

IN THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL WE PRAY FOR:

Our Sick: Luke Jackowski, Dianne Hutchinson and those of our community.

Recently Deceased:

Repose of the Souls: Those whose anniversary occur about this time and those whose names are on the memorial wall.

Church
Cleaning

Saturday 19th September — Vietnamese Community

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable young people.

St Dominic's Community holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children as a fundamental responsibility of the church. This commitment is drawn from, and inherent to, the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and dignity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel. A cultural of safety within the Church ensures that children can actively and fully participate in the life of the Church and realise their potential in a faith community. **We are committed to upholding the safety and dignity of each child and young person and ensuring that they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment in our Church.**

Today at 9.00am Mass

Safeguarding Officer:

Laura Garland

This is the last session from Laura from the Archdiocese of Melbourne to explain us the importance that is for all volunteers to register with the Department of Government Service and get the Working With Check Card and to those who are holding Church Keys to have the Police Check.

We thanks her for her kindness to come to our Parish.

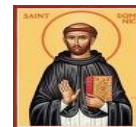
If anyone would like to support the parish financially through the **Thanksgiving Envelopes**, we have spare envelopes at the entrance of the church, please take one set and when you give your first donation, write down your name at the back of the envelope, so we can register your name in the system and provide envelopes every year.

**THANKSGIVING
OFFERING ONLINE TO:
ST DOMINIC'S CHURCH
BSB: 083 347
ACCOUNT NUMBER:
67441 1404**

PLEASE TYPE YOUR THANKSGIVING
ENVELOPE NUMBER WHEN YOU DO
THE TRANSACTION.

The Parish has the facility of **EFTPOS DEBIT, VISA CARD and MASTER CARD**. This is a good option for those who do not carry cash and would like to contribute to the church.
**The set up is of: \$5.00;
\$10.00; \$20.00 and \$50.00**

ST DOMINIC'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



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PARISH PRIEST: Fr Octavian Masao, CSSp; Email: Octavian.Masao@cam.org.au

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PARISH SECRETARY: Ana Miriam Guardado

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 8.00am-2.00pm

ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL—PRINCIPAL: Katie Broadbent, Phone: 03 9309 4146

PARISH MASS TIMES

Sundays: 6.00pm Vigil Mass (Saturday evening)
9.00am 1st & 3rd Sundays: Vietnamese Mass
9.00am 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays: English Mass
11.00am: English Mass
1.00pm: Spanish Mass

Weekdays: Tuesday to Saturday 9.00am Mass
Morning Prayer of the Church: Tuesday to Saturday at 8.25am

Rosary: Tuesday to Sunday before Mass.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Wednesday from 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Benediction: Every Friday following the 9.00am Mass.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Tuesday to Saturday before or after Mass.

Baptism Information/Preparation: Every First Sunday of the month at 3.00pm.

Anointing of the Sick: Every Third Wednesday of the Month at 9.00am Mass.



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A 13th September 2026

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27: 30-28: 7

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102: 1-4. 9- 12.

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

Second Reading: Romans 14: 7-9

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:

love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia

Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35

I tell you that you forgive not seven times by seventy times seven.

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS: Isaiah 55: 6 – 9; Philippians 1: 20 -24. 27; Matthew 20: 1 -16

Reflection by Greg Sunter

This gospel passage follows directly from last week's passage. It concludes the whole of Matthew Chapter 18 that deals with sin, forgiveness and reconciliation. Peter's question to Jesus and suggested answer is a reflection of the view that there is a limit to the number of times we should forgive someone. Seven is a significant number in scripture and implies a 'perfect' amount. Even though by his use of seven, Peter is suggesting that he should forgive someone many, many times, Jesus quickly corrects Peter and says not seven, but seventy-seven times (or seventy times seven). Jesus plays on the use of the number seven and multiplies it to indicate that one should forgive as many times as is required – without keeping count; without keeping score.

