



SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2026 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. YEAR A

Reflection on the Gospel (Matthew 18:21-35) Safeguarding Sunday

The opening verses of this Sunday's Gospel reading have Jesus advocating limitless forgiveness (not seven, but seventy-seven times). The parable that follows is anything but consistent with this teaching, however, and with the teaching of Jesus in the Gospel as a whole. We are all familiar with the beatitude, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall be mercied" (5:7) and with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (6:12).

How then do we read today's story of a king who is prepared to forgive the debt that his slave has incurred, only to resort to torture when that slave fails to forgive his fellow slave? This story raises endless issues: the unquestioning acceptance of slavery and the plight of slaves; the absolute power of the king over his subjects; the institution of debt slavery; the treatment of women and children; the collection of crippling taxes to finance the power of the king; an unjust and cruel ruler as an image of the God of Israel; imaging God as a loving parent who nonetheless acts in tyrannical ways. In other words, the parable encodes institutions and practices of the time that Jesus and the Matthean community seem to accept without question.

Does the parable come from the lips of Jesus or from the Matthean community? It would be anachronistic to expect a critique of slavery in the first century since the institution of slavery was simply taken for granted in the Graeco-Roman world. It persisted without critique for some 1800 years. It has now taken a new and sinister turn with the widespread practice of sexual and labour slavery of the vulnerable. It is totally out of character, however, for Jesus to image his "heavenly Father" as a merciless torturer. It may be that Jesus did in fact tell such a story in another context and that the Matthean author has rather arbitrarily linked Jesus' sayings on forgiveness with this story. It is conceivable that Jesus insisted on the consequences of refusing to forgive.

While God is merciful and forgiving, disciples must not exploit God's capacity to forgive.

Bad behaviour is not to be tolerated. It has its consequences and those who exploit others or fail to forgive can expect to suffer the consequences of their actions. Whatever we make of the story of the merciless king and the unforgiving slave, we might take on board Jesus' response to Peter never to stop forgiving. We might also note the reminder that true forgiveness is "from the heart".

In the biblical world, the heart was the core of the person's being, the seat of cognition as well as of emotion. To forgive from the heart is to forgive with the whole of one's being. We are all in need of God's forgiveness if we are to find the freedom to address "from the heart" the plight of our war-torn and weather-beaten planet.

While the Gospel passage focusses on forgiveness, our first concern must be with those who suffer at the hands of offenders, including the Earth itself. We must "surrender to the sky [our] heart of anger" (James K. Baxter) and, at the same time, work actively to provide our planetary home and all of its inhabitants with the care that is surely needed.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for those who died recently
and for all whose anniversary
occurs at this time. May they rest in peace.



Why participation matters

Participation helps people move from being passive recipients to active disciples. This deepens faith and strengthens mission.

First Reading: Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

A reading from the book of Sirach

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.

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

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: John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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 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.

(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

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, *(All bow)*
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.

Communion Antiphon: Ps 35:8

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

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2026

The 2026 theme "**Love Protects**" recognises that safeguarding is a practical expression of Christian love. When communities prioritise the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults, they embody the love and care that is at the heart of the Gospel.

"'Love Protects' reminds us that genuine love is demonstrated through action," said chair of the Bishops Commission for Professional Standards and Safeguarding, Bishop Greg Bennet. "Safeguarding is an essential part of our mission and ministry. It calls each of us to be attentive, accountable and committed to ensuring that every person can participate in the life of the Church safely and with confidence."

Safeguarding Sunday also provides an opportunity to acknowledge the work of clergy, staff, volunteers and safeguarding leaders who work to foster cultures of safety and trust throughout church communities. Their dedication strengthens the Church's commitment to preventing harm, responding appropriately to concerns and promoting the dignity of every person. The Church is showing national leadership in safeguarding through:

- Professional development that strengthens the capacity of Catholic organisations
- Reviews, audits and assessments of Catholic organisations
- Management of the Australian Catholic Ministry Register Media

NEWMAN COLLEGE CHOIR CONCERT:

'TANGERINE'

Sunday 20 September 2026, 3.00pm–4.00pm

at the College Chapel 887 Swanston St. Parkville.
Tickets \$40, \$30 conc \$10 students.

'Tangerine' celebrates the colour orange in music.
Enjoy Music from the Dutch House of Orange,
Ukrainian Orange Revolution, Irish folksongs.

