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**24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)** September 17th, 2023

**SUNDAY MASS TIMES**

 Saturday 6.00pm St. Patrick’s church

 Sunday 9.30am Christ the King church

 Sunday 11.00am St. Patrick’s church

**WEEKDAY LITURGY TIMES**

 Tuesday 10.00am Christ the King church

 **Wednesday 10.30am Christ the King church (Funeral Service)**

 Thursday 10.00am Christ the King church

 Friday 10.00am St. Patrick’s church

**MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED**: Special Intention, Jimmy Dick (Anni.), Stan Elsey (Anni.), Catherine Chesser, Betty Molloy R.I.P., For all who died in recent disasters, For all who survived recent disasters, Mary Gibson (Anni.), Special Intention,

**ANNIVERSARIES: September 17th – 23rd:**

**Molly Wass, Gladys Gilchrist, Veronica O'Neill, Denis Darragh, Catherine Corr, Michael Payne, James Michael Flynn, Ada Murphy, Alan Reeve, David Ayre, Lynne Elizabeth Stewart, Charles Blomley, William Doherty, Barbara Gregory, Tom Johnston, Michael Barnard, Katy Ann Leng, Maud Hopkins, Emma Wilkinson, James Dick, Nora Spaight, Kevin McCallan, Clare Bage, Ada Roberts.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER** in your prayers all our sick and housebound brothers and sisters.

**The word this week**

Ecclesiasticus 27:33 - 28:9 We cannot nourish anger and expect our own sins to be forgiven.

Psalm 103 ***‘The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger, and rich in mercy.’***

Romans 14:7–9 Whether we live or die, we do so in Christ.

Matthew 18:21–35 Jesus says we must forgive not seven times, but seventy-seven.

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he First Reading sets the theme today, counselling us to forgive our neighbour as we pray that our own sins may be forgiven. We pray in the responsorial psalm of the Lord’s kindness and mercy. Paul preaches that in life and death we are the Lord’s. Jesus tells a dramatic story in the Gospel, to make a very important point: the desperate need in our world for forgiveness and reconciliation. How many chances do we give each other? As many as seven? How often do we shut doors on people, even family and friends, saying *“That’s it; you’ve just gone too far this time: never again”*? When Jesus says that we must forgive ‘seventy-seven’ times, he implies that we never stop forgiving, whatever happens. He doesn’t just say this, however: even when they do the worst thing that could be done to him, nailing him to a cross, Jesus puts these words into practice: *“Father, forgive them...”* As Baptised people – we must strive with God’s grace to do likewise.

**AT MASS TODAY WE PRAY** Eucharistic Prayer 2 for Reconciliation with its own Preface.

Around this sacred altar we pray that the walls that divide us and divide the people of the world will be dissolved. As we offer this prayer of thanksgiving, let us be reminded of the reconciliation and peace that can flow from this table of forgiveness.

**THE BEREAVEMENT GROUP** is celebrating its 20th anniversary next Sunday, September 24th, at 9-30 Mass. We hope parishioners will join us afterwards for coffee and cake - a “Thank You” for all your generosity and support over the years. (There will also be an opportunity to submit names for the Memorial Book too ).

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please remember in your prayers **Mrs. Rose Mary Bousfield**, aged 95, formerly from Thornaby. Her Funeral Service will take place at Christ the King church this Wednesday, September 20th, at 10.30am

**ALSO, Mr. James Baldwin,** aged 51, from Thornaby. His Funeral Service will take place this Friday, September 22nd,

at 1.00pm in St. Patrick’s church. May they rest in peace.

**DIOCESE WIDE CLIMATE CHANGE EVENT**: What can we do to leave a better world for future generations?

Parishioners from around our Diocese are invited to this event, Saturday 30th September, 9.30am to 3.00pm, English Martyrs Parish Hall, Dalton Terrace, York. YO24 4DA

Sr Margaret Atkins of the Canonesses of St Augustine will speak to us about Laudato Si and its link to Catholic Social Teaching. Glen Melvin, our diocesan environmental lead, will speak about his work across the diocese seeking to lower the Carbon Footprint of our churches and parish buildings. He will help us to understand how best he can support us in taking this work forward.

**MESSAGE FROM CHRIST THE KING SCHOOL**: The new Reception children at Christ the King Primary school, along with their Year 6 ‘buddies’, are leading a welcome **“stay and pray liturgy”** in their school hall for parents at 9:15am on Monday, 25th September. Parishioners of Christ the King Parish are welcome. If you are free to join in this celebration, the children would be delighted to share this with you.

**ST. PATRICK’S CHRISTMAS FAIR** will be on Saturday, 11th November. If anyone has any gift sets, bottles of wine or spirits, chocolates, biscuits for our Tombola, RAFFLE or gift stall it would be much appreciated.

You can leave them with Kath Hall in the church porch. Thank you very much.

**24th Sunday of The Year (A)**

**September 17th, 2023**

 **First reading** 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.

 **Second reading**  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!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:

you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

 **Gospel Reading**  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.’