

Sunday 13 Sep 2020 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

**First Reading** *SIR 27:30 – 28:7*  
A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus  
*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.  
*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.  
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.  
**R** The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

**Second Reading** *Rom 14:7-9*  
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
*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.

*The Word of the Lord*  
**R. 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*  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*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 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**

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**SEASON OF CREATION** *by Nick Brodie*  
Twice in today’s gospel we hear indebted servants cry “Give me time”. Through this parable Jesus shows us that patience and forgiveness are high virtues. These inform the Church’s teaching on what Pope Francis calls an ‘integral ecology’, which basically insists that human progress should be sustainable and compassionate. All human beings exist as part of nature and in relation with each other. God too is part of this dynamic by virtue of the mystery of Creation, but also in a special way through Jesus in the Incarnation and through the Spirit in the Church. We Christians are called, therefore, to be patient and forgiving with nature and with each other as part of God’s transcendent plan. Our opportunities to do this come in many forms. We can reconsider whether our consumer habits are too burdensome on our planet, extracting resources more quickly than they can be replenished. We can choose to buy foods that are sustainably produced, and which justly supports small farmers. And we can encourage our political leaders to be like the good master, supporting debt relief for impoverished countries, abiding by international climate agreements, and taking other such actions that might give our world and its people time to heal.

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**THERE IS A NOBILITY IN  
COMPASSION, A  
BEAUTY IN EMPATHY  
AND A GRACE IN  
FORGIVENESS**  
  
**- John Connolly**



**ST BERNARD'S PARISH  
BATEMANS BAY**  
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Tuesday-Friday

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**Secretary:** Roslynn Trompp  
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**Asst. PC Co-ord:** Sr. Marie McAlister

**Principal:** Mrs. Jo Wain  
**St. Bernard's Primary School, Batehaven**  
**Principal:** Mrs. Jacqui Heffernan  
**Carroll College, Broulee**  
**R.E.C:** Sharon Beashel

**WEEKLY MASS TIMES**

**Tues 15:** 5.30 Mass  
**Wed 16 :** 9am Mass  
**Thurs 17:** 9am Mass  
**Fri 18:** 9.15am Mass  
**Sat 19:** 9am Rosary /Mass  
9.30am Recon  
6pm Mass  
**Sun 20:** 9am Mass  
5pm Mass

**ROSTERS 12/13 SEPTEMBER**

Church Cleaning  
B Favetta/J O'Neill (10-14)  
Welcomers  
6pm B Wilson  
9am J McClelland  
5pm D Ebejer  
Commentator  
6pm P O'Kelly  
9am L Page  
5pm K O'Sullivan  
Readers  
6pm P Billington  
9am N Beatty  
5pm S Ebejer  
Eucharistic Ministers  
6pm J Wain  
9am L Stevens  
5pm D Gorzalka  
Computer Screen  
6pm T Jackson  
9am T Priest  
5pm J O'Sullivan  
REGISTRARS  
6pm G & M Weatherall  
9am B Basevi, G Norris  
5pm M deSmet

**ROSTERS 19/20 SEPTEMBER**

Church Cleaning  
D & L May (21-25)  
Welcomers  
6pm Sr Marie McAlister  
9am C Connell 5pm L Favetta  
Commentator  
6pm J Quigley  
9am M Lowe  
5pm M Devine Readers  
6pm M Bridges  
9am C Lowe  
5pm K O'Sullivan  
Eucharistic Ministers  
6pm M Weatherall  
9am C Connell  
5pm A Horsfall  
Computer Screen  
6pm K Conway  
9am T Jackson  
5pm J O'Sullivan  
REGISTRARS  
6pm S & M Beashel  
9am B Basevi, G Norris  
5pm D & N Gorzalka

**24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—A**

**Seventy Times Seven Times** *(Matt. 18. 22)*

In the gospel last weekend, Jesus established a pattern for reconciliation and invited his disciples to be reconciled with anyone who does them wrong. This weekend, he called them to forgive ‘seventy times seven times’ in the parable of the ‘unforgiving servant’ found only in the Gospel of Matthew.



It all began when Peter asked Jesus how often he must forgive his brother or sister and then answered his own question by suggesting seven times. Seven carries a symbolic meaning in Judaism. It symbolizes completeness, fullness, perfection and rest as in the seven days creation story in Genesis (cf. Gen 1-2). To Peter’s amazement, Jesus’ answer was novel, simple but compelling, *no not seven times, but seventy times seven times*. In other words, there is no reckonable limit to forgiveness.

