Resentment, anger, bitterness and unforgiveness are a very heavy burden to carry around with us in our lives. They weigh us down and sometimes do not allow us to move on in our lives with forgiveness and mercy. Bogged down with the heaviness and sadness that are bound up with these feelings and attitudes our lives can descend into depression and sadness that pervades our lives.

The Gospel story this Sunday relates the story of what the kingdom of heaven is like. In that kingdom there is a king who has mercy and forgiveness to a seemingly endless degree, forgiving a debt of millions, who expects others to be like him in mercy and forgiveness. When his mercy and kindness is not reciprocated by those who have received mercy his judgment is harsh.

We are called to be people who are “moved with compassion” and so are drawn to forgiveness and mercy. This is indeed not always easy or something that comes naturally to us when we have been hurt or deeply offended by others and we want to retaliate or seek revenge. This is where our Christian faith calls us to be like God full of mercy and compassion.

One of the first things we do when we gather to celebrate Mass is to acknowledge our need of forgiveness from God in the Penitential Rite when we acknowledge our sins and ask for ‘mercy’. For what ‘we have done and failed to do’ sins of commission and omission. The prayer prayed is “May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen”. Before Communion we pray the Lord’s Prayer “forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us” and immediately afterwards “look not on our sins, but the faith of your Church”, before the elevated Body and Blood of Christ we admit our unworthiness and ask for healing “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.”.

Healing, forgiveness, life and eternal life is what God wants us to have and to have it in abundance. The process of forgiveness and change can take some time in our lives and is something we need to attend to if we wish to develop and grow. Spiritual reading, regular reflection and prayer on the scriptures, spiritual counsel and the Sacrament of Penance can help us on our journey as disciples learning the commands of the Lord to “love one another as I love you.”

Jn 13:34

Yours in the Lord Jesus Christ,
Fr. Michael McLean, Parish Priest

Deacon John's Ordination to Priesthood will be celebrated at St Mary’s Cathedral on Saturday 19 September by His Grace Anthony Fisher OP Archbishop of Sydney. Due to COVID this is an invitation only event.

On Sunday 20 September at St Mark’s Church at 10.30am Rev John will say his first Mass of Thanksgiving. This special Mass has allocated seating which is limited there is limited seating for parishioners to attend.

During October Rev John will say four additional Masses of Thanksgiving at St Mark’s Church.

Saturday 3 October 2020 @ 5.30pm
Sunday 4 October 2020 @ 9.00am
Sunday 11 October 2020 @ 10.30am
Sunday 11 October 2020 @ 6.00pm

Bookings can be made on the Parish website for these four Masses.

God, our Father,
We thank You for the gift of love and the gift of life.
We thank You for the gift of our children.
We ask You to send Your holy angels to protect and guide them each day so that they will walk the narrow path of purity, self-control and obedience, as was taught to us by Your own Son, Jesus Christ.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in union with the Holy Spirit.
Amen
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Entrance Antiphon  
Cf. Sir 36:18
Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.
1. I rejoiced at the things that were said to me: We will go into the house of the Lord.
2. Our feet were standing in your courts, O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which is built as a city, which is compact together.
3. Pray for the things that are for the peace of Jerusalem, and abundance for those who love you. Let peace be in your strength, and abundance within your towers.

Gloria
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, Almighty Father.

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. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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
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.

Gospel Acclamation  
Jn 13:34
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.
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.'

We recommend when entering St Mark's Church you wear a face mask – thank you
Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Knowing the depths of God’s mercy, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

Reader: We pray for God’s holy Church, may it be a fountain of mercy and a beacon of forgiveness, illuminating the darkness of sin and calling sinners home. (pause). Lord hear us: All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for nations infected with entrenched racism, that for justice’s sake they be healed of this destructive disease. (pause). Lord hear us: All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for forgiveness for our own part in the sins against creation and for patience in forgiving others. (pause). Lord hear us: All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray all institutions and agencies caring for children, that today’s Child Protection Sunday will mark their full implementation of safeguarding measures. (pause) Lord hear us: All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for Australia, that the coronavirus pandemic will strengthen our determination to overcome the inequality and disadvantage it has exposed. (pause) Lord hear us: All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer of the Faithful (cont.)

Reader: We pray for the recently deceased, and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will belong for ever to Christ, Lord of life and death. (pause) Lord hear us: All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Good and gracious God, you desire to bring all people to yourself that your mercy and forgiveness might redeem the world. Hear our prayers that having received the gift of your compassion, we might go forth to bring it to others. We ask this through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Offertory Antiphon

Moses consecrated an altar to the Lord, offering upon it holocausts, and sacrificing victims. He made an evening sacrifice to the Lord God for an odor of sweetness, in the sight of the children of Israel.

