



We are a community learning to be disciples of Jesus

# Welcome to Mt Barker/Strathalbyn Catholic Parish 17th September 2023

## Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Mass Times This Week

Saturday 6pm	Our Lady of Mercy
Sunday 9am	Our Lady of Mercy
Sunday 9:30am	St James the Less
Sunday 10:45am	The Good Shepherd
Mon 18/09 11.00am	Rosary Garden
Tue 19/09 9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Wed 20/09 12 noon	Our Lady of Mercy Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gõn, Paul Chõng Ha-sang & Companions
Thu 21/09 9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
Fri 22/09 9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Fri 22/09 12noon	Murray Bridge
Fri 22/09 6.00pm	St James the Less
Sat 23/09 9.30am	Good Shepherd
Sat 23/09 11.00am	Rosary Garden



### Fraternal correction an expression of great love

Pope Francis reflected on the importance of offering fraternal correction when someone has wronged us, and recalled Jesus' invitation to speak privately rather than spreading gossip.

Fraternal correction, said Pope Francis, is "one of the highest expressions of love, and also one of the most demanding." "When a brother in faith wrongs you, then you, without rancour, should help him by correcting him," he said. However, acknowledged the Holy Father, the first step we most often take is that of spreading gossip about a person instead of confronting them directly and privately. Such an attitude "does not please God," he said, recalling his many reminders that "gossip is a plague on the life of people and communities". Gossip, added the Pope, leads to "division, suffering, and scandal, and never helps improve or grow", but rather plunges us toward perdition and ruin.

Jesus offers us a better path when we have been injured by someone. "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone." The Pope urged Christians to speak to one another "face to face" in order to help the other person understand their fault. "Do it for their own good, overcoming shame and finding true courage, which is not to slander, but to tell them to their face with meekness and gentleness," he said.

If, after a private and frank conversation, the person does not mend their ways, we may look for help from others. "Beware, though: not from the group that gossips!" said the Pope. Rather, we should seek help from people who "genuinely want to lend a hand to this misguided brother or sister." And if even after these first two steps have been pursued and no change has taken place, then we may turn to the community, not to pillory or publicly shame the person, but to "unite our efforts to help them change." "Pointing the finger is not good; in fact, it often makes it more difficult for the wrongdoer to recognize their mistake," said Pope Francis. "Rather, the community must make them feel that, while it condemns the mistake, it is near with prayer and affection, always ready to offer forgiveness and to start over.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is available Thursday and Saturday morning after Mass, and Friday 11am-12noon at Murray Bridge.  
Reconciliation is available during and after Exposition on Thursday and Saturday, and by appointment.

**Fr Philip Marshall**  
philipfxmarshall@gmail.com  
**Fr Ian Wilson**  
Assisting Priest  
**St Francis de Sales College**, Ph 8393 1000

**Our Lady of Mercy Church**  
5 Mann Street, Mount Barker  
**The Good Shepherd Church**  
2 Chapel Street, Strathalbyn  
**St James the Less Church**  
24 Luck Street, Macclesfield

**Parish Office**  
7 Mann Street, Mt Barker SA 5251  
Michelle Muller, Parish Secretary  
Wed & Fri 9am-3pm Ph 8391 1053  
mbstparish@adam.com.au  
www.barkerstrathcatholic.com

**Ministry Coordinator, Strath**  
Sue Eckert Ph 0408 362 258  
**Child Safe Contact Persons**  
Michelle Muller Ph 8391 1053  
Teena Cobiac Ph 0499 172 740  
Child Abuse Report Line 13 14 78

## Please Pray For...

### Sick

Henk Daams, Alida van Dijk, Hans Egtberts, Gene Ferrarese, Blossom (Teresa) Ferrarese, Brian Fiora, Andrew Harms, Rosalie Jenner, Mieke (AnnaMarie) Jordans, David Neville, Helene Meijer, Geoff Gogler, Ashlee Lloyd, Helen Malin, Froilan Milan, Ailbe Sheehy, Gertrude Stolarski, David Thomas, Anthony, Alwyne & Mary Patricia Williams.

