 334 New Missal: 454



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

13 September 2026

First Reading Sirach 27:30-28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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 Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

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St Martin de Porres Parish

158 Military Rd, Avondale Heights Vic 3034

www.melbocatholic.org/avondaleheights

Parish Priest: Fr. Paul Tru

Secretaries: Lee Tran: Wednesday - Friday

Charles Meneze: Tuesday

Office Hours: Closed Monday

10am - 3pm Tuesday - Friday

Pastoral Assoc: Sr. Cres Villas, asjm

Sr. Connie Mamo, asjm (Vol)

Phone: 9337 6016

E-mail: avondaleheights@cam.org.au

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am

Vietnamese 11:00am

Weekday Masses

Monday to Friday 9:15am

Benediction Wednesday after Mass

Reconciliation Wednesday 10.00am

Saturday 5:30pm

St Martin de Porres School

Principal: Stefanie Harvey

Secretaries: Mary Carmuciano

Maria Aloe

Phone: 9331 9000

E-mail:

principal@smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

www.smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

The Augustinian Sisters

Convent: 2 Venice Court,

Avondale Heights

Phone: 9337 4595

E-mail: sisaugustinian@gmail.com

Website: www.asimoz.org

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility.

The Parish of St Martin de Porres and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. Child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of everyone.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick:

Angela; Mary; George Pinpin; Nancy Green; Kimberly Damanik; Vlad; Jan, Miecia, Zygyuch; Janice Murray; Rossini Burns; Mark; Franca; Monica Marland; Zac; Emily & Grace; Mellisa; Kay; Susie.

Recently Deceased:

Raymond Barbe; Concetta Cutri; Teresa Talia; Tito Mandozzi; Vincent Vu Huu Chien; Pietro Torcasio; Leonardo Martelli; Paulo Raimondo; Giuseppe Marino; Peter Falzon.

Anniversaries & Remembrances:

Tom Davis (1st); Sam Cianci (1st); Mariangela Portaro; Leonardo Martelli; Giuseppe Grosso; Joseph Rapa; Andrea Cannistra; Hector Barra; Halina Kennedy; Gioan Baotixita Vu Quoc Viet; Maria Vu Thi Mau; Giuse Nguyen Van Nguyet; Tony & Frank Patti; Dominic Cumbo; Bernarda & Francis Grima; Teresa, Emmanuel, Tonina, Phillip Sammut; Emmanuel & Nazarena Farrugia; Adam Hood; Rita & Carmelo De Bono; Joseph Consiglia.

Parish Support Programme:

Pays Wages, Electricity, Cleaning, Insurance,

Pledge: \$2,588 Received: \$2,346

Loose: \$941

Presbytery: Supports Parish Priest, Retired Priests & Cathedral. \$1,602

Opening the Doors Foundation \$1,101



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

To donate to the
Nepal Floods Appeal

visit www.caritas.org.au/nepal

or call **1800 024 413**

or see the flyers on the windows
at the back of the church.



The Kids Bulletin

A fun way for children to learn about our Catholic faith. Weekly updates, please visit thekidsbulletin.com/



BAPTISM THIS WEEKEND

We congratulate and pray for:

Alessia Montalto &

Liliana Maria Diaz

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

14th September

Most glorious and triumphant Lord,
You gave Your life for the salvation of
my soul, using the most horrific act of
cruelty as the means of Your redeeming
grace.

I open myself to that grace today and
pray that You bestow it in
superabundance.

I also pray that I will have the courage
and wisdom to embrace my crosses
every day of my life, uniting them to
Your Cross, and trusting that You will
use these sacrifices as a means of the
further bestowal of Your
love on the world.

Saving Cross of Christ,
have mercy on me.

Amen



The Victoria Police Neighbourhood Policing Forum

Welcomes local services and community members to talk with police about what issues are important in your community.

The forum will explore topics including:

- Current crime trends & crime prevention
- Young people
- Family violence
- Road policing
- Drugs and drug related crime.

The Neighbourhood Policing Forum will be run by a Victoria Police panel. Questions will be taken from the audience throughout the event. **Registration is a must at:**

MOONEEPONDS-UNI-OIC@police.vic.gov.au

or scan the QR code.

Event details

Date: Wednesday 7 October 2026

Time: 6pm - 8pm (Doors open 5:45pm)

Location: Moonee Valley City Council,
9 Kellaway Ave, Moonee Ponds



Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows

15th September

Stabat Mater

'By the cross of our salvation
Mary stood in desolation
While the Saviour hung above
All her human powers failing,
Sorrow's sword, at last prevailing,
Stabs and breaks her heart of love...
Virgin Mary, full of sorrow,
From your love I ask to borrow
Love enough to share your pain.
Make my heart to burn with fire,
Make Christ's love
my own desire,
Who for love of me
was slain.'

Amen



Devotion to Divine Mercy

Mondays: 2.30pm Rosary

3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

followed by Stations of the Cross, 4pm finish.



Christian Meditation 2026

Maranatha ... Come Lord Jesus

All welcome: Monday 10 - 11am

Parent's Room in the Church

Term 4: Oct 26; Nov 9 & 23; Dec 7.

Catholic Theological College

Invites you to our

Engaging Your Faith online

Presentations in October 2026

For more information:

ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/



CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you and ask that you make yourself known to us by completing the New Parishioners Form in Documents and Forms under Recommended Links on our website and return it to the Parish Office. Thank you.