1. The Lord spoke to Moses saying: Come up to me on Mount Sinai and stand upon the top thereof. Rising up, Moses went up the mountain, to the place God had appointed, and the Lord came down to him in a cloud and stood before his face.

2. Moses prayed to the Lord, and said: If I have found favour in your sight, show me yourself openly, that I may see you. And the Lord spoke to him, saying: Man shall not see me and live. But stand upon the rock and my right hand will protect you, until I have passed by. While I am passing by, I will takeaway my hand, and then you shall see my glory, but my face will not be seen by you, for I am the Lord, show wonderful things upon the earth.

Communion Antiphon

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

1. O Lord your mercy reaches to heaven and your truth reaches to the clouds. .

2. Your justice is like God’s mountain; your judgements like the deep; man and beast you will save, O Lord.

3. They shall feast on the riches of your house, and you will make them drink from the stream of your delight.

Enrolling now for 2021

At the beginning of 2021, our building project will be completed and children will be learning in new contemporary learning spaces.

With the impact of COVID, finances may be stretched but no Catholic child will be denied a Catholic education due to financial hardship.

If you wish to enrol your child for 2021 in Kindergarten or in other classes, please contact the school on 91813042 or call in at the school office to collect an enrolment form.
Join Pope Francis and Christians around the globe in praying for and taking action for our common home by visiting www.SeasonofCreation.org

Parishioners who knit for charity are really in need of WOOL! During this Spring when you are having your cleanout - if you have any WOOL - please leave it at the Parish Centre to donate. They make, blankets, shawls and other items for a variety of charities. All colours and wool types are welcome.
With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God

St Mark’s Catholic Parish, Drummoyne

warmly invite you to the

Mass of Thanksgiving

of

Rev. John Quan T. Pham

on

Sunday 20th September 2020 at 10.30am

St Mark’s Catholic Church
33 Tranmere Street
Drummoyne, NSW 2047

(Allocated Seating)

During October, Four other Masses of Thanksgiving will be celebrated

Saturday 3 October 2020 @ 5.30pm
Sunday 4 October 2020 @ 9.00 am
Sunday 11 October 2020 @ 10.30am
Sunday 11 October 2020 @ 6.00pm

St Mark’s Parish Office

Phone: (02) 9181 1795 or Email: admin@stmarksdrummoyne.org.au

* * *

Rev John Quan T. Pham will be ordained to the priesthood by the Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

on Saturday 19th September 2020 at St Mary’s Cathedral.

* Vaccine research ‘Ethical’
* Asia Bibi shock
* Four Men for God (Deacon John’s article)
* Want a husband? Trust God.
In your love and concern, please pray for the following sick members of our community:

Anniversaries & those we are remembering at this time:
Mario Di Palma, Antonio Costanzo, Mary Cantem-Paul, Charlie Camilleri, Fred, Joe & Emmanuel Camilleri, Emmanuel Mifsud, George Andreou, Maria Catanzaro, Giovanni Di Losa, John O’Halloran, Teresa Pugliese, Giovanni Khun Sue, Nicola Giannandrea and Giovanni Baiada.

Recently Deceased:
Giovanni Khun Sue, Nicola Giannandrea and Giovanna Baiada.

Giovanni Di Losa, John O’Halloran, Teresa Pugliese, Emmanuel Mifsud, George Andreou, Maria Catanzaro, Giovanni Di Losa, John O’Halloran, Teresa Pugliese, Giovanni Khun Sue, Nicola Giannandrea and Giovanni Baiada.

We pray for those who have died and offer our prayers to their families. May they rest in peace.

WANTED: Ministers of the Word, our reader’s proclaim the word so our congregation might hear God’s word.

Our Parish is in need of readers for all our Masses, if you are interested contact the Parish office or speak with Fr Michael.

Safeguarding requirements are needed for all Parish volunteers.

St Mark’s Parish Pastoral Council - September 2020
The Parish Pastoral Council Zoom meeting this month discussed the following topics relating to events happening in the Parish.
† An update on St Mark’s Primary School Building Project.
† Considered the Parish Profile Census Data.
† Planned a reflection time Ministry for during COVID.
† Briefed on preparation of Deacon John’s Ordination to Priesthood.
† Welcomed new member Romina Cavallo.