*Names are kept on the sick list for 4 weeks.*

### Recently Deceased

Paul Collins, Barb Collins, Faylene Fiona, Juan Gallano, Marites Angelos, Gerard Scully, Sandra May.

### Anniversaries

Veronica Allen, Luciano Antonio (Tony) Chiariri, Alfred Hird, Michael Lyons, Vincent Lyons, Veronica (Vonnice) Manser, Agnes Minnie Murphy, Frank Rogan, Cresencia San Juan, John McDonald, Meira Murphy, Charles Suter, Felicia Wells.

*Anniversaries from Saturday 16th to Friday 22nd September.*

## Parish Pastoral Council

*Supporting our parish community on our journey of faith.*

**Chair:** Neil McGoran (neil.mcgoran@cesa.catholic.edu.au)

**Ex Officio:** Father Philip Marshall, Father Ian Wilson.

**Members:** Stewart Chilcott, Teena Cobiac, Joanna Falkland, Mike Galea, Yesamma Hendry, Lijo Kurian, Sandra Lloyd, Jo Manalo, Leo Sexton, Jan Sobotta.

## Parish Finance Council

*For parish property, maintenance and finance matters.*

**Chair:** Julie Moran. **Ex Officio:** Father Philip. **Treasurer:**

John Barton. **Members:** Jacinda Jansen-Roberts, Michelle Muller, Peter Schaefer.

### Collections Last Week

<b>1st Collection</b> (supporting our priests)	<b>\$ 786.10</b>
<b>2nd Collection</b> (supporting the parish)	
Envelopes	\$ 1,390.00
Online and direct debit	\$ 735.00
Loose plate	\$ 550.40
<b>Total second collection</b>	<b>\$ 2,675.40</b>

*Thank you for supporting our parish and our priests.*

If you would like to give to the first and second collections via envelope, direct debit or credit card, please contact Michelle at the Parish Office, ph 8391 1053.

Information about how to leave a bequest can be found in the leaflet 'God loves a cheerful giver' in each church.

## Diary Dates This Week

18/09	Mon 9.45am	Arty Crafty Ladies	OLOM Foyer
19/09	Tue 3.30pm	CGS Level 3	Parish House
19/09	Tue 7.00pm	Pastoral Council	OLOM Foyer
21/09	Thu 10.30am	Christian Meditation	Parish House
21/09	Thu 4pm	CGS Levels 1&2	Parish House
21/09	Thu 7.30pm	Vigil Choir Practice	OLOM Church
22/09	Fri 12.30pm	CGS Levels 1&2	Parish House
24/09	Sun 10.15am	Sunday Readings	GS Hall
24/09	Sun 10.30am	Legion of Mary	Parish House

## Reflection on the Scripture Readings

During this time of pilgrimage, sinfulness in the life of the Church obscures the reality of our life in Christ – a common life that should be a sign of hope for struggling humanity. It is not without reason that we begin the Church's most solemn liturgies with an acknowledgement of our sinfulness. It should not surprise us, therefore, that the passage of Matthew's gospel from which we are reading - concerning our life in the Church - is in large part about problems associated with the sinfulness of members of the Church. Last Sunday's reading discussed the reconciliation of members guilty of public crimes destructive of the community. Today's reading concerns the forgiveness called for within the community at a personal level.