The story of the unforgiving servant is a familiar one of forgiveness and mercy being shown but not passed on. The sting in the tail of this parable is Jesus' final warning that, 'So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.' This is an unsettling statement, as we believe God's forgiveness to be without measure and without end. Jesus warns that unless we seek to imitate God's forgiveness and forgive others 'from our heart' (with compassion) then we are not going to recognise the forgiveness of God and will cut ourselves off from it.

The whole idea of forgiving from the heart is a powerful contradiction of a popular concept: 'I can forgive, but not forget.' Is it really possible to forgive but refuse to forget? Surely holding on to a memory of hurt is holding on to the hurt itself and does not display that any forgiveness has occurred at all. To forgive but not forget is to keep count. How many times should I forgive the one who has hurt me? As many times as it takes!

Have you thought?

The parable sees the unforgiving servant putting his fellow servant in prison 'until he paid back the debt'. This is almost exclusively what prisons were used for until only a few hundred years ago. When a person could not repay a debt, they were held in prison until the debt was paid. Of course, being in prison, they had little opportunity to repay the debt themselves and relied on friends and relatives to repay the debt on their behalf. To pay someone's debt was to 'redeem' them. The earliest ideas of Christ as a 'Redeemer' were based on the idea of Christ paying a debt on behalf of humankind.

Living the Gospel – Just like Peter

Throughout the gospels, Peter is a fantastic example of the common person. He has insights of faith at times but usually messes it up with his next breath. His question in this week's gospel is one that any one of us might ask. I try to do what's right, but how long do I have to hang in there? There has to be a limit to patience with someone who keeps upsetting me, surely? Jesus shows us that if we operate from a motivation of compassion and a desire to constantly build relationships that are life-giving for both parties, then there is no end to the number of times that we try to re-build that relationship.

Gospel Focus – How many times?

Peter asks, 'How many times should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Peter probably thought that he was being pretty generous. The religious law of his time required people to forgive three times, so by suggesting seven times, Peter would have thought that he was really going the extra mile. To forgive someone seven times is a pretty big call. But the number seven has great significance in scripture; it is regarded as a number of perfection. Peter is suggesting that there is an ideal number of times that one should forgive. Jesus blows this out of the water by saying, take that perfect number of times and multiply it by seventy. There is no perfect number of times to forgive.

Exaltation of the Holy Cross Monday 14th September



The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, also known as the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, commemorates three historical events: the discovery of the True Cross in 326, its initial exaltation for public veneration in 335, and the recovery of the Cross from the Persians in 628. Nowadays, this feast also celebrates the boundless impact of Christ's Cross upon all of creation.

The Cross of Christ must permeate each one of us, transforming us and making us new. First and foremost, this happens when we open ourselves to the infinite mercy of God flowing from that selfless Sacrifice. It also occurs when we allow every one of our sufferings, the injustices we endure, the crosses, hardships, and most undesirable aspects of our lives to share in the redemptive power of Christ. We do this when we embrace Jesus' commands to share in His sufferings, unite them with His own, and allow Him to bear an abundance of good fruit through us. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it".

Raffle 2026

TICKETS \$2 EACH

PRIZES:

1 ST	1st Prize: Coles/Myer Gift Card to the value of	\$12,000
2 ND	2nd Prize: Coles/Myer Gift Card to the value of	\$4,000
3 RD	3rd Prize: Coles/Myer Gift Card to the value of	\$2,000
4 TH	4th Prize: Coles/Myer Gift Card to the value of	\$1,000
5 TH	5th Prize: Coles/Myer Gift Card to the value of	\$500

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE 2026

Please support our Fundraising by buying tickets and taking books to sell with your family and friends.

Tickets are on sale at the piety stall after each mass.

All funds towards the maintenance of the church.

Sunday 20th September Sale of Sausages and other Foods

Led by Parish Council.

Please support this fundraising by donating food to sell.



Helpers are needed to Clean the Church Garden.

Would you spare a couple of hours to clean up the church garden at your convenience time? If so, please ask Fr Octavian for any tools needed.

If you already helping, many thanks.