



# Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 44  
17 September 2017

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers

Year A



## VERITAS

## TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

*Parish Priest*

**Fr Kieran Adams OP**

*Assistant Priests*

Fr Rafael Cabezón OP

Fr Bernie Maxwell OP

**Holy Rosary Church**

Cnr Phillip Avenue &  
Antill Street, Watson ACT

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<http://www.cg.org.au/watson>

*Office Staff*

Jacquie Cortese

Jim Smith

*Office Hours*

Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday, Friday

9.00am–12.30pm

*Parish Council*

Andrew Blakey

*Mass times*

Wed 5.30pm

Tues & Thurs 6.45am

Fri 5.30pm

**Saturday 5pm (Vigil)**

**Sunday 8am, 10am & 5pm**

9am Mass Saturday & Public

Holidays

excluding Mondays

*Pray the Rosary*

Wed & Fri before 5.30pm Mass

Saturday after 9am Mass

and First Saturday each month

3.30pm

*Reconciliation*

Saturday 12pm–12.30pm

and 4pm–4.30pm

*ACU Chapel Signadou*

Tues 12.30pm

Wed & Thurs 12.30pm

# Do I Have To Forgive



**If you are in Urgent need of  
a Priest Call - 6248 8253**

A warm welcome is extended to guests & parishioners celebrating our Eucharist today.

ENTRANCE	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.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!
COMMUNION	How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.
READINGS	Sirach 27:30 - 28:7      Romans 14:7-9 Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

### PSALM: 102:1-4. 9-12

The Lord is kind and merciful;  
slow to anger and rich in compassion.

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.

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.

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.

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.

The Lord is kind and merciful;  
slow to anger and rich in compassion.

### HOW DO I BECOME A CATHOLIC

Are you an adult interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process, based within a parish community, that starts by allowing interested individuals to make initial enquiries about the Catholic faith. Each year we have had the privilege of receiving new members into our community at Holy Rosary. Please contact the Parish office on 6248 5925 if you would like to attend or to discuss your interest with an RCIA team member.

### CARE OF THE SICK

If you know of anyone who is unable to get to Mass and who would like the Eucharist brought to them, please let the office know. Also, if someone is in need of prayer or a visit in hospital - likewise, please let us know.

### ARCHBISHOP'S VISIT

Archbishop Christopher Prowse will celebrate the 5pm vigil Mass at Holy Rosary next Saturday 23rd September. Mass will be followed by refreshments.

### SAVE THE DATE

On Saturday 7th October  
after the 5pm Mass  
a Potluck Dinner will be  
held to celebrate the  
Feast of the Holy Rosary  
in the Parish Centre.  
This is an opportunity for  
parishioners to gather  
and celebrate our Church  
Feast Day.

## CONFIRMATION CONGRATULATIONS

On Friday evening our young Parishioners who attend our School of Religion and students from Rosary, our Parish School, received the Sacrament of Confirmation administered by Father Kieran. We congratulate them and their families on the way they prepared and participated in the Liturgy for the Ceremony. They are a credit to our Parish, our School of Religion and Rosary Primary School. A sincere **Thank You** to their Teachers, Sponsors and Parents - and all who were involved in the inspiring ceremony.



**Let us pray for all these young people that they will  
always be open to the working of the Holy Spirit  
throughout their adult lives.**

### LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

In the Gospel reading, Peter wants to know how many times he has to forgive someone who sins against him. What is the number of times, Peter wants to know, that he has to forgive that sinner? But this question is confused. There is no such number as the one Peter is looking for. There is no limit on the number of times we have to forgive someone who has sinned against us. What stands between us and God is only our willingness to receive the gift God is offering.

We can understand the point of this Gospel story if we see the connection between love and forgiveness. Refusing to forgive is refusing to love, and it is never acceptable not to love. That is why it is never right to withhold forgiveness either.

The relation between love and forgiveness also helps us see the difference between forgiving a wrongdoer [on the one hand,] and enabling him to continue in his wrongdoing. Love wants the good for the beloved. A person who forgives a sinner loves that sinner; and because she loves him, she has a heart for his good. A wife who continues to live with a husband who beats her isn't forgiving him. She's helping him to get worse. There is nothing loving or forgiving about enabling a person to get worse. For her to forgive her husband is for her to want his good, even in the face of his bad treatment of her. But his good requires, first of all, that he stop hurting her, and then that he repent his terrible treatment of her.

