

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 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. 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.
PROFESSION OF FAITH (Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord, and in your kindness accept these,

your servants' offerings, that what each has offered to the honour of your name may serve the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

**PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS
IN ORDINARY TIME**

After the Preface, we sing or say:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

**All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the
glory are yours now and for ever.**

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world, grant us peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R. Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. Ps 35: 8

**How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter in the
shadow of your wings.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy
Spiit.

R. Amen.

P. Go in peace.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

FORGIVE FROM THE HEART

Have you ever been hurt by another? How do you act? Can you forgive? Hurts, misunderstanding and at times serious ruptures can occur amongst Jesus' members. The question which Peter asks Jesus is relevant: 'How often should one forgive another? Seven times?' Jesus replies, 'Seventy times seven,' meaning forgiveness is beyond calculation.

Jesus then offers a parable to highlight the essential truth about forgiving others 'from the heart'. The story involves two servants. One owes his king 1000 talents. In Matthew's day a talent was worth a year's wage. The servant owes the king 1000 years' wages! An impossible debt to honour, even though the servant promises to pay it in time. The king, out of compassion, cancels the debt. Whew! Leaving the judgement hall, that same servant comes across a fellow servant who owes 100 denarii. A denarius is a day's wage, so the debt is a hundred days' wages, a paltry sum by comparison. But in this second scenario, compassion and debt cancellation are absent. The king gets to hear of this and imprisons the first servant for his lack of forgiveness.

Meanness of spirit and forgiveness of heart will have their divine repercussions, the point of the final words of today's Gospel. Matthew's Jesus invites us to reflect upon our own forgiving and compassionate spirit towards those who have hurt or wronged us. As we pray in the Lord's Prayer, '...forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.' The measure of our forgiveness is ultimately not God but our own hearts.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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ST MARY'S PARISH, DANDENONG—160 FOSTER STREET, DANDENONG

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TEL: 9791-4611/OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM TUESDAY-FRIDAY/EMAIL: dandenong@cam.org.au

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

HOW OFTEN MUST I FORGIVE? There is much truth in the proverb, 'to err is human, to forgive divine'. We all make mistakes. We all do or say things we later regret. And yet, when others wrong us, we can find it beyond our human strength to forgive. As we celebrate the mystery of Christ's love today, let us ask Jesus to heal our divisions and fill our hearts with his spirit of forgiveness.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Sir 36: 18

**Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait
for you, that your prophets be found
true. Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.**

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and
the love of God, and the communion of the
Holy Spirit be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us
acknowledge our sins, and so prepare
ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have
mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the
Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on
us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to
everlasting life.

R. Amen.

GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest, / and on
earth peace to people of good will. /
We praise you, / we bless you, / we
adore you, / we glorify you, / we give
you thanks for your great glory, / Lord
God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty
Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten
Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of
the Father, / you take away the sins of
the world, / have mercy on us; / you take
away the sins of the world, / receive our
prayer; / you are seated at the right hand
of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For
you alone are the Holy One, / you alone
are the Lord, / you alone are the Most
High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy
Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. /
Amen.**

COLLECT

P. Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler
of all things, and, that we may feel the
working of your mercy, grant that we may
serve you with all our heart. Through our
Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and
reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Sir 27:30-28:7

A reading from the Book of Sirach.
*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?
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.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM

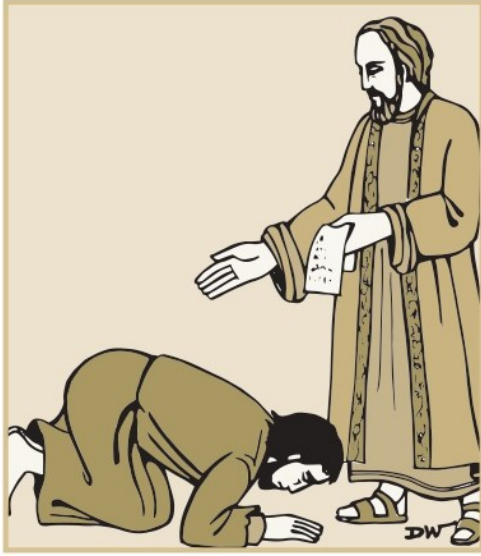
Ps 102: 1-4, 9-12. R. v. 8

**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

Rom 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.
R. 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!**

GOSPEL

Mt 18: 21-35

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Matthew.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

