THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A — 13 SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRST READING
Sir 27:30–28:7

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

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.
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?
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.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
Ps 102: 1-4, 9-12. R. v. 8

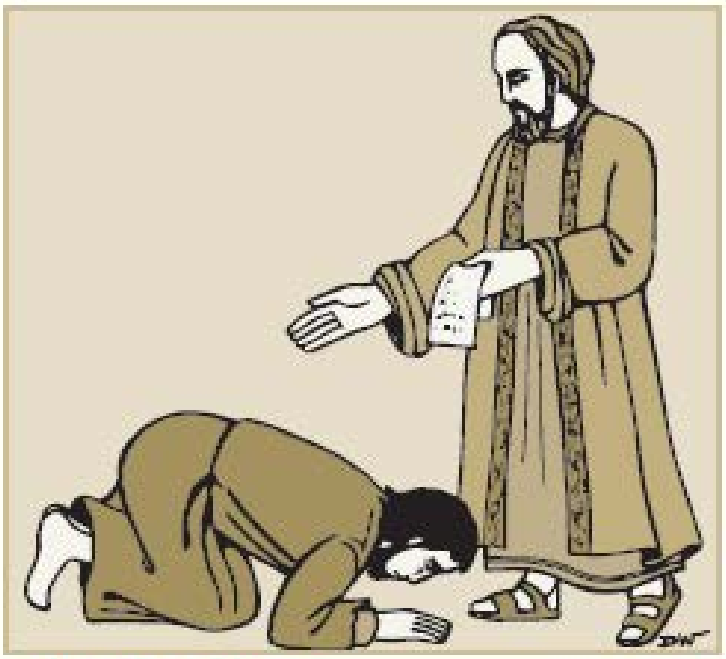
**R. The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

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.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Jn 13: 34

Alleluia, 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.

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

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.

REFLECTION: The Blame Game. Blame is something with which we can all be too familiar. We blame others, others blame us for whatever and really it gets us nowhere. We make scapegoats of other people. It is nice to take the blame away and somehow in our faulty thinking be sure that the blame and caution will fix things. Of course it doesn't! You remember in your history that it happened during World War II when millions of Jews were exterminated, they were blamed and nations lacked wealth. On a wider front today we're still making groups pay, still blaming, still fixing the responsibility of our many problems on various ethnic groups, socio-economic, religious groups, etc, and we do a pretty good job of doing it personally. At home it's often my parent's fault, my wife's fault or husband's fault, it's my former school's fault that I am so socially inept. It's the man in the street's fault that I am late for work because he was standing in the queue ahead of me. And so, the list goes on and on no matter unreasonable. As a matter of fact, can you remember the last time you blamed someone? Sometimes of course at times it is true. We do suffer unjustly at the hands of others, and we can l legitimately place blame where it fits. Children so often take on blame for their dysfunctional parents. It's my fault that my Daddy beats me. It's my fault that Mummy is drinking alcohol. So how can we find a way forward from this game that sometimes can consume us? I say **look at Jesus on the Cross**. He took the blame for everything just and unjust. In his book 'Diary of a Country Priest', Georges Bernanos presents us with a country curate who is an apparent failure. He has tried to bring good to the people of his parish and in return he has been retreated with ridicule and has been slandered, mocked, treated badly but he never blames them. A few days before his death he wrote, 'Even from the cross when our Lord was in agony, even then he did not own himself a victim of injustice … **they know not what they do** …' Words that have meaning even for the smallest child. Words that some would like o call childish, but the spirits of evil have been muttering ever since, without understanding and with ever growing terror. Instead of the thunderbolts that they awaited it is as though as a hand of innocence closed over the chasm of their dwelling. A man called Anthony Ezeme once asked, 'What do you think the doomed finder harder to bear the justice of God or the sheer childlike innocence of his mercy?' There is an answer to the '**blame game**' the example having been set by Jesus, '**they know not what they do**.' Try it yourself.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - CHOIR MEMBERS - BASILICA OF ST PATRICK: The Basilica of St Patrick, Fremantle is seeking expressions of interest from people who would like to come together to form a choir. You will learn Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony, develop your vocal technique and deepen your faith with like-minded Catholics. Previous experience is welcomed but not essential. Rehearsals are held Monday from 7pm - 9pm in the parish hall. To register your interest or if you would like to learn more, email parishmanager@fremantlestpatricks.org.au.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL ORGAN CONCERT SERIES 2026: Experience the magnificent sound of St Mary's Cathedral's historic pipe organ with this unique concert series featuring Simon Niemiński (St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney), Dominic Perissinotto (Master of Music), and Holly Broadbent (Principal Organist). Enjoy an afternoon of exceptional music in the heart of Perth that explores the rich colours and dramatic possibilities of the organ repertoire at St Mary's Cathedral, Victoria Square, Perth. Concert Dates are from Sunday 20 September 2026 to Sunday 29 November 2026. Series Package from $67.50 to $108. Individual Concerts from $0 (U-10), $20 (U-18) to $40. For further information and ticketing, go to: https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1605419?qr=true&qr=true.

CBC FREMANTLE 125 YEAR ANNIVERSARY: The CBC Fremantle community invites you to celebrate 125 years of history, community, and legacy. Students, families, staff and friends, past and present will be welcomed for a special afternoon reflecting on the past and looking ahead to the future. Explore the campus through guided tours, enjoy music and light refreshments, and reconnect with the people and stories that make CBC Fremantle so special. Saturday 10 October from 1pm to 3.30pm at the College.

SALE of COLUMBAN CALENDARS: 2027 Calendars have arrived and are in the Parish Office for purchase at $10 each during office hours. Thank You.

