

Breaking Open the Word

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

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

'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 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.

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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.

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

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.

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

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.'

ST PETER CHANEL CATHOLIC PARISH

Under the Pastoral Care of the Claretian Missionaries

848 Ballarat Road, Deer Park 3023

Parish Priest: Fr. Felimon Libot, CMF

Asst. Priests: Fr. John Pham, CMF; Fr. Luis F. Rey, CMF

Parish Secretary - Rosemarie Mendoza

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Website: www.cam.org.au/deerpark

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm



ADORATION CHAPEL

"The Master is here and wants to see you" John 11:28



Adorers are needed for these hours:

Sunday: 1pm; 2pm; 9pm

Monday: 2am; 11am; 11pm

Tuesday: 10am

Wednesday: 6am; 1pm; 2pm

Thursday: 12 am

Friday: 11am

Saturday: 11am

Contact: Lucy Sgro 0424056823

Formation Teachings with Fr Alex, CMF Come, Learn and Grow with us

In faith! With great joy, we would like to invite you all to join us for a series of

Formation teachings with Fr Alex. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as one parish family, deepen our understanding of our Catholic faith. All Welcome.

Sunday, 13 September Introduction to The Old Testament and Introduction to The 4 Gospels

Sunday, 20 September Understanding the Gospel of Matthew and Mark

Sunday, 27 September Understanding The Gospel of Luke and John

Please check flyer in the foyer of the Church.

Next Week: 20 September 2026

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary

Time - A

DEATH REMEMBRANCE: Joseph Grima, Proceso Batin, Celestino Batin, Francisco Batin, Felix Rafanan, Frank Bisticric, Ray Galea, Kalandan Swamy, Teresa Tellis Fortunata Torres-Villareal, Macky Camilleri, Krist Byzysvero Bytzi, Lek Nov, Gleriv Nov, Vero Bytzi, Cak Biba, Gijon Krist Ouyti, Donato St, Manuela Uy, Sewwandi, Micac Bong, Maria, Roco & Anita Koprivanac, Stepten Stolinik, Paul Azopard, Serafin del Rosario, John Xerri, Denetria Torres, Sunny & Mabin Tan Castro, Benjamin Chua, Numeriana Medel-Villareal, Virginia Salcedo, Victoria Isabel & Lucia Sabelina, Violet Abadia, Jose & Antonio Lay, Napoleon Tachung Yap, Benito Diaz, Felipe Medina, John Garang, John Oluko, Jacob Olanya, John Okuha, Adelaida Gula Durnandan, Monica Saladores, Vladimir Holubec, Vincent Paul Antolha, Gerald Mifsud, John Debono, Roberto Puc, Donald Apela, Paul Balada, Phillip Galea, Ronnie Zammit, Joseph Pace, Joseph Cini, Clarita Diaz, Andres & Adelmina Fugaban-Liedice Alexander Arthur, Leticia & Maximino Salvador, Paul Marmara, Carmen Marmara, Romy Pera, Charlie Galea, Frank Cassar, Jose Balamban, Joe & Getona Vella, Joe & Gensa Sacco, Paul D'Souza, Maurice Mascarenhas, Dolores Borg, Ruby & Douglas, Adela Balamban, Diana Angelica Marayag, Anna, Joseph Mary Cachia, Pietro Gabellardi, Mariano Carlos, Jose Nepomuceno Sr, Benjamin Cabrero

RECENT DEATH: Fr. Edgar Javier, SVD, Anthony Joaquin Milan, Eugene, Sheela, Anthony Heather, George Venturi, Sheryl Salvador

SPECIAL INTENTION: Aquilina family, Anita Balcombe, Elias, Anna Losotski, Josef Gjergaj, Annabel, Joshua Hellard, Richard Benedicto, Angela Alega, Vincent & Grace Lennon, Zenaida Manalang,

