

St. Patrick's Church

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13th September 2020

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Sun 13 th	9:30am	Joan Kelleher 'RIP'	11.30am Daniel & Agnes McLaughlin 'A'
Mon 14 th	9:30am	No Service	
Tue 15 th	9:30am	No Service	
Wed 16 th	9:30am	No Service	
Thur 17 th	9:30am	No Service	
Fri 18 th	9:30am	No Service	
Sat 19 th	6:30pm	Elizabeth Kenelly 'A'	
Sun 20 th	9:30am	Patrick Lamb 'RIP'	11.30am Fr. Danny Horan 'RIP'

Quite a number of our parishioners, relatives and friends, are ill at home or in hospital; Alex Fernandes, James Otaga, Maura Fitzpatrick, Kathleen Power, Maria Mizaida Ortiz Castro, Maria, Francis Mc Ginley, Ronan Mc Donagh, Kimberly Barrett, Agnes Lee. Let us keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Parishioners who have recently died: Mary Osi-Arthur, James McGinley, Martin OConnell, Jimmy Sullivan, Mary O'Driscoll, Petroc Lavel-Johnstone, May they rest in peace and rise in Glory.

Last Sundays Collection: £467. Many thanks.

Date	Time	Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Sat 19 th	6:30pm	Shantle & Yuan Del Rosario	Not at the moment
Sun 20 th	9:30am	Violet D'Souza	"
	11:30am	John Roche	"

Church Cleaning Rota: Fathima Gomes/ Manuel Gomes

We are slowly moving forward to some sort of 'normality' with no returning to how we were before the lockdown in March anytime soon. Meanwhile we take care each other by observing all guidelines while we are in church even though it can be a bit of a bother sometime, especially wearing face masks. As you will have noticed numbers at Mass have dropped considerably. If you know of someone who is still thinking about returning then do please let them know that the church is safe place to come to and invite them along. At the same time assure them it is Ok not to come along if they are not comfortable and suggest they watch the celebration of Mass on TV, streaming from various churches in the Diocese and from around the world, and pray for the parish and its work and mission.

Now that we are back you will have noticed that our weekly offertory/collection has dropped by about £200 per week. Since we were completely closed down in March our overall income from all collections, candles, Nursery, etc. has had a massive hit. Our parish has lost over £13,000 during the period. Together we will look at how we can address this lose during the month of October. A heartfelt thanks to all who struggled to make sure their weekly offering reached the parish; by hand, by post, Direct Debit, through the parish donation section on our website, and mobile texts, during lockdown. Your faithful efforts have kept the parish afloat during these exceptional trying times.

First Communion: Corona virus cancelled our original plans. Parents have now received new details from John Roche our Catechetical Co-ordinator. Here is a brief outline.

Refresh Lessons: Wednesday 16th September 6pm.

Reconciliation/First Confession: Saturday 26th September 10am.

First Communion Days: Sunday 4th October at 11.30am Mass. Sunday 11th October at 11.30am Mass.

Confirmation: All candidates will be contacted by Fr Patrick over the next couple of weeks with a date for Confirmation. Meanwhile could all candidates take time to refresh themselves by re-reading the course confirmation booklet? Any questions contact Fr. Patrick directly on his voice mail 02084510367/3.

Don't forget you weekly gift to **SUFRA** our local Food Bank on St Raphael's Estate. There is a real need for this charity and the work it does in our neighbourhood. Since lockdown in March there has been a massive drop in food donations: so let's renew our commitment. Do please keep up the good work and thanks to all who regularly give, and a plead for more of us to get involved. Their web-site is worth visiting for more information www.sufra-nwlondon.org.uk.

CAFOD online meeting Saturday 19th Sept at 10am

All are welcome to join CAFOD online next Saturday 19th Sept from 1030 to 12. During the meeting you will hear from Maria Gonzales, head of international development. Maria will update you on how your support of CAFOD is helping poor communities overseas tackle even more challenges in light of the Coronavirus Crisis.

Email Tony Sheen tsheen@cafod.org.uk for details of how to register. Please continue to pray for the communities we are working alongside overseas. Thank you for your ongoing support.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Divine Office Week IV • Year A • E&W: Education Day

13 September 2020

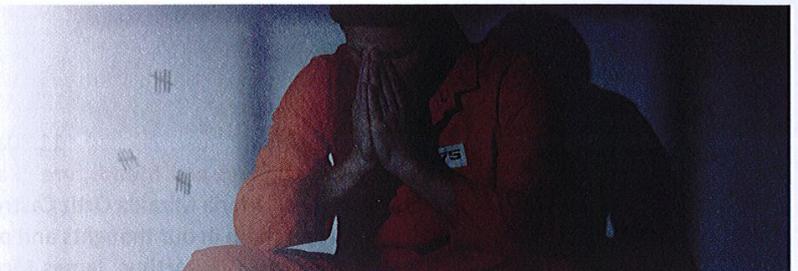
SUNDAY PLUS



Forgive and forgive and forgive

A Year of the Word

Seventy times seven?



by Sr Janet Fearnis FMDM

Is Jesus asking too much? How can we forgive someone "seventy times seven"? Isn't there a limit? We've all sometimes thought that saying sorry is all very well: someone's behaviour must change. It's too easy to make a superficial and meaningless apology that never heals hurt.

