

Catholic Parish of Walsingham

ST PETER, BLAKENEY ✦ ST HENRY WALPOLE, SJ, BURNHAM MARKET ✦ OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION, WALSINGHAM ✦ OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA

(1836)

Parish Mass Book, Readings & Prayers 128-131 Prayer of the Church, 4

24th SUNDAY

YEAR OF ST MATTHEW

SEPTEMBER 13th 2020

Since Jesus told his disciples how they should pray it was clear to them, and is clear to us when we read Matthew's gospel in the present age, that life in the



Kingdom involves forgiveness: "... forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." (Mt 6:12) The forgiveness of our transgressions which we ask of the Father is linked to the forgiveness of we owe to those who hurt us. Peter's question in today's gospel seeks to put a limit on the scope of human forgiveness. Should we forgive someone, he asks, as many as seven times? Jesus says, "not seven but seventy times seven." Just as there is no limit to God's forgiveness so there must be no limit, in his Kingdom, to the mutual forgiveness of its citizens. "If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Not to forgive is to forsake the Kingdom. Jesus illustrates this in a parable, a story about life in a kingdom of this world, which

tells us something about the Kingdom of Heaven. One of the king's servants is in debt to him for an immense sum. This 'servant' is the king's property, his δούλος, meaning slave. So, he decides to sell him and his family to recover the debt. The servant begs for mercy and the king relents; he cancels the debt. The Kingdom of Heaven has no monopoly on mercy. Elsewhere Jesus reminds us that even those who are evil know how to give their children what is good. "What father", asks Jesus, "would give his son a scorpion if he asked for an egg?" (Lk 11:9-13) The slave whose debt has been cancelled is, however, owed a relatively trivial sum by one of his peers. Unlike his king, he shows no mercy and exacts the full penalty of the law: the debtor is thrown into prison. This blatant unfairness is reported to the king who changes his mind. The meaning of the parable is clear but, like most parables, it loses its point if the details are analysed. It illustrates a breach of what has become known as the 'golden rule', "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Mt 7:12) But it teaches us that in the Kingdom of God we follow his ways. God forgives us our sins, and so we must forgive those who 'sin' against us and we must do so endlessly. The example of Jesus our Lord, obedient to the Father, is starkest and most eloquent when spoken from the cross: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

from EVANGELII GAUDIUM

"The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness... The great danger in today's world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience. Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades. This is a very real danger for believers too. Many fall prey to it, and end up resentful, angry and listless. That is no way to live a dignified and fulfilled life; it is not God's will for us, nor is it the life in the Spirit which has its source in the heart of the risen Christ. (1-2)

PARTICIPATION IN THE LITURGY

Now, once again, we are able to celebrate the Eucharist. This is a real cause for rejoicing but we must still be careful to take every precaution against Covid 19. We are not obliged to put ourselves at risk in order to take part in the Mass. There are many online liturgies.

You can take part in the liturgy via the internet at the Catholic Shrine webpage:

"...not seven but seventy times seven"

THE YEAR OF THE WORD

Befriending the Scriptures cannot, of course, meet at present. We can, however, keep reading Matthew's gospel and the readings appointed for the Mass of the day even though we cannot meet.

Sunday:	Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7	Psalm 102	Romans 14:7-9	Matthew 18:21-35
Monday:	Exaltation of the Holy Cross			
Tuesday:	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 77	Philippians 2:6-11	John 3:13-17
Wednesday:	1 Corinthians 12:12-31	Psalm 99		Luke 7:11-17
Thursday:	1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13	Psalm 32		Luke 7:31-35
Friday:	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Psalm 117		Luke 7:36-50
Saturday:	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Psalm 16		Luke 8:1-3
	1 Corinthians 15:35-49	Psalm 55		Luke 8:4-15

CHURCH OPENING THIS WEEK

Our Lady of the Annunciation, Walsingham: Sunday 10.30 Mass

Monday to Saturday 9.30 Mass

(followed by exposition on Monday. Confessions on Saturday)

Tuesday to Friday inclusive, 10 – 11.30 Private Prayer

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Wells-next-the-Sea: Saturday 6.00 pm Mass

Thursday 9.30 Mass

St Peter's, Blakeney:

Sunday 11.00 Mass

Wednesday 9.30 Mass

St Henry Walpole, Burnham Market:

Friday 9.30 Mass

Sunday 9.30 Mass

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1030-1130 Private Prayer

Please hand on this information to people you know who are unable to receive this newsletter via the Web site.

Who'd be a steward? Please do as they ask you without question.

Under the present circumstances be assured there is no obligation to attend Mass on Sundays. If you are isolating, sheltering or in any way nervous about public gatherings, just take your time.

THANK YOU

During these trying times we are able to open the church only because of the generosity of those who volunteer to act as stewards and those who clean the church in accordance with the strict hygiene rules imposed by the government. This involves a great deal of hard work and I would like to thank all those who are currently serving the parish in this way.

In order to lighten their load there is an urgent need for more people to join them; many hands make light work.

EDUCATION SUNDAY

Today is **Education Sunday**, a day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education. The theme this year is "A Learning People in a Time of Change". We can consider the 'time of change' at different scales. For the last two or three generations the world has changed at a dizzying and ever-increasing rate, not least in the world of education. Courtesy of Covid 19 the past six months have also been a time of change which has seriously disrupted schools and other places of learning. At a time when the concept 'truth' is no longer respected and honesty is disappearing, apparently unlamented, from public discourse, may our prayer for those in education, learners or leaders, spring from and remind them of Jesus' words: "The truth will set you free". (John 8:32)

REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Maureen Schofield, who was looking after the Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride, is unwell and unfortunately this means that we will not be participating this year. Please pray for her, and for all those who are sick.

MGR PHILIP MOGER

A warm welcome to Mgr Philip as he takes up his new responsibility at the Shrine. We look forward to working with him as the Covid restrictions ease.

Parish Clergy: Revv. Keith Tulloch, SM, (Parish Priest), Thomas Goonan, SM,
Steven Leeder (Deacon)

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