HEALING: Pauline Gatt, Agatha Saliba, Maria & Helen Aquilina, Arlyn Lim, Lydie Etienne, Koprivanac family, Gaudi & McKenzie family, Anne Marie Nunn, Orneeta Fernandes, Edric Telis, Paulo, Warrick Pyars, Anderson Le, Dominic Orquiza, Sam Mugnivia Kirumbi Muwaga, Sheryl De Silva, Lilian Gatt, Milagro Luber, Rafael Benica Gauna, Ramon Milan, Rommel & Darwin Cuda

THANKSGIVING: Tristan Lim, Diljo, Grace San Lorenzo, Ante, Ivana & family, Horace & Gwen Fernandez, Inuk Jayasuriya, Flory, Hyacinth Fernandez, & family, Angelo Snelli, Natascha & Dwain Lemaitre, Chema, Annabel & Christopher, Mook family, Marlon & Marvi Bafilo, Mandy Padilla, Ernesto Alega, Emilia Alfaro, Lardizabal family, Anna Losonci

THIS WEEK: 13 September 2026 - Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - A

	7:00pm	7:00am	8:30am	10:00am	12:00pm	6:00pm
Commentator 1st Reader 2nd Reader	Diana T Grace S L Jennifer S	James J Richelle C Susan C	Dulce T Kathleen T A Huang	Roger S J Rency C Marilou S J	Vernon A Evelyn N Kirk D G R	Andrea C Cyril V Raphael V
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	George E Nick S L Antonietta C Allister R	Kurt C Stefan P Shirley T Thi Pham	Ferdinand T Cedric B Shirley T Thi Pham	Cathryn D Anna C Nelissa D Lidia L	Jacqueline R Candida D S Tami M Emman C	Gloria T Jeslie M Joe C Marvin D
Altar Servers	George E	Tony Cilia	Adrian D A	Henry, Oliver Fawaz	Raphael P Rey S Arllele Mary Ann	Jherzielle
Choirs	Eucharistic Choir	AHFI	Holy Redeemer	MWF with LIHM Sisters	Lea Lapid	CFCA

NEXT WEEK: 20 September 2026 - Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - A

	7:00pm	7:00am	8:30am	10:00am	12:00pm	6:00pm
Commentator 1st Reader 2nd Reader	Grace S L Antonietta C Manoj L	Frances R Jeslie M Richelle C	Perly C Rukmal M Wynna D	Nelissa D Anna C Greazah P	Gloria T Milo P Tami M	Annika D Arabella J Zaylee D
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Ernesto Co Nick S L George E Delia J	Kurt C Stefan P	Teo C Hilda D S Ronald D Virgie G	Julie Ann M Maria Mizzi Joe M Froilan M	Vernon A Kirk D G R Oliver T Jacqueline R	Marvin D Joe C Ric M Michael D
Altar Servers	George E	Tony Cilia	Adrian D A	Henry, Oliver Fawaz	Raphael P Rey S Arllele Mary Ann	Jherzielle
Choirs	LIHM Sisters	AHFI	MWF with LIHM Sisters	Emmaus	Lea Lapid	Exxemoz

Feast. The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Monday, 14 September

Memorial. Our Lady of Sorrows Tuesday, 15 September

SPC Primary School Fete. Church and School Car park will be unavailable from 5pm Wednesday 16 September evening. Temporary fencing will be set up for the school fete which will be held on Thursday 17 September. Car park will be available after 5pm on Thursday, 17 September.

Come and Join. SPC Bible Study

SPC Evangelisation Team would like to invite you to an online Bible study. Every Wednesday, 7:30pm
Contact Hilda 0450 006 316

We would like to thank those who has been faithfully attending the Bible study group. God bless you all.

SPC Bible study group. We warmly invite you to join the SPC Youth and Young Adults Bible Study group.

Contact: Parish office 03 93633132 or Email: deerpark@cam.org.au

NO SPC Sunday School & "Animo" Youth Meeting during school holidays.

Timorese Mass Saturday, 26 September at 3:00 PM

Novena to St Faustina will start on Saturday, 26 September at 4:00 PM
Please check flyer in the foyer of the Church for Novena times.

A VOCATION VIEW

"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."
Make a stand for mercy, empathy, forgiveness and selflessness!