*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

ST MARY'S PARISH, DANDENONG

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Sebastian Arockia **ASSISTANT PRIEST:** Fr. Vincent Nguyen
Parish Website: https://melbcatholic.org/s/dandenong **Facebook:** St Mary's Parish Dandenong
Parish Phone: 9791-4611 **Email:** dandenong@cam.org.au **Address:** 160 Foster Street, Dandenong
PARISH SECRETARY: Franca Van Boxel **FINANCE OFFICER:** Deslene de Niese
Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-3:00pm **(MONDAYS OFFICE CLOSED)**

PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGER: Mr. Miguel Matamala
St. Mary's Community Centre Tel: 7064 3928 or 0402 155 192
St. Mary's Primary School Phone: 9791 7650, New St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Terry Gardiner
St. John's Regional College Phone: 8793 2000, Caroline St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Timothy Hogan



LETTER OF INVITATION FROM ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLI FOR PRAYER SERVICE of LAMENT 15 September 2026

Dear Fathers, Deacons, and Parish Communities, The Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows invites us to stand with Mary at the foot of the Cross. There we see a mother who remains close to her Son in His suffering, steadfast in faith and open to the hope that God alone can bring. In Mary, the Church learns not to turn away from suffering, but to remain present with compassion, humility and prayer.

In 2026, on this memorial we will gather as the Church in Melbourne for our annual Service of Lament for survivors of abuse.

I invite you, your parish leaders, and representatives of your parish community to join me on TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2026 at 4.00pm in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral as we come before the Lord in prayer and lament.

This Service is an occasion to humbly stand alongside those who have suffered abuse, and all who continue to carry its lasting effects. It is for us, as the Body of Christ, to acknowledge and lament sincerely and with humility the failures that have caused such profound harm, and to place before the Lord our prayer for healing, justice and the ongoing conversion of His Church.

Survivors and their loved ones remain at the heart of this gathering. Through the proclamation of God's Word, silence, music and symbolic ritual, we will commend to the Lord all who have been harmed by abuse, asking that His healing mercy bring light where there has been darkness, hope where there has been despair, and renewed trust where trust has been broken.

In the days leading to the Service, I invite our Parish communities to unite in prayer across the Archdiocese. Resources will be made available to assist parishes in remembering survivors and all those affected by abuse within parish liturgies and personal prayer. I encourage you to share this invitation with your community so that those who wish to participate, either in person or online, may do so.

Mindful that this gathering is first and foremost a place of prayer for survivors and their families, and wishing to preserve a quiet and respectful atmosphere, I ask each Parish to nominate a few representatives to attend on behalf of the parish community. The Service will also be livestreamed, enabling many others to join us in prayer from across the Archdiocese.

As we stand with Mary at the foot of the Cross, may we allow the Lord to deepen within us hearts that listen with compassion, seek the truth with humility, and remain steadfast in the ongoing work of healing and reconciliation. May this shared act of lament become another step in our ongoing journey of conversion, as together we entrust ourselves and our Church to the mercy of Christ. With every grace and blessing, I remain,
Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,
Most Rev Peter A Comensoli Archbishop of Melbourne

ST MARY'S PARISH, DANDENONG SPECIAL HEALING, ADORATION IN TAMIL A Special Healing & Adoration in Tamil will be celebrated on Friday, 18th September 2026 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at St Mary's Parish, Dandenong. The evening will include Healing Prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, and Solemn Blessing. All Tamil-speaking families are warmly invited to attend and receive special blessings. Enquiries: Fr Sebastian – 9791 4611 or Lucas – 0421 448 753

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Peter Moylan, Alberto Emmanuel Silvosa

Anniversaries: Frank Holohan, Rio & Colin Manion, Dexter & Gladys Renaux, Alex & Lucila Abarquez, Henry Wickramasinghe,

Sick: Rosa Maria Santos, Long Phan, Ush Henry Bangkal, Leti Luki, Kathleen Nelson, Jim Lynch, Bernardo, Ray Gilligan, Frank Pezzaro, Janet Augustine, Bridget Phyland, Solofuti, Samantha Vasanthy, Kevin, Maria Perez, Angela Anthony, Ray Simmons, Frank Camara, Tasileta Lolesio, Jim, Lucia Germano, Imelda Quatre-bornes, Sandra Wills, Maddie, Audrey, Herve, Asis Zullah, Nacera Burekovic, Charlie Mastrogiovanni, Carla Lunardi, Russell D'Costa, Satty Lee, Patri-zia, Ping Lo, Robyn, Fr Brendan Lane, Anne Richards, Ashleigh Wills, Anthony Morri, Lyma Payne, Vreni Bien, Rosario Giaquinta, Joanna Van Der Ven, Ricky, John Caron, Robyn Campbell, Tayla Fredericks *(The privacy legislation requires us to have written permission by an authorised person before any name can be printed) in the Marian.* **(IF THERE ARE ANY NAMES THAT NEED TO COME OFF THE SICK LIST PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE)**

FAREWELL AND THANKSGIVING FOR FR VINCENT

Archbishop Peter Comensoli has appointed **Fr Vincent** as Chaplain to the **Austin Hospital**. Fr Vincent will be leaving **St Mary's Parish this Wednesday, 16th September**.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Fr Vincent for his dedicated service to our parish community as Assistant Priest. We wish him every blessing and success in his new appointment.