For Jesus, forgiveness is at the heart of every human interaction. It is critical in every human relationship, with self, others, and God. Therefore, Jesus in the text called for total forgiveness, *letting go and letting God*. Our ability and willingness to forgive others, truly mirrors the depth of our Christianity. The forgiveness that we offer others is the indispensable condition for receiving God’s forgiveness. This also gives meaning to the Lord’s prayer, especially when we ask God to, *forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us*. In the words of St. Francis of Assisi (AD 1181), *it is in pardoning that we are pardoned*.

Forgiveness is easy to talk about, but hard to practice. This is made even more complex by the vengeful human nature. It hurts to be betrayed, assaulted, backstabbed, deceived, denigrated, bullied, and abused. These create anger and resentment towards the perpetrator(s), with a strong desire to seek justice through revenge and retaliation, leading to dysfunctionality noticeable in human relationships at varying levels.

In the parable, the master asked the unforgiving servant, *should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?* (Matt.18.33). Forgiveness is reciprocal and our failure to forgive implies our lack of appreciation for God’s goodness and unconditional forgiveness that we have received from Him. In forgiveness us, God invites us to exercise unlimited forgiveness, to look beyond faults and to keep loving unconditionally.

Forgiveness leads to healing and peace. It facilitates bridge building and encourages reconciliation between disputing parties especially, in painful family relationships, distrustful friendships, disagreeing neighbors, ungrateful employers, and in escalated diplomatic relationships. Even with the best of human brains, it will be impossible to keep counts and records of all recurrent hurts and offenses in relationships. We are therefore invited to find courage to stop, reflect, and pray for the grace to forgive unconditionally. In the words of Pope Alexander AD 1711, *‘to err is human, to forgive is divine.’*

*Fr Martins*



## Pope Francis Monthly Prayer Intentions

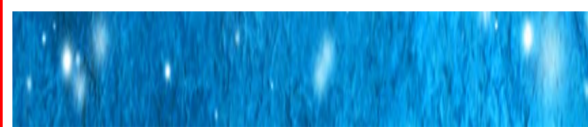
### SEPTEMBER

**Respect for the Planet's Resources**  
We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.



### OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country. We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly. We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious. We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time. We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis. Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wrap With Love**  
Wed 30th - 11am  
**Bible Study/Faith Formation**—Wed 9.30am  
**Craft Group**—Thursday 10am--12pm



**Adoration**—Friday 5.30pm  
**Reconciliation**—Saturday 9.30am  
**E-Activity Singalong** Mon 1pm



In the spirit of Mary MacKillop we invite you to:

### Take fresh courage

This year is the ten year anniversary of Mary's canonisation.

During the challenging times we all face, please pray and support Mary MacKillop

Today, so that we can continue to transform lives through our vital works and carry on the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop of the Cross.

For more information please call 02 8912 2777 or visit [marymackilloptoday.org.au](http://marymackilloptoday.org.au)



### Founder's words continue to inspire Vincentians

*Blessed Frederic Ozanam (Vincentian.org)*

Members of the St Vincent de Paul Society celebrated the feast day of founder Blessed Frederic Ozanam on September 9, highlighting his call to "walk with companions" during difficult times.

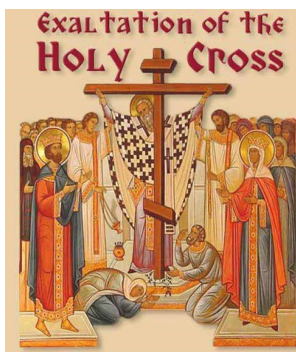
Locally our Vinnies Conference met on Monday remembering Blessed Frederic in prayer and through continued support for those in need in our community. 2020 has found people asking for a hand up for the first time in their lives as our community has endured bushfires, flood and covid-19 – this has been hard for them..

The writings of Frederic Ozanam provide us with the inspiration to respond creatively to anyone affected by difficult times. In correspondence with other members of the Society, Blessed Frederic wrote: *The knowledge of social wellbeing is learned, not from books, nor from public debate, but in climbing the stairs to the poor man's garret, sitting by his bedside, feeling the same cold that pierces him, sharing the secret of his lonely heart and troubled mind.*

*When we know first-hand the conditions of the poor in school, at work, in hospital, in the city, in the country, everywhere that God has placed them, then and only then can we begin to grasp the elements of poverty and hope we may resolve it.*

Inspired by Cathnews 10/09/20

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on Monday 14th September celebrates two historical events: the discovery of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine, in 320 under the temple of Venus in Jerusalem, and the dedication in 335 of the basilica and shrine built on Calvary by Constantine, which mark the site of the Crucifixion.



