

FIRST READING

**A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
27:33-28:9**

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

R/: The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion.

SECOND READING

**A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans
14:7-9**

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 READING

**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.'



St Agnes' Parish, Highett

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Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox

Parish Secretary: Elizabeth Sebastian

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A **12th / 13th September, 2020**



Jesus' teaching about the need to settle conflict, the basis of last week's gospel, was a surprising summons for Christians to fly in the face of accepted standards of judgement and condemnation. Here the teaching becomes even more outrageous! There is no end to the forgiveness offered. For the average person, represented by Peter, forgiving another person seven times would show a very substantial commitment to mercy. Seven is used in the Bible to signify perfection, so Peter is not being mean in his suggestion. This is a very reasonable degree of tolerance. Yet Jesus, in his parable of the servant who is forgiven a debt equivalent to millions but cannot forgive his fellow a lesser sum, turns our human understanding of what constitutes a fair thing on its head. God's forgiveness is prodigious, but it is dependent on our willingness to forgive each other in the same way. The inability or unwillingness of the servant to match the master's forgiveness provides a powerful contrast. The master forgives in compassion, but the servant resorts to violence. If one has truly experienced the loving forgiveness of God, it must be shared with others.

PARISH PRIEST: HIGHETT / CHELTENHAM
Fr Alan Fox 9583 6161
Email: Alan.Fox@cam.org.au

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9532 1794
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9:30am-3:30pm
Secretary: Elizabeth Sebastian
Email: Highett@cam.org.au

PARISH SCHOOL:
St Agnes' Primary School 9532 0344
Principal: Mr Lachlan Foott
Email: tfoot@sahighett.catholic.edu.au

MASS TIMES:

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

MASS TIMES:

Saturday	6:00 pm
Sunday	8:00 am, 10:00 am
Tuesday	9.00 am
Wednesday	9.00 am
Thursday	9.00 am
Friday	9.00 am
Saturday	9.00 am

COMMUNION SERVICE:

Monday 9.00 am

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays: 9.30am

BAPTISMS: SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Please direct all enquiries for the Sacrament of Baptism to the Parish Office: 9532 1794

WEDDINGS: SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

By appointment, 6 months' notice required.
Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays).
Contact the Parish Office: 9532 1794

In St Agnes Parish - clergy, employees and volunteers are committed to upholding a duty of care to all children, young people and vulnerable adults, taking all reasonable steps to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from all forms of abuse and harm and commit to safeguard their health and well-being.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - 12th / 13th September, 2020

PRAYING FOR:

Frederick Lynn,

...and all those who died recently.

We also remember:

...all whose anniversaries
occur about this time.

Please keep in your prayers the Sick:

Francis Arokiasamy, Leslie Raymond,
Augustine A, Bill Power, Cecily Anthony,
Jerome D'Souza, Phillip Greco, Carol Davies,
Nick Lourdes, Ann Ward.

VOLUNTEERS: Please make sure that your WWCC/POLICE CHECK documents are current, that is, have not expired, and copies made available to the Parish Office.

COVID RESTRICTIONS: We are now under Stage 4 restrictions. General Guidelines from the Archdiocese: https://cam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/14-4August20-UPDATE-COVID_19-GENERAL-GUIDELINES_.pdf

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Please consider putting your Thanksgiving Offerings into one envelope with your number written on it and the amount. Please do the same for your presbytery offerings. This will reduce unnecessary work for the counters. Thank you for your understanding and assistance. Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP: Thank you to all our parishioners who support both the Thanksgiving and Presbytery collections through your generous contributions. St Agnes is now registered for online payments. The **CDF Pay** link to the St Agnes Parish, Highett site is: <https://secure.artezpacific.com/registrant/donate.aspx?eventId=52905&spid=5635777>
Thank you most sincerely to all who support the mission of the Parish.

SCRIPTURE READINGS for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical Calendar) are accessible online:
www.universalis.com/Australia/1000/mass
Navigate the daily Scripture readings for the week ahead using the right-hand column



MAKING CONNECTIONS

To whom are you indebted?

Can you acknowledge what you owe to these people?

- ◆ Reflect on a time when you felt wronged. What happened? What were your feelings? How did you react to the perpetrator? What was the outcome? Were you able to forgive the action and move on? How do you experience God's forgiveness? Write down some responses and share them.
- ◆ What needs healing and reconciliation in your life? Work on that this week.
- ◆ In the Lord's Prayer, we ask forgiveness from God and pledge to forgive those who wrong us. Pray it often this week.



BASP Trivia Night: the night will now be moved to October 9th, and it will be run via Zoom. You don't need to be a Tech Wizard to play. If you would like to join in, please email Colette at colfoxw@gmail.com. Entry is your donation direct to Brigidine Asylum Seekers Trust Account. BSB: 083 004 NAB-ACCOUNT: 56 924 6603. Please provide your name and the word 'Trivia' in the reference. If Zoom Trivia is not for you this year, any donation you could make would be greatly appreciated.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN: A Resource for Parents: As children's first and most enduring educators, parents are best placed to begin conversations with their children in an age and developmentally appropriate way. [Protecting God's Children Parent Resource: A Catholic Parent's Guide to Keeping Their Kids Safe](#) is a protective behaviours resource aimed at supporting Catholic parents of children aged 5-12 years old. The resource helps parents teach children a range of important personal safety skills, supports the development of emotional intelligence skills and promotes a child's understanding of the right to feel safe through engaging activities and story-books. Whilst we maintain that adults are ultimately responsible for maintaining safe environments for children, it is just as important to empower children to recognise when they are feeling unsafe and to tell a trusted adult (or adults) so that action is taken to help them be safe and feel safe.



GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN TEACHING MEDITATION:

...for those seeking to learn the methods and skills of teaching meditation and prayer in a variety of parish situations. The course focuses on the personal practice and benefits of meditative prayer, and facilitation and discernment approaches allowing students to apply their learning in their own context. Please join in for a free information session for the Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation. This session will outline the requirements and outcomes of the course which provides the skills for teaching meditation and prayer in a variety of parish situations. **Date & Time:** 13 October: 7.30pm – 8pm **Registration:** To receive a zoom link email Jenny Delahunt on: jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au