Our PPC members are:
Ms Celine Cheng - Chairperson
Mr Danny Sukkar
Mr Dimuka Jayasurina
Mr Tony Murphy
Mrs Romina Cavallo
Ms Rachel Bourke - School Principal
Deacon John Pham
Fr Michael McLean—Parish Priest

St Mark’s Parish
33 Tranmere Street, Drummoyne NSW 2047
Tel: (02) 9181 1795
Email: admin@stmarksdrummoyne.org.au
Parish Website: www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au

Parish Priest: Very Rev Fr Michael L McLean PP EV
Deacon: Rev Mr John Pham
Pastoral Associate: Sr Antonia Nedu ISR
Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council: Ms Celine Cheng
School Principal: Ms Rachel Bourke

Please respect the sacredness of our church and remember to turn off your mobile phone. Thank you

Register to attend Mass on
- St Mark’s Website: Register with trybooking before 3pm M – F

Registrations essential

Weekday Masses:
Monday - 8:00am
Tuesday - 9:30am
Wednesday - 7:30am & 6:00pm
Thursday - 9:30am
Friday - 8:00am
Saturday - 11am Adoration & 12pm Mass

Weekend Masses:
Saturday - Vigil - 5.30pm
Sunday - 9:00am & 10:30am & 6:00pm

Registration is essential
St Mark’s limit is 80 at Mass (seating is in the nave, gallery, back foyer and sanctuary).

Visit our website for
Pray at Home
details and more:
www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au

SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST/
HOLY COMMUNION 2020
Will be celebrated during all Masses in the month of November 2020 in-line with COVID - 19 restrictions:
Expression of interest forms are available on St Mark’s Parish website.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 18 SEPTEMBER 2020

You are invited to find out more through the process of the
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
A journey that begins with your questions.
There is no obligation to join us as you discover more about your Catholic faith. The decision is ultimately yours to discern; if this is to be your spiritual home. The invitation is always open; download and complete the application form and on behalf of the Catholic faith community of St. Marks we look forward to welcoming you.

The Executive Director of Sydney Catholic Schools invites applications for the role of Family Educator based at St Mark’s Catholic Primary School Drummoyne.

We are currently seeking a Family Educator to join St Mark’s Primary School, Drummoyne in the Sydney Archdiocese.

This pivotal role is part of the Mission and Identity Team and works closely with the SCS Church Engagement Officers.


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Gospel Reflection

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!

Have you thought?
The parable sees the unforgiving servant putting his fellow servant in prison ‘until he paid back the debt’. This is almost exclusively what prisons were used for until only a few hundred years ago. When a person could not repay a debt, they were held in prison until the debt was paid. Of course, being in prison, they had little opportunity to repay the debt themselves and relied on friends and relatives to repay the debt on their behalf. To pay someone’s debt was to ‘redeem’ them. The earliest ideas of Christ as a ‘Redeemer’ were based on the idea of Christ paying a debt on behalf of humankind.

Living the Gospel – Just like Peter

Throughout the gospels, Peter is a fantastic example of the common person. He has insights of faith at times but usually messes it up with his next breath. His question in this week’s gospel is one that any one of us might ask. I try to do what’s right, but how long do I have to hang in there? There has to be a limit to patience with someone who keeps upsetting me, surely? Jesus shows us that if we operate from a motivation of compassion and a desire to constantly build relationships that are life-giving for both parties, then there is no end to the number of times that we try to re-build that relationship.

Gospel Focus – How many times?
Peter asks, ‘How many times should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Peter probably thought that he was being pretty generous. The religious law of his time required people to forgive three times, so by suggesting seven times, Peter would have thought that he was really going the extra mile. To forgive someone seven times is a pretty big call. But the number seven has great significance in scripture; it is regarded as a number of perfection. Peter is suggesting that there is an ideal number of times that one should forgive. Jesus blows this out of the water by saying, take that perfect number of times and multiply it by seventy. There is no perfect number of times to forgive.

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This year, due to the closure of churches during Holy Week and the cancellation of the annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection, Pope Francis has rescheduled this collection to the weekend of Sunday September 13th 2020. This is so it coincides with the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on Sept 14th. This weekend is the whole Church’s opportunity to stand in solidarity with the people of the Holy Land in their ongoing needs for pastoral and humanitarian assistance, made much greater due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As the Commissary of the Holy Land in Australia,

Because this is a Pontifical Collection, and would normally be collected on Good Friday, Envelopes are available in the Church foyer, and can be left in any of the collection plates.

CATHOLIC BUSHWALKING CLUB

Join Today:
www.cbensw.org.au
Phone: 0478 919 427
A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.