



Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 13 September 2026

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!



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.

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First Reading Sir 27:30-28:7

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.

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

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.

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

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

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Franjo Bistricic, Rosemarie Cini

RECENTLY DECEASED

Patricia McKeegan, Fortunato Panzera, Warwick Robertson, Greg & Jane Woodward, Barry Bass, Sam & Michael Scuito

ANNIVERSARIES

Antonio Bonadio, Ann Rodriguez, Giuseppe De Vito, Maryanne & Charles Spiteri, Pino Acquaro, Tony, Vince & Pina Staropoli, Carmine, Michael & Lucia Di Lisio, Carmela Russo, Janina Paradowska

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Next meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 15th September.

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

20th September 2026 at 12noon

Audrey Josephine Hearnden

Rafael Nicholas Sampieri

Kaitoa Ruberto

Please pray for these children and their families.

PARISH SUPPORT

Thank you all for your continued support. For those who prefer to, online donations can be made as follows:-

Presbytery Collection – 1st Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Presbytery A/C
BSB: 083 347 Account No. 665417521
Reference as your first initial then surname, or you may remain anonymous

Church Collection – 2nd Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Church Account
BSB: 083 347 A/C No. 535304676.
Reference as your first initial then surname and if known, your giving number e.g. ASmith T/G 500

NFC Tags can be found on pens if you would like to give electronically.



Help fund projects across Catholic organisations, including parishes, schools and classrooms, with a CDF Community Fund Savings account.
With competitive interest rates, it's a greater reward than money alone.
Visit www.cdf.org.au for more information.



PARISH NEWS

FUNERAL: TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

There will be a funeral at St Peter's on Tuesday, 15th September at 10.00am, for the late Fortunato Panzera. Parishioners are welcome to attend this Mass. No 9.15am Morning Mass this day.

MASS TIMES: WEEKDAYS - 16/9-19/9

From Wednesday, 16th September-Friday 18th September, Morning Masses will commence at 9.30am, instead of 9.15am. Reciting of the Rosary will commence at 9.10am on those 3 mornings.

FR ANIL - AWAY

Fr Anil will be away for the next few weeks and during his absence we will have some visiting Priests celebrating our weekday and weekend Masses. Please assist where possible.

MINISTERS' ROSTER – 31/10/26-28/2/27

The next Ministers' Roster will be prepared soon. Please contact the Parish Office with your 'away' dates from 1/11/26-28/2/27, by **Tuesday, 29th September**. Volunteers for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses will be advertised for in early December.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2026

Today is Safeguarding Sunday in the Dioceses of Australia. It is a day to pray for all who have experienced abuse or harm, to support their healing, and to renew our commitment to creating communities where every person is welcomed, respected and safe.

In the Gospels, Jesus shows particular care for those who are vulnerable and calls his disciples to do the same. Safeguarding is not simply a policy or procedure; it is a Gospel responsibility that reflects the dignity of every person and our shared commitment to love one another as Christ has loved us.

Let us pray for all who continue to journey towards healing, give thanks for those who serve in safeguarding ministry, and recommit ourselves to building parish communities where trust, compassion and care are evident in all we do.

FATHER'S DAY RAFFLE

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our Father's Day Raffle. 1st Prize: Ticket Red A44-Ralph Pinto, 2nd Prize: Ticket Red A07-Mick Sgro, 3rd Prize: Ticket Blue B37, 4th Prize Ticket Red A18-Anna Tarola, 6th Prize: Ticket Red A64-Norma Prentice.

Many thanks to all who purchased tickets, our ticket sellers and those who contributed to the beautiful hampers.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027 – SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA – AUGUST 3-8

An invitation to our young people!

World Youth Day 2027 will bring young Catholics from around the world together in Seoul, South Korea, to celebrate our faith and encounter **Jesus Christ**. Open to young people aged 16–30, this could be a wonderful opportunity for our parish young people to come together, make new friendships, and begin thinking and praying about travelling together as a parish group. If you are interested, **please add your details to the sheet in the narthex or email the Parish Office**. This is simply an opportunity to express your interest and begin the conversation. Let us take this opportunity to build a vibrant young faith community in our parish and journey together towards WYD 2027!

CARITAS AUSTRALIA: NEPAL FLOODS
APPEAL Communities in northern Nepal are facing a humanitarian crisis after devastating flash floods swept through the Rasuwa District on 26 August. Over 1,000 people have lost their lives, many remain missing, and thousands of families have been affected. Homes, roads, bridges, schools and essential infrastructure have been destroyed, leaving vulnerable communities in urgent need of support. Caritas Australia is working with Caritas Nepal and local partners to provide lifesaving assistance, including emergency shelter, food, safe drinking water, healthcare and protection support for affected families. Together, we can provide urgent relief and hope to families rebuilding their lives in Nepal. To donate to the Caritas Australia Nepal Floods Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/nepal or call 1800 024 413 or see flyers in narthex.

ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST

2a Parkside Avenue

Keilor East Vic 3033

Parish Priest: Rev. Anil Mascarenhas

Parish Secretary: Helena Meredith

Phone: 03 9337 4141

Parish Office Hours: 8.30am-4.00pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Email: keiloreast@cam.org.au

Website:

<https://www.melb.catholic.org/keiloreast>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277>

Peters-Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Acting Principal: Anne Tadinac

Phone: 03 9337 4111

Email: principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au

Administration: Siobhan Thompson

MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times:

9.15am Saturday Morning Mass

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass

8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm Sunday Masses

Weekday Mass Times

**9.15am *Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

*10.00am Tuesday 15 September – Funeral – No Morning Mass

**Wednesday 16, Thursday 17 & Friday 18 September Mass will commence at 9.30am

RECONCILIATION

9.45am Saturday after 9.15am Mass (or upon request of Parish Priest)

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

2026 PARISH THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

We are grateful for the school families who are supporting the Parish Thanksgiving Program (2026 family contribution), which continues to sustain the life and mission of our parish. May God bless your families with peace and joy.

The Parish of St Peter's, Keilor East and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community.