If he is unrepentant, if he rejects goodness and love, then she can want the good for him anyway. But her forgiveness of him will be like a gift that can't be given because he won't receive it. Then the best she can do for him is to keep a distance from him, so that he doesn't get worse by continuing to hurt her.

God's love is like this, too. God's forgiveness is always there and so is God's love. Because God loves every person, God is offering the good to every person too, no matter what his sins may be. So God does not keep a careful distance from us even when we sin. What stands between us and God is only our willingness to receive the gift God is offering. If we will only not reject it, the gift of God's love and forgiveness will be given and received.

Eleonore Stump <http://liturgy.slu.edu/>

In Your Prayers  
please  
remember  
those in our  
community  
who are ill:

Fr Phil Harding

Elizabeth Cronin, Maureen Blood,  
Fr Ellis Clifford, Philip Bailey,  
Dion Convine, Edith Jensen,  
Richard Johnson, Alexia Harris,  
Joe Schimizzi, Rosemary Denmead  
Philip Bailey, Jim Burgess, Mary Bui,  
Mary Harrigan, Elizabeth Webster,  
Rosa Maria Santos, Barbara Wilson,  
Awny El-Ghitany, Beth Delos Santos,  
Elsie Laughton, Lynn & Richard Bale,

Please remember our  
deceased:

Eileen Liston, Kevin Ford,  
Lillian McGee, Alan Thornhill,  
Keith Eddy, Mary Daws Smith,  
Paomira De Simone, Elias Carreras

In loving memory

9/11 Victims

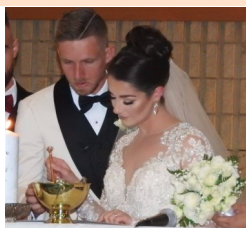
## BAPTISM

*Rose Madigan Harrigan*  
who will be baptised this weekend.  
May her life filled with God's peace,  
and her heart with God's love...  
on this Baptism day and always.



## CONGRATULATIONS

*Chiara  
&  
Steve*



## ENROLMENTS

### Kindergarten Enrolments at Rosary Primary School

Please spread the word to all you know who have children of pre-school age that there are still places available for next year in Kindergarten at Rosary Primary School. We are aware that some people have been concerned about the funding for Catholic schools and the possibility of a significant spike in school fees in the future. The fees will not be affected for the following few years, except for the usual minimal increases in line with normal rates of inflation. Your assistance in spreading these messages is much appreciated as 'word of mouth' is very powerful.

All enquiries welcome. Phone: 6248 0010

Email: [office.rosaryps@cgcatholic.edu.au](mailto:office.rosaryps@cgcatholic.edu.au)



## THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL

'Here is the wonderful trap set by this parable, because we find ourselves behaving as the unforgiving servant did. Who is he except a character in a story with a fictional debt, and who are we except real sinners who have been released by God from a real debt, the consequence of our sins?

'We might imagine the wicked servant turning his head on the rack, looking towards us with bloodshot eyes, and saying "So you think you are different from me? Which of you, even though you have been released by God from the debt of your sins, has not sometimes refused to forgive others, has not borne grudges and nursed hurts, has not maneuvered to get away with things yourself while calling others strictly to account?"

'The readings today tell us that forgiveness is possible not by forgetting the past but by remembering it, by remembering more about the past, and by remembering our present situation, and by remembering our future destiny. If popular wisdom says "Forgive and forget", biblical wisdom, coming to a climax in Christ, says "Remember, and so learn forgiveness."

Excerpt from a homily by Fr Vivian Boland OP

## SEVENTY-SEVEN TIMES

*Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year.  
Fr Charles Dominique OP preaches on  
the limitlessness of forgiveness.*

It is not always easy to say one is sorry and it is even harder to ask for forgiveness. There is no doubt that there is great value in saying sorry to someone whom you have offended in much the same way as there is value in asking for forgiveness. We heard last week that if your brother did you something, then go and have it out with him alone. Jesus told us of three ways to bring about healing in our broken relationships. We have now what we might want to call a second instalment, a reminder of what is required of us in trying to bring about healing in our broken relationships.

