

SPRING SENSATION: (A FUNDRAISER FOR THE SAMARITANS PURSE PROJECT, OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD): Super Duper Soups, Sandwiches and slices. *What do we have to eat?* You guessed correctly? Soup, sandwiches and slices, plus of course tea and coffee *What is the date and the 12.00 for 12.30 pm, time please?* Thursday 21 September, Red Door Hall, St John's Church, Page Street, Moruya. *What do I need to bring?* \$15 for your lunch plus: Your smiles; some spare dollars for the raffle, and something to bring, and you'll want to buy something, so, oh yes, dollars for that something please too! *This is unashamedly a "fundraiser" but it will also be a fun-raiser! We need money to send the many shoe boxes filled with gifts to children in underprivileged countries. For more information and also RSVP Liz Fisher, 0487170777, a2fisher@bigpond.net.au or Denise Collis, 0428427399, mainscln@bigpond.com* By Tuesday 19 September please

NOTICES FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND—27—29 OCTOBER: Join other couples in an opportunity for to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love at a **Marriage Encounter Weekend** in a Covid safe environment at a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney. **Location:** Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. **Enquiries:** Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au **Book online:** at www.wwme.org.au

CELEBRATING WOMEN OF FAITH - CATHOLIC WOMEN'S TASKFORCE FUNDRAISING DINNER: The Archdiocese's Women's Taskforce is holding its annual fundraising dinner for MacKillop House on Friday, 27th October at the Southern Cross Club, Woden ACT. Guest speaker: Ms Genevieve Jacobs, a well-known local personality, will reflect on her experience of her Catholic faith in both her professional and personal life. Tickets are \$80, but early birds are \$70 (until 29 Sept), and tables of 10 are discounted to \$700. Please visit www.cgwomen.org.au to purchase tickets through Humanatix. For further information contact Samantha Hazlett at samanthahazlett@icloud.com

NEEDS OF LAY CATHOLICS TODAY: What do adult lay Catholics need today to help them live a committed Catholic life amid the circumstances of modern society? To find out and to help improve their services to our Archdiocese, the Canberra Circle of The Catenians, an international association of lay Catholics, is conducting an Archdiocesan-wide online survey. Please help by completing this brief, anonymous, tick-box survey via this URL. Thank you. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CLTZGMW> Contact: Phil Murray, President, Canberra Catenians 0419 695 927 or phil13murray@gmail.com

OUR LADY OF SORROWS: FEAST DAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2023:

Our Lady of Sorrows is a title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary in relation to the seven sorrows in her life. These seven sorrows are very popular in the Catholic Church where Mary is portrayed with seven swords piercing her heart and bleeding. The sorrows are: The Prophecy of Simeon, The Flight into Egypt, The Loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem, Mary's meeting Jesus on his way to Calvary, The Crucifixion of Jesus on Mount Calvary, Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross and The Burial of Jesus.



SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO Box 23) Moruya NSW 2537
Phone: 4474 2024 Email: moruya@cg.org.au

Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>

Priest: Fr George Azhakath

Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore

Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm

Mass Times:

Moruya: Sat: Vigil 5:00pm Sun: 10:00am

Tue: 5:00pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am

Tuross: Sun: 8:00am **Bodalla:** 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm/2nd Thursday of the month 9:00am

Reconciliation: Every Saturday morning @ Moruya 8:30am-9:00am

and before Vigil Mass 4:15pm-4:45pm

Devotions: Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** All Fridays after Mass

Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817

Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600

Caring Groups: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- YEAR A -

September 16 & 17 2023

We need to forgive, forget and be reconciled

Our scripture for this 24th Sunday is about our need for forgiving our offenders and being reconciled with them. All three **readings** today remind us and challenge us to continue on the path to forgiveness, mercy and reconciliation.

Sirach, in the **first reading**, reminds his listeners that if they don't heal and forgive and show mercy they can't expect to receive much of that in return. It is unwise to nurse grudges and wise to forgive. *"Remember your last days, and set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin!"* Today's **Responsorial Psalm** speaks beautifully about God's forgiving love: *"God is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion"*.

In the **second reading**, Paul reminds us that we have to forgive others because we belong to Christ who taught us by his own example to forgive. Since we humans are related as brothers and sisters of Jesus, we are in the family of God, so hatred and bitterness should have no place in our hearts.