PARISHIONERS: Please do not leave your valuable belongings unattended, especially when going to receive Holy Communion.

WHEN WE COME TO CELEBRATE MASS
WE REMEMBER
When you go to Mass, talk to God…
During Mass, let God talk to you…
After Mass, talk to each other…

OUR LADY of MT CARMEL PARISH BULLETIN

24th Sunday Ordinary – 13 September 2026 – Year A

OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL PARISH HILTON

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Separovich
Address: 82 Collick Street, Hilton, WA, 6163
Parish Office: (08) 9314 7733
Email: sec.hilton@perthcatholic.org.au
Website: http://www.olmchilton.org.au/parish-bulletin/

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9am – 3pm
Thursday: 9am – 12.30pm

PARISH TEAM

Parish Secretary: Tereza Camacho
Safeguarding Officer: Brigette Liddelow 0432 908 980
Avila Retirement Village: Judy Rowlands 0448 205 283
OLMC Primary School Principal: Tracey Marsden 9269 2000
OLMC Primary School RE: Alex Lerede
Seton Catholic College Website:
http://www.seton.wa.edu.au

BULLETIN SPONSORS

AVILA COURT RETIREMENT VILLAGE
Judy 0448 205 283
avila.hilton@perthcatholic.org.au.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
Meet every Monday, except public holidays, between 7 to 8pm in the first meeting room to the left of the Church. New members are always welcome. Please contact Eddie Mizera (President) on 0436 863 365 for more information.

BOWRA & O'DEA FUNERAL DIRECTORS
Because the little things are everything.
312 South Street, Hilton, 9239 7744
www.bowraodea.com.au

MONTHLY AUSLAN INTERPRETED MASS for CATHOLIC DEAF COMMUNITY
This is an opportunity for members of Perth's Catholic Deaf Community to attend Mass that's fully interpreted with live Auslan interpreter, as well as large PowerPoint text display. It is held on the last Saturday night of each month (excluding December) from 6.30 to 7.30pm, at St Denis Church, 60 Osborne Street, Joondanna.

MCMAHON PLUMBING & GAS
Tristan McMahon
PO Box 8068, Hilton, 6163
0497 550 904
enquiries@mcmahonplumbing.com.au

UNITED PEST CONTROL
PO Box 7141, Spearwood, 6163
0433 995 688

OUR LADY of MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
Brigette Liddelow - 0432 908 980
b.a.liddelow@gmail.com
82 Collick Street, Hilton, WA, 6163
08 9314 7733

LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH - CATHOLIC DEAF SOCIAL NIGHT
The Catholic Deaf Ministry runs a social night for the deaf on the last Friday of the month from 6pm to 8pm, a **Personal Advocacy Service, 28 Holdhurst Way, Morley.** An Auslan interpreter is provided. The venue is wheelchair accessible. Free parking is available at the venue. Light dinner, tea and coffee are provided. Newcomers are welcome! To RSVP and for more information: admin.pas@perthcatholic.org.au

MASS TIMES WEEKENDS: Saturday Vigil 6pm, Sunday 7.30am & 9am.

MASS TIMES WEEKDAYS: Tuesday 9am, Wednesday 9am, Thursday 9am, Friday 9am & Saturday 9am.

RECONCILIATION - Saturday's: 9.30 to 10am and 5.15 to 5.45pm or by appointment.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Friday 9.30 to 10.30am.

HOLY TRINITY CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: Prayer meetings are every Monday night from 7 to 9pm except for public holidays.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true.

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 12 to Saturday 18 September 2026
Saturday 12 September
9am Mass: Angelo & Nina Bertone (RIP)
6pm Vigil Mass: Felix Dias (Anniversary)
Sunday 13 September
7.30am Mass: Antonio Moura (RIP)
9am Mass: Almerinda & Manuel Messias (RIP)
Tuesday 15 September
8.30am Mass: Holy Souls
10.30am Rosary & Funeral Mass: Luis Isidro De Agrela
Wednesday 16 September
9.30am Rosary & Funeral Mass: Carmela Travia
Thursday 17 September
9am Mass: Edda Gherardi (RIP)
Friday 18 September
9am Mass: Holy Souls

'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.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2026. No 2160. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word

FORGIVE FROM THE HEART

Have you ever been hurt by another? How do you act? Can you forgive? Hurts, misunderstanding and at times serious ruptures can occur amongst Jesus' members. The question which Peter asks Jesus is relevant: 'How often should one forgive another? Seven times?' Jesus replies, 'Seventy times seven,' meaning forgiveness is beyond calculation.

Jesus then offers a parable to highlight the essential truth about forgiving others 'from the heart'. The story involves two servants. One owes his king 1000 talents. In Matthew's day a talent was worth a year's wage. The servant owes the king 1000 years' wages! An impossible debt to honour, even though the servant promises to pay it in time. The king, out of compassion, cancels the debt. Whew! Leaving the judgement hall, that same servant comes across a fellow servant who owes 100 denarii. A denarius is a day's wage, so the debt is a hundred days' wages, a paltry sum by comparison. But in this second scenario, compassion and debt cancellation are absent. The king gets to hear of this and imprisons the first servant for his lack of forgiveness.

Meanness of spirit and forgiveness of heart will have their divine repercussions, the point of the final words of today's Gospel. Matthew's Jesus invites us to reflect upon our own forgiving and compassionate spirit towards those who have hurt or wronged us. As we pray in the Lord's Prayer, '…forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.' The measure of our forgiveness is ultimately not God but our own hearts.

Fr Michael Trainer