



St. David's Parish
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,
Holywell. CH8 8PE



September 17, 2023

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all." if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head. Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good.

Rom 12:17, 20-21

Mass Timings

Saturday Vigil Mass 4.00 Pm

Sunday Mass 10.00am

Weekdays 9.00 am In Denbigh House

READINGS

1st Reading Sir 27:30—28:7

Reading 2 Rom 14:7-9

GOSPEL M Mt 18:21-35

INTRODUCTION:

Our readings for this Twenty-Fourth Sunday concern forgiving those who wound us and being reconciled with them. All three readings today remind us of the path to forgiveness, mercy, and reconciliation and challenge us to walk this, the only Way to Life. 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 mercy from God in return. It is unwise to nurse grudges and wise to forgive because our life span is very short and our eternal destiny is decided by how we forgive, how we work for reconciliation with those who wound us, and how we render humble and loving service to them. In today's Psalm,

(Ps 103), the Psalmist sings, “*The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.*” In the second reading, Paul reminds us that we have to forgive others because we belong to Christ who, by his own example in forgiving those who killed Him, taught us how we must forgive in our turn. Since we humans are related to each other as brothers and sisters of Jesus, we are in the family of God, so hatred and bitterness toward anyone should have no place in our hearts.

Gospel exegesis: (A) “Seventy times seven times!”: Jesus’ parable of the ‘unforgiving servant’ is found only in the Gospel of Matthew, where it is intended to be a moral exhortation for the Church on the need for forgiveness. Peter asked Jesus how often he ought to forgive his brother, and then answered his own question by suggesting that he should forgive seven times. It was the Rabbinic teaching that a man must forgive his brother three times. The Biblical proof for this was taken from the first and second chapters of Amos where we find a series of condemnations on the various nations for three transgressions (Am.1:3, 6, 9; Am.1:11, 13; Am.2:1, 4, 6).

From this it was deduced that God's forgiveness extends to three offenses, and that He visits the sinner with punishment at the fourth. Also, seven was a holy number to Jewish people, symbolizing perfection, fullness, abundance, rest, and completion. Peter expected to be warmly commended. But Jesus’ answer was that the Christian must forgive “seventy times seven times.” In other words, there is no reckonable limit to forgiveness.

The lessons taught by the parable: We must forgive in order to be forgiven. Jesus explains this after teaching the prayer, *Our Father*, saying, “*For if you forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses*” (Mt 6:14-15). James offers this warning in different words: “*For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy*” (Jas 2:13). This means that Divine and human forgiveness go hand in hand.

Catechism on forgiveness: The gates of forgiveness are always open to anyone who turns away from sin (CCC #982). Everyone must be tireless in forgiving each other both the petty and the serious; the charity of Christ demands it (CCC #2227). It is our own heart that binds us to heaven or hell, just as the “merciless servant” discovers in today’s Gospel (CCC #2843). 6)

Scripture warnings of our need to experience and show mercy

1) Matt 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 2) Luke 6:37 Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 3) Matt 18:35 This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart. 4) James 2:13 For judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. But mercy triumphs over judgment!

5) Sirach 27:30 Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Can anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord? Can anyone refuse mercy to another like himself and then seek pardon for his own sins? Remember your last days - set enmity aside. Remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS- SEPTEMBER 9-10

Loose cash	182.26
Gift Aid	130.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>312.26</u>

PADRE PIO AND ST. VINCENT DAY

We cordially invite all of you to the celebration of the Feasts of St. Vincent De Paul and St. Padre Pio on September 23, 2023, Saturday. The programme will be from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm. There will be praise and worship, preaching, Healing Mass, Healing Adoration, Novena to St. Vincent and St. Padre Pio and veneration of the relic.

NOVENA TO PADRE PIO

In preparation to the celebration of the Feast of St. Padre Pio we start the Novena on September 14th after the daily Holy Mass

NO VIGIL MASS

There will not be the usual Vigil Mass at 4.00 pm on Saturday, September 23, 2023 due to the celebration of the Feasts of St. Padre Pio and St. Vincent De Paul

MASS INTENTIONS SEPT 16-22

Dates	Offered by	Intention
Sep 16, Sat		For the Parishioners
Sep 17, Sun	Maureen Aherne	Yvonne Aherne, Joan Mahony, Daniello Aherne
Sep 18, Mon	Marie Ohn	For the departed souls of the Family
Sep 19, Tue	Mary Slattery	For marriage in the family
Sep 20, Wed	Nell	Thanksgiving
Sep 21, Thu	Mary Ward	For special intention
Sep 22, Fri	Gerard Rhodes	Ramon Gabriel RIP

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Ann Parry, Patrick Ngale, Philip McGreavy, Antony Parry

ANNIVERSARIES (Sept 16- 22)

Joanna Wilson, '14, Frances Hourinhane, Kathleen Parry, Winifred Gaffney: Malcolm Rutt '93: Emily Grahame:, Mary Malone '76, Roger Burgess, '11, Megan Boyle '90:

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277**

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH

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Account Number: 08190771, Sort Code: 55-81-42

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Email: pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com

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