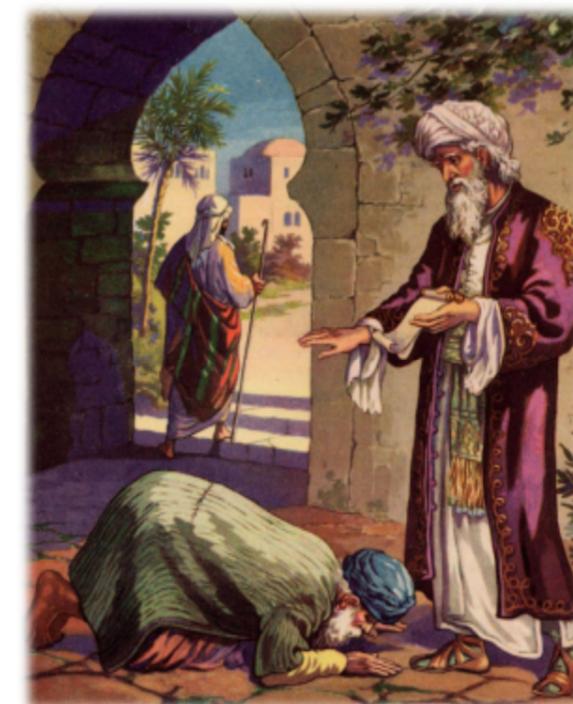
In **today's gospel**, through the parable of the two debtors, Jesus teaches us that there should be no limit to our forgiveness and no conditions attached to our reconciliation. We represent the greater debtor in the parable because we commit sins every day and hence, need God's forgiveness every single day. But we must forgive in order to be forgiven. Jesus explains this after teaching the prayer "**Our Father**". *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you"*.

Entrance Antiphon: 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.

Communion Antiphon: The chalice of blessing that we bless is a communion in the Blood of Christ; and the bread that we break is a sharing in the Body of the Lord.

Prayer after Communion: Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you.

O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment thine.



Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Sir 27:30 – 28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

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.

The word of the Lord

All: 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 Rom 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

All: 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

All: And with your spirit

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you O Lord

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

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) We need to forgive, forget and be reconciled: In the light of eternity and considering the shortness of our span of life, harbouring old grudges is pointless. The forgiveness that we offer others is the indispensable condition which makes it possible for us to receive God’s forgiveness and to pray meaningfully: “*Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us*”. What God expects from us is limitless forgiving and an ability to gloss over faults and to keep on loving even in the face of insults.

2) We may never forget the hurt we have experienced, but we can choose to forgive: As life goes on and we remember an incident that was hurtful and caused great anger, we need to remind ourselves that, with God’s grace, we have already forgiven the one that hurt us. Time does heal memories. Forgiveness finally changes us from being prisoners of our past to being liberated and at peace with our memories. Forgiveness allows us to move beyond the pain, the resentment and the anger. When we forgive we make the choice that heals. We can forgive the offender by wishing him God’s blessing and by offering that individual to God by simply saying “*Help so-and so and me to mend our relationship*”. When we withhold forgiveness, we remain the victim. When we offer forgiveness, we are doing it also for our own well-being.

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, the sick members of our Parish and those in need of our prayers: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Dianne Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Clare & Bert Broekhuysse, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Annette and John Nader, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Pat Anderson, Tammy Whiteman, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Leo Kop, Barbara Kirk, John Richmond, Miriam Turnbull, Natasha Morton and Janice Setter.

CONDOLENCES: We were deeply saddened to hear of our dear Parishioner **Bert Broekhuysse’s** passing on 12 September and our sincere condolences to Bert’s wife Clare and family. Bert’s funeral will be held next Wednesday, 20 September at Sacred Heart Church at 11am. May he Rest in Peace.

BIRTHDAYS: Happy Birthday to Parishioners Fay Heffernan whose Birthday was on 10 September and Annette Moore who celebrates on 15 September. We hope you both had a splendid day with family and friends.

OZANAM SUNDAY APPEAL: Archbishop Prowse has approved the St Vincent de Paul Society conducting its annual Ozanam Sunday appeal for the Twinned Conferences in each Parish in the Archdiocese. Twinning is the program by which the Society supports fellow Vincentians in developing countries. In conjunction with the Vinnies Collection Basket, please give generously to the Leaving Collections at Masses this weekend.

VINNIES COLLECTION BASKET: The Conference has placed a collection basket at the back of the church for donations of non-perishable food items. The following is a list of the type of food that we regularly distribute to those in need: long life milk, tinned fruit, soup, baked beans, spaghetti, rice, tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables, tea and coffee. We invite parishioners to donate one item on a monthly basis, if you are able. This will help relieve the financial strain on our food budget. Thank you to all who have contributed thus far!

EVANGELISATION PROGRAM: Next **Tuesday, 19 September** Parishioners are invited to Jan Morris’s home (12 Shorthorn Close, Moruya) to watch and discuss the next episode of **The Chosen**.