



24th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A

17 September 2023

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

*Almighty God, our creator and guide,
may we serve you with all our hearts and know your forgiveness in our lives.
Amen.*

FIRST READING: A reading from 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?
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:

**Response: 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: 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.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:

love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 18:21-35

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.'



REFLECTION on Matthew 18:21-35 by Dianne Bergant CSA

A distinctive feature of the teachings of Jesus is his exhortation to forgive. Very explicit about this, Jesus left us his own example by forgiving his executioners while he hung dying on the cross. Until recently we thought that forgiveness begins with the offender repenting of the offence and then asking for pardon. Today many maintain that reconciliation must begin with the one offended offering forgiveness. This willingness to forgive transforms a victim into a survivor. Such

magnanimity might then touch the heart of the offender, who may thus be transformed from being an offender to becoming a friend.

If God has been so generous in forgiving us, surely we should be generous in forgiving others. The process of becoming a forgiving person takes time. For some, it may take a lifetime. Only little by little are our pettiness and indignation reduced and our desire to strike back diminished. Still, as disciples, we are expected to give the forgiveness that we have been given.

Such forgiveness does not provide an easy way out for offenders, for ultimately justice will prevail. If we remain untransformed by God's forgiveness of us, we will be liable to judgment. Our unwillingness to forgive can eat away at us, and we can carry hurts from childhood far into adult years. Forgiving others, as difficult as that may be, is in the long run much easier than bearing the weight of resentfulness, vindictiveness and unresolved frustration. When we forgive we truly begin to be healed.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for the people of Morocco devastated by deadly earthquake; that all who have been bereaved, injured or made homeless will receive the emergency and long-term aid they need to recover. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for Christian churches around the world, that they will bear credible witness to the all-embracing mercy of God. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for leaders taking part in this week's United Nations Climate Ambition Summit, that they will agree to take more effective action to halt global warming. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for the voters of Australia, that they will consider the referendum question on the Voice to Parliament carefully and vote according to their conscience. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for all participants in the upcoming Synod in Rome, that they will be charged with the same Spirit that enthused young believers at World Youth Day this year. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for all who are part of the fabric of our lives; that we will inspire one another to belong to Christ, Lord of the living and the dead. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, especially Denis Dempsey, Ted Hart, Peter Gillan, Penny Crawford, Jenny Bodman Ross Lawless, Rongo Tee Peeti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Tony Riley, Val Biggers and all who need our prayers, that they may be cared for by loving family, friends and community (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for those who have died recently Dianne Sutherland and Bernie Fletcher . . . and for Bob Bradley, whose anniversary of death occurs around this time; that by God's saving power they will rise to eternal life. (Pause) Lord, hear us

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord,

May your gifts influence our thoughts and actions.

May your Spirit guide and us in your way.

Amen.

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays: 9.30am – 3.30pm; Fridays: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Weekday Mass: Tuesdays at 10.00am

Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am

Krawarree Mass: 29 October at 11.00am

Baptism: Saturday at 4pm in St. Bede's Church.

From Father Mick

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Due to ongoing health issues I have decided to finish this weekend serving the region of Braidwood, Bungendore and Gundaroo. It has been an enormous privilege of mine getting to know and walk with such understanding and committed parishioners in this special region. A great deal has been achieved and I firmly believe you will continue to live the Gospel and be a great influence in the broader community. Many thanks for your support and love.

I have spoken to Fr. Tony Percy and you will be cared for by him and Fr. Joshua Scott until a priest can be found for the region.

Yours in Christ,
Mick Burke.

Congratulations to our eight children who celebrated their First Reconciliation last Saturday and thanks to their families and all the parishioners who showed by example, their need for forgiveness.

Brother Brian's Farewell next Sunday 17th Sept, 2-4pm at the Club for afternoon tea. Please bring a plate of goodies to share. The Vicar General, Father Richard Thompson, will be attending as well as Frs. Dermid and Hilton and Bishop Pat with whom Brian has shared ministry. We also have an apology from Father Peter.

Markets in Ryrie Park: 9am - 1pm on Saturday 23 September Produce; Crafts; Plants; Antiques & Collectibles; Trash & Treasure; Monthly wood Raffle. Donations of cooking etc gratefully accepted at the Parish table. Cathy reports that the home cooking is greatly appreciated by the customers. Enquiries to Cathy Ffrench on 0418 262 011

Braidwood Events: we are getting out and about now spring is here. Plenty to do.

Springtime Afternoon Tea Saturday 23rd September 2-4pm in the National Theatre. Book through the Vintage Drawer.

Braidwood Lions Antique Fair The Braidwood Lions Club is running an Antique Fair from Friday 29 September to Sunday 1 October in the historic National Theatre. For sale will be antiques, collectables, bric-a-brac, linen, porcelain, jewellery, vintage clothes, and furniture.

Braidwood Hospital Auxiliary Fete Saturday October 14th in the National Theatre.



Café of the Gate of Salvation Choir, Sydney's premier a cappella gospel choir. Inspired by the soulful music of the African-American vocal tradition, will be holding concerts in St. Bede's Church on the weekend of 14 & 15th October. 7pm on Sat. and 10am on Sunday. These two concerts are being organised by the Uniting Church. This is a free event. All welcome.

Braidwood Open Gardens November 4 & 5.

The Braidwood RSL Sub Branch Commemoration Dinner is on again this year at the National Theatre -11 Nov. Add it to your diary now so you don't miss out. Wonderful food, BYO drinks and exhilarating music from one of Braidwood's best music talents. A great time to dress up and enjoy great company in a delightful night out. Details and booking information coming soon.

Braidwood Quilt Event 2023 25/26 November Contact braidwoodquilterstextiles@gmail.com

Readings for Mass: 1st: Sirach 27:30-28:7. 2nd: Romans 14:7-9. Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35.

Next week: 1st: Isaiah 55:6-9. 2nd: Phil. 1:20-24,27. Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16.

Radio Church: Sundays at 6pm on FM 88.9

Ministries for our Mass:	16 Sept	23 Sept	30 Sept	7 Oct
Welcomer:	Geraldine	Cathy F	Helen P	Geraldine
Acolyte:	Felix (when available)			
Reader 1:	Bobby	Wendy M-B	Ann T	Michael
Reader 2:	Tommy	Germaine	Wendy H	Cathy F
Ministries of service:	15 Sept	22 Sept	29 Sept	6 Oct
Altar Decorating:	Cathy F	Margaret	Joy	Helen P
Ladies – I put the artificial flowers on the altar but if you have flowers, please use them				
Cleaning:	Bronnie & Felix		Helen P & Sarah	
Counters: 1 st Sunday:	Pauline & Bobbie.		2 nd Sunday: Wendy H	
	3 rd Sunday: Brenda		4 th : Phil Owen	
Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.				



The wedge-leaf wattle (*Acacia Pravissima*) is out and looking glorious,

Take care of each other

Helen

AUGUST 2023 - AUGUST 2024



The Parish of St Bede's Braidwood acknowledges the Yuin people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.