Please join us for a **Farewell Cuppa** to personally thank Fr Vincent and wish him well:

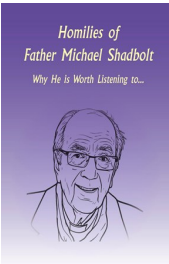
- **Tuesday, 15th September** – after the **9:15am Mass**
- **Tuesday, 15th September – 6:30pm**, Marian Room, New Street, Dandenong
All are very welcome.

A leaving collection for Fr Vincent will be taken after each Mass this weekend.

For more than sixty years, Fr Michael Shadbolt faithfully served the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, becoming renowned for his insightful, Scripture-centred preaching and pastoral care.

This collection of his homilies reflects his lifelong dedication to helping others encounter Christ, drawing on decades of ministry - including his service as the Archdiocese's Chief Exorcist - to offer timeless spiritual wisdom, encouragement and hope.

This weekend, **John Canavan, Director of Divine Mercy Publications**, will speak at the **8:30am and 10:30am Masses** about **Fr Michael's book**.
Copies of the book will be available for purchase after each Mass for **\$20.00**.



A BIG THANK YOU! to **St Mary's Social Club** and everyone who helped organise our **Pre Father's Day Dinner Dance**. Thanks to your generous support, **\$1,000.00 was raised**. The evening was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. We sincerely appreciate everyone's wonderful support and contribution. We look forward to seeing you at our next **Dinner Dance on Friday, 30th October 2026**.

MARCH FOR THE BABIES 2026

Saturday, 10th October 2026, 1pm Treasury Gardens, (Crn Spring Street & Wellington Parade) A free bus is available for this event from St Mary's Parish, Dandenong for anyone wanting to attend and return free of cost. As seats are limited, please register on a **first-come, first-served basis**. To reserve and confirm your seat, please send your **name and phone number via SMS to Geraldine Gonsalvez on 0434 877 730**

VEHICLE NEEDED

The Parish is seeking a **second vehicle** to lend to a visiting priest for the next **8-10 weeks**. If you have a vehicle available, or know someone who may be willing to help, please speak with **Fr Sebastian** or contact the **Parish Office on 9791 4611**.
Thank you for your generosity and support.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Thanksgiving: \$1772.50 **Loose Collection:** \$1425.00 **Presbytery:** \$2562.30
Support our Parish If you would like to make direct payments to our bank accounts, the details are:
St Mary's General Account: (Thanksgiving & Donations) NAB BSB: 083 347 ACC. No. 483196852
For contributions to support our priests and the Archdiocese:
Presbytery Account: NAB BSB: 083 347 ACC. No. 460761193

St. Mary's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Morning: 9.15am
Saturday Evening: 6.00pm
Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am and 5.30pm

WEEK DAY MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday: 9.15am
Friday (9.45am – 12.30pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, concluding with Benediction at 12.30pm)

ANNOINTING MASS

Last Friday of every month 9.15 am

DAILY ROSARY

After morning Mass Mon-Sat (Fridays will be before Mass)

RECONCILIATION

Saturday after 9.15am or upon request

BAPTISM, MARRIAGE OR HOUSE BLESSING

Please contact the Parish Centre on 9791 4611

COMMUNION AND ANOINTING OF SICK

Please inform the Parish Office on 9791-4611 if a sick person is seriously ill, homebound or hospitalised and wants to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing.

REGULAR GROUP MEETING ST MARY'S PARISH

LEGION OF MARY:

Saturday mornings after 9:15am mass in the Fellowship Room followed by Rosary

SPANISH PRAYER GROUP :

Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the church

ST MARY'S FRIENDSHIP CLUB:

3rd Wednesday of month lunch meet at Dandenong RSL.12pm

BINGO AT ST MARY'S

St. Mary's Bingo is on Tuesdays at 12noon & Saturdays at 6.30pm in St Mary's Community Centre, New St, Dandenong