As was so often the case, Peter's impulsiveness gives rise to an important lesson. Peter has received a commission that involves considerable power in the life of the community of disciples. He thinks he is expressing what Jesus expects of him in the exercise of his authority. The question he puts to Jesus implies that he will be ready to forgive 'seven times'. His round number really hints at an indefinite readiness to forgive. Apparently, the scribes of the day taught that one was not obliged to forgive after the third or fourth time. But the response of Jesus declares that this vagueness is not enough: 'Not seven, but seventy seven times' - there should be no limit to our readiness to forgive! Perhaps, as we hear this gospel, we are tempted to think that it has little to do with us - because we have never faced up to the ill will and resentments we have towards other members of our community, and to the gossiping and factions these attitudes give rise to. Though these attitudes may not seem seriously sinful, they can be very damaging, making it impossible for our parishes to live the kind of life that leads others to share in our faith. Resentment and the vengeful spirit have been part of the human story since the beginning. Living in covenant with living God, and learning God's ways, old Israel came to accept that vengeance must be left to the Lord. For peoples who did not know the covenant, there was no limit to the spirit of revenge. In fact, the response of Jesus reminds us of this spirit, as expressed in book of Genesis, where Lamech boasts that he will exact 'vengeance seventy-seven fold' (Gen 4:24). Jesus is reminding us of his teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew's text, Jesus is remembered as teaching, 'Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect' (Mt 5:48). Because the meaning of the word, 'perfect', in the biblical tradition has not been properly understood, one contemporary Bible renders this verse, 'Set no bounds to your love, just as your heavenly Father sets none to his'. The parable of the unforgiving manager drives home this lesson. Clearly, the ruler's generosity brings to mind the generosity of God. The debt forgiven was a fantastic amount, defying the imagination of Jesus' audience, impossible to repay. We are invited to compare our unforgiving spirit with the boundless generosity of our God.

Let us examine our attitudes to others in our worshipping community. Have we failed to face up to our antagonisms, and tended to justify them by being judgmental of the attitudes of our fellow Christians? The great Church Father, John Chrysostom, has good advice for us as we examine our conscience. If we are not aware of our destructive attitudes we shall never grow up spiritually. On the other hand, he tells us, awareness of our own failings helps us to find the wisdom, gentleness and compassion that should be ours as true followers of the Saviour.

Fr John Thornhill SM

The Emmaus Series at [www.themmausseries.com](http://www.themmausseries.com)

## Question of the Week

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. (Matthew 18: 21-22)



**Adults:** When someone hurts you, are you more inclined to be just or to be merciful? **Young People:** When have you received forgiveness? When have you most offered it? **Children:** When have you forgiven someone who treated you unfairly?

## Prayer Support Partners

Parishioners are invited to become a Prayer Support Person / Family for the children who are preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation this year and Confirmation and First Holy Communion next year. You will be allocated a child and their family and asked to pray for them often, as they journey towards these celebrations.

If you are interested and would like more information or you would like to register your intent to become a Prayer Support Person/Family, please contact Sandra Lloyd 0438 987 420.

## Working Bee at the Good Shepherd

**Tuesday, 19th September, 10am to 12noon... Lunch after.**

Please come and do whatever you feel able to. Jobs include weeding, trimming, gutter cleaning, mulching, weed spraying etc. Bring own equipment and sign in before beginning work. Chris will have trailer. Soup and rolls provided. Susan.

## Catholic Charities Appeal 2023

**Help make a difference to the lives of South Australians.**

In the month of September we promote the Catholic Charities Appeal which supports the following agencies in South Australia: Hutt St Centre, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Centacare Catholic Family Services, Our Lady of La Vang and St Patrick's Special Schools. Please take a leaflet with you to find out more about the September Appeal. Donations can be made via the reply paid slip on the leaflet, online at [adelaide.goodgiving.com.au/qr/cc](http://adelaide.goodgiving.com.au/qr/cc) or click the QR code.



## Volunteers Wanted!

A small group of ladies provide homemade biscuits for morning or afternoon tea following a funeral held at Our Lady of Mercy church. 'Biscuits can be cooked anytime!' We would love to hear from you if you are willing to bake biscuits or help in the kitchen before or afterwards. Thank you. Contact Chris Harper 0407 970 729 or Jenny McEvoy 0413 399 284.

## Chad's Forum

**Is Australia a racist country?** Wednesday October 4 7:30pm at St Chad's Anglican, Cheltenham St Fullarton, SA. Speaker: Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky.

