



Saint Mary MacKillop Parish Western Border

Comprising the communities of Apsley, Balmoral, Casterton, Coleraine, Dunkeld, Edenhope, Glenthompson, Goroke, Hamilton, Harrow, Macarthur, Penshurst and Tarrayoukyan.

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

13 September 2020

First Reading Sir 27:30-28:7

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.

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

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.

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

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.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

This gospel passage follows directly from last week's passage. It concludes the whole of Matthew Chapter 18 that deals with sin, forgiveness and reconciliation. Peter's question to Jesus and suggested answer is a reflection of the view that there is a limit to the number of times we should forgive someone. Seven is a significant number in scripture and implies a 'perfect' amount. Even though by his use of seven, Peter is suggesting that he should forgive someone many, many times, Jesus quickly corrects Peter and says not seven, but seventy-seven times (or seventy times seven). Jesus plays on the use of the number seven and multiplies it to indicate that one should forgive as many times as is required - without keeping count; without keeping score.

The story of the unforgiving servant is a familiar one of forgiveness and mercy being shown but not passed on. The sting in the tail of this parable is Jesus' final warning that, 'So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.' This is an unsettling statement, as we believe God's forgiveness to be without measure and without end. Jesus warns that unless we seek to imitate God's forgiveness and forgive others 'from our heart' (with compassion) then we are not going to recognise the forgiveness of God and will cut ourselves off from it.

The whole idea of forgiving from the heart is a powerful contradiction of a popular concept: 'I can forgive, but not forget.' Is it really possible to forgive but refuse to forget? Surely holding on to a memory of hurt is holding on to the hurt itself and does not display that any forgiveness has occurred at all. To forgive but not forget is to keep count. How many times should I forgive the one who has hurt me? As many times as it takes!

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Our Local Parish Mass Online

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
& Sunday.

If you would like to receive an email links to view our Masses please email parish office on:

admin@westernborder.church

OR View via Apps—YouTube & Facebook.



YouTube search - St Mary's Hamilton



FOLLOW US
ON FACEBOOK

Search - [westernbordercatholicparish](#)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Deaths:

Des Wombwell, (Our prayers and deepest sympathy to Pat and family).

Rosemary Chisholm, Our prayers and sympathy to the family.

Anniversary:

Naomi Phillips, Keith Parker, Frances Sullivan, Norma Tangey.

SICK:

Heather Healy, William Hockey, Adrian Lyon, Hazel Perdido Soares, Jack Handley, John O'Brien.

Plenary Council 2020

Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

More information about the National Themes for Discernment and the plenary council is available

plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

*Let us show this love in our acts bearing
with one another, forgiving and forgetting.*

2020

Thank you & Farewell



**Ray & Aileen
Corbett.
from St Mary's
Community**

5th September

I would like to update St Marys parishioners on Ray and Aileen Corbett.

Mum and Dad will be relocating to permanent aged care in Ballarat next week September 9th. They have a double room at Geoffrey Cutter Center, Kenny St, Ballarat East . They have had a wonderful life in Hamilton and being a part of St Marys community has been an important part of their life . Unfortunately Dad is no longer strong enough to look after Mum. It is their wish now to be closer to family

We are happy for you to share this information with parishioners.

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the Gunditjmarra people.

Co-Pastor : Fr Patrick Mugavin

patrick.mugavin@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Co-Pastor: Fr George Kuruvila

george.kuruvila@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Manager: John Hockey

manager@westernborder.church

Parish Secretaries: Carolyn Stanhope & Kymhan Watson

admin@westernborder.church

Liturgy: Noreen McLeish

noreenm@westernborder.church

Priest in residence: John Mckinnon

john.mckinnon@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Contact Details:

Phone: 03 5571 1161 SMS to Email: 0437 194 523

Office Open Hours: 9am—4pm Tues to Fri

Email: admin@westernborder.church

Website: www.westernborder.church

Office Address: 23 Dinwoodie St, HAMILTON

Reconciliation (Confession): By appointment 55711161.

We are a Child Safe Parish.

Child Safe Officer: John Hockey 0439 319 823

<http://westernborder.church/child-safe-policy-and-protocol/>

ST MARY'S PRIMARY, HAMILTON

Principal: Mrs Terri Lynn Groves

Phone: (03) 5551 9000

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY, PENSURST

Principal: Mr Matthew Uzkuraitis

Phone: (03) 5576 5438

MONIVAE COLLEGE, HAMILTON

Principal: Jonathan Rowe

Phone: (03) 5551 1200

Our Collections 2020 Financial Year

1st—Priest Support:

2nd—Stewardship

Pledged: \$133,702 (2021FY) Given YTD: \$19,393

Western Border Parish Mission Outreach

Mission Donations made last

Sr Lourdes—Kenya Mission \$5,750

Sr Stella's—India Mission \$9,180

Total (Full Year) — \$14,930

Season of Creation : This year's theme is "Jubilee for the Earth" and is an annual celebration of prayer and action to protect creation and is celebrated by Christians of all traditions.

In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis asked us to care for creation and one another.

You are warmly invited to find an oasis of peace and calm for 45 minutes with a guided meditation 'Finding God in Creation'.

This Creation Examen will be held via Zoom on Wed. Sept. 16th at 7.30pm. Please respond by email and you will be sent a link to Zoom closer to September 16.

catholicearthcare@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection.

Due to the closure of churches around the world during Holy Week because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Pope Francis moved the date for this collection to **Sunday September 13th** to coincide with the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross**. If you are able, your generosity would again be greatly appreciated.

- ***Envelopes available from porch @ Parish office. OR***
- ***Electronic Funds Transfer***
BSB: 083-663 Acc: 01-715-7303
Reference: Good Friday

Priests Support (1st Collection)

Credit or debit card online;

<https://westernborder.breezechms.com/give>
or by Telephoning the Parish Office on 5571 1161.

Electronic Funds Transfer

BSB: 083-663 Acc: 51-580-8981

Reference: Priests Support

OR Post cheques to 23 Dinwoodie Street, Hamilton, Vic 3300.

Stewardship (2nd Collection)

Credit Card or Direct Debit

Telephoning the Parish Office on 5571 1161 or emailing to admin@westernborder.church

Electronic Funds Transfer

BSB: 083-663 Acc: 01-715-7303

Reference: Your Name



Child Protection Sunday – September 13, 2020

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters.

We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. The Church takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk.

Find out more at: www.catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday and
www.catholicreligious.org.au/safeguarding

PRAYER

Gracious God, you love and care for all of your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable. We entrust to you the lives of children and adults at risk who have been sexually abused, and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed.

Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for those whose lives have been broken. Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those wounded by abuse, and the failure to be heard.

We pray that with the help of your grace communities and families will find understanding and support, so that now and in the future their wounds may be healed and they may find lasting peace.

Let your grace and love fall gently now upon our children, giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience to seek out assistance when required.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.