

'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.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

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 Trainor

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.

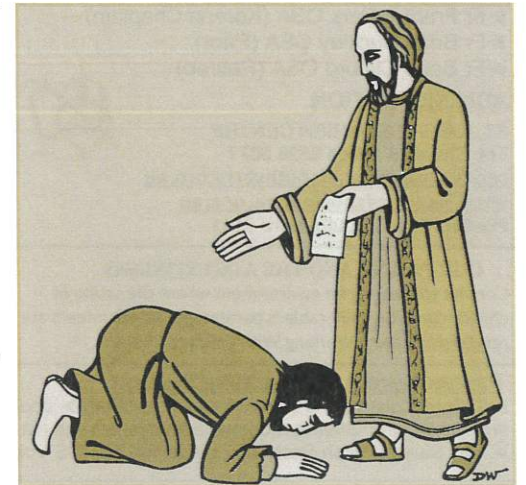
Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

■ 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.'

In the Pastoral Care of the **AUGUSTINIANS**

- Fr Luca Park OSA (Parish Priest)
- Fr Francis Park OSA (Korean Chaplain)
- Fr Brian Buckley OSA (Prior)
- Fr Barry Clifford OSA (Retired)

ADMINISTRATION

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE
 Tel: Church & Office 9826 9677
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OUR PARISH AND THE AUGUSTINIANS

Commit to creating an environment where the safety of children and the vulnerable is paramount. All volunteers are required to have a Working With Children Check.

Pastoral and Administrative Support

- Stephy Coosnapa (Parish Pastoral Assistant) ► Joel Sanchez (Business & Facilities Manager: Wed - Fri)
- Safeguarding: Stephy Coosnapa ► Aryana Vega (St Joseph's Outreach Services: Mon, Tues, Thurs)
- Toni Stuart (Parish Secretary, Weddings & SJOS Volunteer Co-ordinator: Tues/Thurs/Fri)

MORNING TEA & CHILDREN'S LITURGY

St. Joseph's • 10.30am Mass
 Fourth Sunday of the month.
 (except school holidays and long weekends)
 St Thomas Aquinas – Morning Tea - last
 Sunday of the month following 9am Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Joseph's • Sat: 5.10pm – 5.40pm, or by appointment.

ANOIDING / HEALING MASS

(Sacrament of the Sick) First Tuesday of the month 10am at St Joseph's Church

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

Anyone ill or housebound may contact us to request a visit for communion at home.

Liturgical Calendar for the week commencing 13th September 2026

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Saturday 12th September	6.00pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 13th September 24th Sunday of the Year	10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Monday 14th September Exaltation of the Holy Cross		
Tuesday 15th September Our Lady of Sorrows	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Wednesday 16th September St Cornelius & Cyprian	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Thursday 17th September 24 th Week in Ordinary Time	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Friday 18th September 24 th Week in Ordinary Time	10am Mass Christian Meditation	12.45pm Mass
Saturday 19th September St Alonso de Orozco	9am Mass 6.00pm Vigil Mass	



SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2026- "LOVE PROTECTS"

Annual Day of Parish Commitment to Safeguarding

This year the theme is Love Protects and the readings show us that real love is not passive goodwill. Rather it actively shields the vulnerable, tells the truth, and never lets silence stand in for safety.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- **Christian Meditation:** 10.45am Fridays
- **Liturgy Committee:** Thurs 17th 6pm
- **Children's Confirmation** classes Thursdays
- **Save the Date:** Parish BBQ Sun 22 Nov

Pope Leo – On Artificial Intelligence



"School is the place where new generations can learn to seek and love the truth, to reflect on the meaning of life and to recognize the dignity of every person. For this reason, many parents, who want their children to grow

in the capacity to form relationships, develop critical thinking skills and embrace solid values, place great expectations on schools as valuable partners in their children's education. Yet parents have the primary and inalienable right to choose the kind of education and formation for their children, in a manner consistent with their moral, cultural and religious convictions. Today, the world of education faces a number of urgent challenges." (*Magnifica Humanitas*. #142)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT



Last Wednesday the Parish Council convened for its September meeting. Some items discussed were Safeguarding Sunday, Migrant & Refugee Sunday

on Sept. 27 and Mass for the Care of Creation on Oct 4. Volunteers from the parish are needed to help with logistics during the Friends of St Augustine Lay Congress, the sound system update in St Joseph's church this week 14th – 17th, and the planning for the Parish BBQ.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS

This Sunday following Mass at St Joseph's there will be a safeguarding training session upstairs in the Parish Centre.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK Margaret Wallin, Anne Rigg, Mitos Glouemans, Ced John Netto, Julie Mahony, Paul Chong, Isabella Chong, Luke Dennis, Sonia Guzman, Damien Ryan, Cecil D'Cruz, Joanna Howe, Janine Forster, Christie De Silva, Anita Zaio, Maurice & Pauline Sheehan, Rosie Gucciardo, Nichole Garnaut, Enid Netto, David Mills, Charles, Tom Greene, Anna Slawek, Maurice White

IN LOVING MEMORY



Recently Deceased

- ✱ Maureen Carew
- ✱ Pamela Gaunt

Anniversaries

- ✱ Nora King
- ✱ Hilary Ong
- ✱ Barbara Francis
- ✱ Anthony Alfred
- ✱ Sr Lois Young pbvm
- ✱ John Fili
- ✱ Julie Grant
- ✱ Allen Camiling

POSITION VACANT

Parish Pastoral Worker (Permanent Part Time – 40 hours per fortnight)

The Parish of South Yarra is seeking a Pastoral Worker to support the pastoral, liturgical, sacramental and community life of the Parish. For further details and qualifications, and job description please see our website or contact the parish office. 9826 9677

www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au
business@parishofsouthyarra.org.au

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027

Australian Augustinian parishioners aged 18–35 can express interest in attending World Youth Day 2027 (WYD27) and the Augustinian Youth Encounter 2027 (AYE27), both in South Korea. WYD27 runs 1–8 August 2027, followed by AYE27 from 8–13 August 2027, themed "Take Heart, It Is I. Have No Fear" See poster in church foyer.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Friends of St Augustine need volunteers to help with logistics during the Lay Congress 9-11 October.

If you can help, please contact Mary McCormick 0419 134 075

MASS COLLECTION 6/09/2026

Clergy (Augustinian Community)
 1st Collection, CDF & bank deposits... \$ 715.00
Church (Parish Ministries)
 2nd Collection \$ 515.00
 Envelopes..... \$ 80.00
 Direct Debit/EFT/ CDF Pay/ Cr Cards...\$ 965.00
 Tap Point Terminals..... \$ 565.00
Thank you for your generosity