## Silent Retreat at The Monastery

Join us for some quiet, personal reflection on our silent retreat led by Fr Tony Edgar CP and Fr Pastor Mumburi CP. Commencing with dinner on Friday October 6 and concluding with breakfast on Thursday October 12. Contact The Monastery office on 8338 8700 or [conference@themonastery.net.au](mailto:conference@themonastery.net.au)

## COYYA World Youth Day Q&A

The World Youth Day fun hasn't stopped yet! Come along to a World Youth Day Q&A gathering to share and hear stories from pilgrims who went to WYD Lisbon and the local celebrations – Wednesday Sep 20th, 6pm at the Astor Hotel, 437 Pulteney St Adelaide. Meals and drinks will be available to purchase on the night. Register at: [www.trybooking.com/CLGHP](http://www.trybooking.com/CLGHP)

## One Humanity Charity Concert

On February 6 this year two earthquakes struck southern and central Turkey and northern and western Syria. The confirmed death toll is 50,783 in Turkey and 8,476 in Syria. A charity concert on **September 23** at Her Majesty's Theatre in Adelaide will raise funds for those affected by the devastating earthquakes. The concert will feature spectacular multicultural performances and will be hosted by Shanelle Franklin (presenter + podcaster) and George Donikian (former radio and television news presenter/personality). Tickets \$50 from the Ticketek Website or Adelaide Festival Centre Website This show is made possible by Adelaide Festival Centre, SA Govt, University of Adelaide, Pinnacle College, UNHCR, Australian Relief Organisation, Australian Migrant Resource Centre.

## Migrant and Refugee Sunday

You are invited to the Archdiocesan Migrant and Refugee Sunday – Multicultural Mass in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral at 2.30pm on Sunday 24th September. Pope Francis has chosen the theme, "Free to Choose Whether to Migrate or to Stay", for the 109th World Day of Migrant and Refugees.

## Kangaroo Island Parish Fundraiser

Adelaide Cathedral Parish invites you to a fundraiser for the Kangaroo Island Parish to watch the upcoming Hercule Poirot Film, *A Haunting in Venice*. There will be raffle prizes too. Tickets \$25 (inc. Movie, Choc Top, popcorn and bottle of water). September 24, 2pm at Regal Theatre, 275 Kensington Road, Kensington Park. Tickets: [www.trybooking.com/CKGCO](http://www.trybooking.com/CKGCO) or 8210 8155 or [acp@adelaide.catholic.org.au](mailto:acp@adelaide.catholic.org.au)

## Mothers and Christian Family Life Mass

In honour of St Gerard Majella (Patron of Mothers and Christian Families). Friday October 13 – Holy Rosary 6.30pm followed by Holy Mass at 7pm with 'Blessing of Expecting Mothers' at St Francis of Assisi Church, 59 Newton Road, Newton. After Mass veneration of St Gerard 1<sup>st</sup> class relic. Religious books, medals etc. will be on sale in the Church foyer.

## Safe Water September

Dirty, contaminated water is a leading cause of illness worldwide. Without proper sanitation, clean water and resources for good hygiene, sickness and disease spreads. People, particularly children, die from preventable, waterborne diseases. Without safe toilets or safe places to collect water, people are put at risk. Especially people who are already vulnerable, like women, girls and people with disabilities. But it doesn't have to be this way. Taking part in the Safe Water September challenge is a fantastic way to support lives in Zimbabwe, Vanuatu and Bangladesh. Challenge takers can drink only water for the month of September (meaning no tea, coffee, juice or anything that isn't plain water!). If you would like to donate please speak to Ruby (ph 0447 516 380), who is undertaking her third year of the challenge, or visit the website [safewaterseptember.org.au](http://safewaterseptember.org.au) and search for **Ruby Cobiac**.

# Sunday Readings

## FIRST READING SIRACH 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.

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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM 102:1-4, 9-12

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

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.**

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.**

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.**

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 ROMANS 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION JOHN 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:  
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL MATTHEW 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.

'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.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



**Next Week: Sep 24, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**  
***Why are you jealous because I am generous?***

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9, Psalm: 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18,  
Second: Philippians 1:20-24, 27, Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, Alleluia &  
Gospel verses, & Lenten Gospel Acclamation from  
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