

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.**

## COLLECT

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

## FIRST READING 27:30-28:7

*A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus*

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.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps102

### Response:

**The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.**

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 14:7-9

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.*

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

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life.**

**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL 18:21-35

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Peter went up to him 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.*

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord, and in your kindness accept these, your servants' offerings, that what each has

offered to the honour of your name may serve the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us. Through Christ our Lord.

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



How does Jesus model forgiveness? Did Jesus forgive those who crucified him? When and how did he forgive them? How do we forgive others, in word and deed?

Why should you be willing to forgive others when they have hurt you?

How do you feel when you have been hurt and the other person is not willing to apologize or ask for forgiveness? Does that mean you should maintain anger against that person?

When you have been hurt, do you have the right to retaliate? If you have been wronged and the person who hurt you apologizes, do you have the right to withhold forgiveness?

If you have wronged another person and you go to that person and ask for forgiveness, does that person have the right to withhold forgiveness? What is your response if that person refuses to forgive you?

What do you think is necessary for reconciliation to be honest?

## GOSPEL ACTION

Re-establish contact with someone with whom you once had a relationship that ended because of a wrong. Ask for forgiveness or offer to forgive.

## Readings – 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year A

**First Reading:** Isaiah 55:6-9

**Second Reading:** Philippians 1:20-24.27

**Gospel:** Matthew 20:1-16

## Homily

13<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time, Year A

### *'The Season of Creation'*

Dear friends, we are currently celebrating **The Season of Creation** which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4<sup>th</sup> October (the Feast of St Francis of Assisi). This ecumenical season is dedicated to prayer and action for the protection of creation. It is a time to renew our relationships with God our Creator, and with all creation, as we join together in prayer. We give thanks for all that God has made, repent for the damage that we have caused and commit ourselves to take action to protect the earth our common home. This year, more than ever, we have become acutely aware of how interconnected we all are, and so in this special season we come together in hope that we can rebuild and heal our world.

Pope Francis has invited us to participate in this special season, he said 'this is the season for letting our prayer be inspired anew,' a season 'to reflect on our lifestyles,' and a season 'for undertaking prophetic actions....calling for courageous decisions....directing the planet towards life, not death.'

We not long ago celebrated the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis' encyclical letter calling us to care for Our Common Home, the earth and indeed all of creation. As a parish we produced that wonderful video showcasing what we are doing collectively and individually and hopefully helping people reflect on two things: **Firstly** – the beauty of creation, God's special gift that is entrusted to all of us; and **Secondly** – our responsibility and response as stewards of creation who are called to look after and care for Our Common Home.

Remember during lockdown how blue the sky was, how beautifully the birds sang, how clear the air was; this was due to the lack of planes in the air and cars on the roads but also I think due to our being more attentive to creation around us.

In this Season of Creation especially we are called to be attentive to the beauty of God's creation and our responsibility, as stewards of creation, to look after and care for Our Common Home. Let's be good and faithful stewards and witnesses to others in our world; let's pray that the whole human family will work together to protect and care for Our Common Home.

God bless, **Fr Phil x**

**One final thought** – There are good prayer resources on the CAFOD website, perhaps this could also be a good opportunity to read *Laudato Si'*.

## **Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion**

**13<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time, Year A**

We bring all our prayers before our Heavenly Father:

For the Church and for Christians everywhere: may they share with others the gift of love and forgiveness they have received from God. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For our human family; may we learn to value God's Creation and care for and protect Our Common Home. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For true friendship in our world: may there be tolerance and mutual respect among people of all races, faiths and cultures. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the sick and all those who are struggling: may they know the comfort and peace of Christ's healing presence. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For our school communities; may this year be a good time of renewed learning, love and support of all. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For ourselves; may we encourage and support one another through lives of mutual love and service and may we be good and faithful stewards of creation. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For peace and reconciliation in our world. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed especially **Brian Fogg** who has died recently: **"Eternal rest grant upon them..."**

We ask Our Lady and all the Saints to join their prayers with ours as we say: **"Hail Mary..."**

God our loving Father,  
we offer you these and all our prayers  
through your Son who is Christ our Lord, **Amen**

## **Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion**

**13<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time, Year A**

### **Spiritual Communion**

*Prayer of St Alphonsus*

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.

I love you above all things and

I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

come spiritually into my soul

so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.

Amen.