Brad (not his real name) served a prison sentence for murder. He repeatedly and unsuccessfully attempted to apologise to the grieving family of his victim. He tried to think of something he could do to prove to them the depths of his sorrow. Brad eventually thought that they might feel better if he were to kill himself as a return for the life he had taken. Fortunately, he realised that suicide was not the answer: living and changing his life for the better would prove that his victim had not died in vain.

Perhaps the family will never accept the depths of Brad's genuine sorrow for his actions. Perhaps, if they do forgive him, it will need

a conscious act of forgiveness every remaining day of their lives: that is the "seventy times seven" of which Jesus is talking. It's a forgiveness which goes far beyond that which is needed for, yet again, leaving the bathroom light switched on or for squeezing the toothpaste tube in the middle.

Real sorrow for causing pain and real forgiveness both require someone's wholehearted, life commitment. Saying sorry and saying "I forgive you" might both need to be said "seventy times seven" – and the offender and the offended will find healing, even if it takes a lifetime.

Sr Janet Fearnis is a Franciscan Missionary of the Divine Motherhood.

"We should remember that 'we love first of all because we have been loved; we forgive because we have been forgiven.'"

Pope Francis

Take the plunge

by Paul Higginson

A little boy was praying, asking God to bless each of his family members, but left out his brother. "Why didn't you pray for Sam?" said his mum. The boy replied, "Because he hit me." Mum said, "Don't you remember, Jesus said to forgive your enemies?" And the little boy replied, "Exactly! He's not my enemy, he's my brother!"

It's great to be forgiven – we expect it from others. But we find it difficult to forgive and sometimes refuse to do it, often to those closest to us.

However, we hurt ourselves by

failing to forgive. It hardens our hearts: turns them into "hearts of stone", and makes us bitter and resentful. Of course, many people have suffered terrible wrongs in the past at the hands of others. Hence forgiveness is not a forgetfulness of the past: it is to risk a new future other than the one imposed by the past or by its memory.

Paul Higginson is the Assistant Principal at the Catholic Sixth Form College in Harrow and has been a parish catechist for thirty years.

Dearest Lord, I'd love to be able to forgive everybody who has inconvenienced or hurt me in some way, but sometimes it's such a hard thing to do. My memory gets in the way and reopens wounds that I'd thought had been healed. Help me, Lord, to say "I forgive you" and really mean it. Amen.

Worth the risk

by Martin Delaney

My father was an alcoholic, so we got used to being second to what had the greatest hold on him. There were many times when he did things that needed forgiveness, and it was hard to offer. Often I, like Peter, thought, "How many times?" But all the elements that came with his alcoholism, which made our lives hard, also pierced him. He just hid the pain, consuming himself in the process.

I had been so consumed with my own anger and pain, I had not realised the impact of forgiveness: its almighty power and grace to heal, not only me, but my father too. Fortunately, I discovered this with enough time to have a relationship of sorts. Then, being with my Dad when he died, meant that forgiveness was not the struggle it once felt. It is the grace God gives us in the pain of loving. Forgive and forgive again. It is always worth the effort.

Martin Delaney is an actor, writer and personal development coach. He is best known for his work in Oscar-winning *Zero Dark Thirty*, *Now You See Me 2* and George Clooney's *Catch 22*.

Dear Parishioner,

It is with much delight that we can return to the public celebration of Holy Mass. A warm welcome back! We have all lived in the wilderness for too long, some of us ending up feeling lonely and afraid.

We can now enjoy a long-awaited return to the community celebration of our faith, to togetherness, to being nourished and fed by the Bread of Life.

Let us give thanks for all that we have received, all that has been taken away, and all that has been left behind. It is our intention to repeat this message in our Newsletters to remind us to reflect on the past and rejoice in the present as we reunite around the altar to receive, once more, the Eucharist.

Today:
Ecclesiasticus 27:30 – 28:7
Romans 14:7-9
Matthew 18:21-35

Monday:
Numbers 21:4-9
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17

Tuesday:
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 19:25-27
or Luke 2:33-35

Wednesday:
1 Corinthians
12:31 – 13:13
Luke 7:31-35

Thursday:
1 Corinthians
15:1-11
Luke 7:36-50

Friday:
1 Corinthians
15:12-20
Luke 8:1-3

Saturday:
1 Corinthians
15:35-37, 42-49
Luke 8:4-15

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 55:6-9
Philippians 1:20-24, 27
Matthew 20:1-16