The basilica, named the Martyrium, and the shrine, named the Calvarium, were destroyed by the Persians in 614. The Church of the Holy sepulcher which now stands on the site was built by the crusaders in 1149.

However the feast, more than anything else, is a celebration and commemoration of God's greatest work: his salvific death on the Cross and His Resurrection, through which death was defeated and the doors to Heaven opened.

The entrance antiphon for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is: "We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our resurrection: through him we are saved and made free."

### Gathering: "Strengthening Wellness and Self Care in a Challenging Year"

TO BE HELD TUESDAY September 15th at 9.30—12.30pm.  
RSVP to Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057

### Eurobodalla Tea & Talk Sessions

Tuesday 29th September 11am—2 pm

All residents are invited to come down for a chat and say hello to your neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee.

Access to bushfire support services will be available with representatives from the Red Cross, Service NSW and the DPI Rural Recovery Team.

Location—Hanging Rock Sports Centre

### CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY 2020—13th SEPTEMBER

St Bernard's Church is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. We uphold that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. Access prayers and resources at:

[www.catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday](http://www.catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday)

### Feasts of the Week

Sunday 13th—St John Chrysostom  
Monday 14th—Triumph of the Holy Cross  
Tuesday 15th—Our Lady of Sorrows  
Wednesday 16th—St Cornelius and St Cyprian  
Thursday 17th—St Robert Bellarmine  
Saturday 19th—St Januarius



FREE ONLINE EVENT VIA ZOOM—Saturday 19th September 2pm—4.30pm "THE WAY FORWARD."

Join us for an afternoon of online presentations and Q&A with people on the front line of support and advocacy for pregnant women and their babies in Australia and New Zealand. For more information contact: Belle Joseph—[bjoseph87@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bjoseph87@yahoo.com.au) or phone 0412 689 976

### PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If you would like to join the Parish e-platform giving, the details are as follows:

**1st Collection** Acc. Name: Central  
Presbytery Fund Bank Acc: 000029248 BSB: 062-786  
Ref: TOWN & SURNAME. Eg: Batemans bay Jones

**2nd Collection** Supports the running costs of the Parish  
Acc. Name: St Bernard's Operating Account BSB: 062-786  
Bank Acc:000012939 Ref: Family Name

Please note: For banking at any bank but not the Commonwealth Bank

You may also contribute using this link: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICDEVELOPMENTFUNDARCHDIOCESEOFCANBERRA>.

### Remembering the Sick:

Daniel Coffey, Pio Liberale, Vince Burns, Jim Banks, Dennis Sheather, James Lee, Mary Henderson, George Fitzgerald, Diane Lanzon, Marion O'Grady, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Dawn Robinson, Margaret Harris, Bill Giust, Allan Odium, Luke Ward, Rosemary Cooley, Andrew Morton, Ken Evendon, Janet Thornberry, Judy Betts, Anica Bautovic, Glenda Gallagher, Angela Mylott, Jeanette Clarke, Maureen Kinross and those in our local Nursing Homes and Hospital

### Death Anniversaries:

Stanley Crowther, Lorna Vella, June Bowditch, Trevor Latta, Egidius Post, Kata Katic, Emilia Marszalek,  
**We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community:**  
Tilly Conway, Jan Schor, Dennis Mayer, Regina Mass, Kathleen Brown, Mary Carter, Joe Johnson, Noni Boyce, Rose Lambert, Tony Craddy, Terry Parsons, Anne Bevern, Sylvia Mayer, Veronica Holmes, Barbara Simpson Anacoria Villanueva Sencio, Janette Gosman, Evert Ordelman, Mato Katic

### Parish Coffee Club

You are invited for coffee and chat Thursdays after Mass  
VENUE: Corrigans Cove

### ARCHBISHOP'S COVID-19 PASTORAL VISIT

Archbishop Christopher Prowse will be visiting the Parish on Friday 2nd October. Mass @ 9.15am with coffee afterwards.

Batemans Bay, Moruya & Narooma

District Funerals

Mark Hewson JP

Funeral Director

Phone 02 4472 8886

Moruya 02 4474 3555

Narooma 02 4476 3888

### INDUSTRIAL REPLACEMENTS

1 Sharon Road, Batemans Bay

Buy fuel any time



### OCEAN BREEZE TAKEAWAY

Fish & Chips, Burgers,

Sandwiches & Coffee

100% BEEF BURGER

248 Beach Road

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Ray and Anne Brown

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EUROCOAST Veterinary Centre

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