Today many people are so caught up in their own little worlds, trying to see how much they can achieve in life. People have their own agendas which do not necessarily involve much concern for other people and even less about other people's feelings. With all that's going on in the world, there seems to be an even greater need for finding ways of diffusing tension and animosity between people and nations. The Church has to play a major role in this as it seeks to bring about the healing and peace that are needed in our world.

The message for us today is pretty clear and very necessary. The message we have to hear and preach is one of forgiveness. When Peter asked how many times he should forgive his brother, Jesus answered him saying that he should forgive his brother seventy-seven times. It is not an easy thing to do to even forgive once, but Jesus tells us that we should be prepared to forgive as often as is necessary.

If we are to survive any relationship, be it on an individual basis or even at a communal level, we must be prepared to forgive those who do us wrong. There can be no limit to our forgiveness, even when it seems most difficult to do.

Saying sorry or asking for forgiveness is not a sign of weakness, as some people might think. What it proves or shows is a willingness to make right what has gone wrong. I have found such a release when I have taken the time to say I am sorry for a wrong done to someone. How much better I feel knowing that when I sin and I ask God's forgiveness that God will forgive me. It feels as if some great burden has been lifted from my shoulder and I feel whole again.

What we are being led to see is that we have to be forgiving of each other in as much the same way that we would want God to forgive us when we sin. We surely cannot expect God to be merciful to us if we ourselves cannot show mercy to those who wrong us. God will forgive us when we sin even if we commit the same sin every time. So it is not merely about how much we are willing to forgive but, just as God does not place limits on the forgiveness he will give us, we also cannot expect to place limits on each other.

In the end what we are to recognize is that God is indeed a merciful God and is prepared to forgive us our sins even if we sin seventy-seven times. In our own forgiving of people we cannot set limits on our willingness to forgive but we must try to be merciful and forgiving as God is. In giving forgiveness we bring about reconciliation not only between individuals but also at a community level. The object is to bring about the kind of relationships that reflect the kingdom of God.

So how many times should we seek to forgive someone who has done us wrong? Jesus tells us that there should be no limit on our forgiveness, not in number or quality. No doubt we are being asked to do something that is difficult but not impossible. Still, if we want to experience the mercy of God, we must be prepared to share that mercy with the people who offend us. If we want to be forgiven, then we must be prepared to do the same.

A timely reminder for today which we are encouraged to put into practice; the effect can only be good in bringing about healing between individuals, communities and even countries.

Fr Charles Dominique OP <http://english.op.org/torch>

## HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION Sunday** A year long Faith Education Program including Sacraments for children who do not attend Catholic Schools. Contact the Office for further information.

**BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP** meets on **Thursday** evenings in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 Explore at [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org)

**CARDS** Play social style 'Cards for fun', **Monday** 10am-1pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome!!!

**CARE OF THE SICK** If you know of anyone who is unable to get to Mass and who would like the Eucharist brought to them, please let the office know. If someone is in need of prayer or a visit at home, in hospital or by the Parish Priest - please, let us know.

**COFFEE GROUP** Our monthly coffee group will meet at Wilbur's, Hackett on the **third Thursday** of each month at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our usual friends, and newcomers most welcome.

**CRAFT GROUP** meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on the **first, second and fourth Wednesdays** of the month .

**DOMINICAN LIBRARY** will open **Saturday** mornings, 9.30am - 12.00 noon in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

**HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP** Divine Will Prayer Group meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the church. Details Heather 6247 7775.

**WEEKLY READER FORMATION** Reflections on the readings for the following Sunday are held **Wednesday** evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All Parishioners welcome.

**PRAY THE ROSARY** will be held the First Saturday of every month at 3.30pm in the Church. Confessions available afterwards followed by refreshments in the parish centre. Please bring a plate to share. For more information call Letty on 0418 518 033



### OZNAM APPEAL



The St Vincent de Paul Ozanam annual appeal raises funds to help Vinnies support Vincentians in developing countries. The appeal will be held as a leaving collection after all Masses on the weekend of 23/24 September. Please give generously.

### HEALING MASS

**St Brigid's Wednesday 20th September at 10.30am.**

**COELIACS** Parishioners who are coeliac (intolerant to Gluten) If you wish to receive a gluten free host at Mass you should advise the Celebrant or Acolyte prior to Mass.

**NEW PARISHIONERS** would you like to join our Parish? If you wish to register as Blackfriars Parishioner please fill out a card which you can find on the entrance tables and place on the second plate or give the card to Father.

**Holy Rosary Church is fitted with an audio loop. It is accessible in all seating areas by using T- switch on your hearing aid.**

**PARISH BULLETIN** - DEADLINE for notices is **NOON TUESDAY** Please contact Jacquie in the office Ph. 6248 5925 Fax.6248 7564 or Email: [watson@crg.org.au](mailto:watson@crg.org.au)

## IMPORTANT

It is important that you contact the office by email or in writing (even a note on the collection plate) if you require a booking - for a Mass Intention, Booking of the Church or Parish Centre, Weddings and Baptisms.

If you would like to add a name to the prayers for the sick, anniversary or death list in the *Bulletin*, details must be with the Parish Office **NO** later than Tuesday of that week. For all other bookings Mass for an Anniversary or to use the Parish Centre etc. two weeks notice is required. It is difficult to keep track of Parishioners requests if they do not come through the Office. Fr Kieran

## EVENTS

### 23 September - AMICUS DINNER

Meet at 6.00pm for Dinner at the Austrian Club Heard Street Mawson followed by listening to/dancing to DJ Joe Pelle. Table will be booked in name of AMICUS Contact Patricia 0412 351 548

### 24 September - MERCY WALK

The fifth Mercy Walk for Women will commence at the intersection of the Cunnigar Road and Campbellfields Road **Boorowa** at 9.00am. Check in time is 8.00am. The distance to St Clement's Monastery Galong is approximately 23 kilometres. The walk is in support of Kari-nya House which provides shelter and support for mothers and babies. Contact: Teena McGrath 0437 272 000 [teenamcgrath@bigpond.com](mailto:teenamcgrath@bigpond.com) for details.

### 6 October - MOVIE NIGHT FOR HOME

"Home" in Queanbeyan is holding a fund raising movie night at the Q Theatre Queanbeyan commencing at 6.00pm.

### 8 October - MARIAN PROCESSION

Archbishop Christopher extends an invitation to all to attend the 2017 Marian Procession at St Clement's Monastery, Galong. 9am: Youth Pilgrimage from Galong Village. 10.30: Confession. 11.30am: Mass with Archbishop Christopher. 12.30pm: Lunch. 2pm: Procession to the Grotto and sharing by Sr Mary Rachel (OP)

### 10 November - REXBAND

"Concert at Queanbeyan Bicentennial Hall" - Alphonsa Syro-Malabar parish community extend an invitation to one and all to join them for a concert with the Rexband from India. The Rexband are associated with the Jesus Youth movement and they will share the Good News of the Gospel through a three hour performance of lively music, which promises to be a fun and memorable evening for anyone who comes along. **Online Tickets:** <https://www.trybooking.com/RLQA> <https://www.trybooking.com/306644> <http://stalphonsa.com.au/>

### A Canberra airport ticket agent offers some examples of why our country is in trouble:

Senator Bronwyn Bishop, a former Speaker of the House and a serial travel extravagant called to enquire about a trip package to Hawaii. After going over all the cost info, she asked, "Would it be cheaper to fly to California and then take the train to Hawaii?"

Former Federal Treasurer called and asked, "Do airlines put your physical description on your bag so they know whose luggage belongs to whom?" I said, 'No, why do you ask?' He replied, "Well, when I checked in with the airline, they put a tag on my luggage that said (FAT), and I think that's very rude". After putting him on hold for a minute, while I looked into it, I was dying laughing. I came back and explained the city code for Fraser Island is (FAT - Fraser Air Terminal), and the airline was just putting a destination tag on his luggage.

### ROSTERS 23rd / 24th September 2017

#### Saturday 5.00 pm Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	R. Paul	
Readers	T. Dennis	J. Maclean
Presentation of Gifts	Anderson / Dennis	
EMOE	C. Lewis	

#### Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	N. McGahey	
Readers	M. Falk	E. Smith
Presentation of Gifts	Lestone Family	
EMOE	E. M. Falk	

#### Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	J. Wade	
Readers	R. Ciaccia	I. Ciaccia
Presentation of Gifts	Vu Family	
EMOE	J. Munro	R. Zochling

#### Sunday 5.00pm Day Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	E. Kralikas	
Readers	J. Curnow	T. Malone
Presentation of Gifts	Malone Family	
EMOE	K. Kralikas	C. Mackay
Counters	I. Buckley	