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/DOUYV>

MASSES DURING SEPTEMBER

Fr Robin Lomangkok, CSsR will celebrate 5.00pm Mass on Saturday 12 September and on Sunday 13th September, **Fr Trevor Tibbertsma** will celebrate the 8.00am, 9.30am and 11.00am Masses.

Please make Fr Robin and Fr. Trevor welcome.

There will be **no weekday Masses** during September.

Office Hours for September - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 9.30am – 2.30pm

THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged from 30 into their 50's, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate, including the spouses of any inquirers. If you attended any previous session, you are also welcome to join the September gathering.

Online Diaconate Information Meeting:

Tuesday, 22 September 2026, 7.00 - 8.00pm,
via ZOOM. Email Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au

In the week before the session the ZOOM link will be sent to those who have expressed interest.

ONLINE PRESENTATION SERIES

The Catholic Theological College is conducting an online presentation series **Engaging Your Faith** in October 2026.

Experienced lecturers present on a variety of topics such as spirituality, science and faith issues, canon law, the Gospels of Matthew and John, clergy well-being, Eucharist, and Magnifica Humanitas and AI. For further information, email ctc@ctc.edu.au or call 03 9412 3333 or see notice board in the churches for description of times, dates, topics and presenters and how to register.

LIGHT INTO THE CITY PROJECT

Finalising the contract for Stage 1A (Cathedral Restoration and Renewal) is the key priority over the next three months.

The Cathedral's stonework, structural and specialist investigations are nearly completed. The construction contract award is targeted for the end of 2026 and restoration works are anticipated to commence in early 2027. The Australian Government has committed \$60 million to Light into the City with the associated Funding Agreement currently being progressed.

PARISH PRIEST:

Rev. Fr. Werner Utri

PARISH SECRETARY: Emilia Balkan

PHONE: 0401 158 113;

(03) 9314 7710

EMAIL: yarraville@cam.org.au

ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

9.30am till 2.30pm

PARISH WEBSITE:

www.melbrcatholic.org/yarraville

SAFEGUARDING: Pat Mc Laughlin

patmac766@gmail.com

PARISH CHURCHES

ST AUGUSTINE'S

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

CORPUS CHRISTI

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

ANNUNCIATION

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

For email copy of Bulletin



Click QR Code

UPCOMING EVENTS

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Information Night: What is Research?

Mon 14 Sept 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Engaging your faith –

October 2026 online presentations

Details on noticeboard or

ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith

PRAYER SERVICE OF LAMENT

Tuesday 15 September 2026

4pm St. Patrick's Cathedral

grounds

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION

ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

Tuesday, 22 September 2026

beginning 7:00pm – 8:00pm ZOOM

COMMUNITY FAIR

Corpus Christi School 10am - 4pm

Saturday 14th November 2026

FEAST DAYS DURING THE WEEK

- **Monday 14 September** –
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- **Tuesday 15 September** –
Our Lady of Sorrows
- **Wednesday 16 September** –
St Cornelius, Pope & St. Cyprian
- **Thursday 17 September** –
St Robert Bellarmine,
St. Hildegard of Bingen
- **Saturday 19 September** –
St. Januarius

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Thank you to parishioners at Annunciation, Corpus Christi and St. Augustine's for your regular donation of food items placed in the churches each week.

In addition to **non-perishable food**, (cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, spaghetti, tins of tuna, tinned fruit, rice, jam, biscuits), items such as **shampoo, soap, deodorant, washing powder/liquid, toothpaste and brushes** are also needed.

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK

12th & 13th September 2026

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

READERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Krystyna Biront

9.30am Gerald Bain-King

Pina Guzzardi

READERS: **Corpus Christi**

11am Val Taylor

Rachael Nguyen

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Kath Baker

9.30am..... Pat Mc Laughlin

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... Julianna Barr

COUNTING: Krys Biront

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK

19th & 20th September 2026

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

READERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Nic Fusca

9.30am Phillip Marques

Sam Polzella

READERS: **Corpus Christi**

11am Joe Fusca

Mary Huynh

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Frank Galea

9.30am..... Gerald Bain-King

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... John Santos

COUNTING: John Ryan

**THERE WILL BE
NO WEEKDAY MASSES**

(MON TO SAT)

DURING

SEPTEMBER

at

St. Augustine's,

Corpus Christi

or

Annunciation

WEEKEND MASSES

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

SUNDAY MASS

Annunciation.....8.00 am

St Augustine's....9.30 am

Corpus Christi..11.00 am

St Augustine's..11.30 am

(Polish)

RECONCILIATION:

SATURDAYS after 9.30am

Mass at Corpus Christi

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.

www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements