

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN

CANBERRA INNER NORTH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY (CINCC)

PASTORED BY THE CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT (SSS)

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A | 12-13 SEPTEMBER 2026



LORD, HOW OFTEN SHALL I FORGIVE MY BROTHER?

BY DON SCHWAGER

www.dailyscripture.net

Does mercy overlook justice? Justice demands that everyone be given their due. So when is it right to show mercy and pardon to those who have acted unjustly or wrongly? The prophet Amos speaks of God forgiving transgression three times, but warns that God may not revoke punishment for the fourth (see Amos 1:3-13; 2:1-6). When Peter posed the question of forgiveness, he characteristically offered an answer he thought Jesus would be pleased with. Why not forgive seven times! How unthinkable for Jesus to counter with the proposition that one must forgive seventy times that.

Forgiving others is a sacred duty

If God has shown mercy to us in granting us pardon for our sins, then we, in turn, must show mercy and forgiveness towards every person who has offended us. The willingness to forgive those who offend us is a sacred duty. If we expect God to pardon us and show us his mercy when we sin and disobey his commandments, then we must be willing to let go of any resentment, grievance, or ill-will we feel towards our neighbor. Jesus teaches us to pray daily for the grace and strength to forgive others in the same measure in which God has forgiven us (Mt 6:12,14-15). If we do not show mercy and forgiveness to our fellow human beings, how can we expect God to forgive us in turn? The Apostle James says that "judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy" (Jas 2:13).

Mercy seasons justice and perfects it

Mercy is the flip-side of God's justice. Without mercy justice is cold, calculating, and even cruel. Mercy seasons justice as salt seasons meat and gives it flavour. Mercy follows justice and perfects it. Justice demands that the wrong be addressed. To show mercy without addressing the wrong and to pardon the unrepentant is not true mercy but license. C.S. Lewis, a 20th century Christian author wrote: "Mercy will flower only when it grows in the crannies of the rock of Justice: transplanted to the marshlands of mere Humanitarianism, it becomes a man-eating weed, all the more dangerous because it is still called by the same name as the mountain variety." If we want mercy shown to us we must be ready to forgive others from the heart as God has forgiven us. Do you hold any grudge or resentment towards anyone? Ask the Lord to purify your heart that you may show mercy and loving-kindness to all - and especially to those who cause you grief and ill-will.

C H U R C H E S

ST PATRICK, BRADDON

SUN	8:00 am	Mass
	10:00 am	German Mass (1st and 3rd Sundays of the month)
TUE-FRI	12:10 pm	Rosary
	12:30 pm	Mass
FRI	11:30 am -	Adoration &
	12:30 pm	Confession

ST BRIGID, DICKSON

SUN	9:30 am	Mass
	5:00 pm	Vietnamese Mass (1st and 3rd Sundays of the month)
		Maronite Mass (Last Sunday of the month)
TUE-SAT	8:40 am	Rosary
	9:00 am	Mass
WED	8:00 am -	Adoration
	11:00 am	
	5:00 pm -	Adoration
SAT	8:00 pm	
	9:30 am -	Adoration &
	10:00 am	Confession
	5:30 pm -	Confession
	6:00 pm	Vigil Mass

Healing Service takes place after the Mass on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

ST JOSEPH, O'CONNOR

SUN	8:30 am	Mass
TUE-FRI	8:15 am -	Adoration
	9:10 am	(Confession during Adoration every Friday.)
	9:15 am	Mass
SAT	8:15 am	Novena to Our Lady of the Perpetual Help
	8:30 am	Mass
	5:15 pm -	Confession
	5:45 pm	
	6:00 pm	Vigil Mass

Anointing of the Sick is within the Mass at 8:30 am every 1st Saturday of the month.

Recitation of the Rosary takes place after the 9:15 a.m. Mass, Tuesday to Friday.

ST THOMAS MORE, CAMPBELL

SUN	10:00 am	Mass
FRI	11:00 am -	Adoration
	11:45 am	
	11:45 am	Mass

Confession is every Friday, 11:00 am to 11:40 am. Anointing of the Sick takes place every 1st Sunday of the month at 11:15 am.

HOLY ROSARY | BLACKFRIARS, WATSON

SUN	9:30 am	Rosary
	10:00 am	Mass
	5:00 pm	Mass
TUE-FRI	5:30 pm	Mass
SAT	4:00 pm -	Confession
	4:30 pm	
	5:00 pm	Vigil Mass
FRI	6:00 pm -	Adoration
	7:00 pm	

READINGS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

cf. Sirach 36: 18

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.

FIRST READING

Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 102(103):1-4,9-12

R: The Lord is kind and merciful: slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

SECOND READING

Romans 14:7-9

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. 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

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.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

cf. Psalm 35:8

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

PRAYER INTENTIONS

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Aubrey, Ana Weta Waqabuli, Juanito Gatpandan, Eugenia Moranta, Gertrude Fletcher, Peter Evans, Barry Murphy, Margaret Sullivan

IN LOVING MEMORY

Bishop Pat Power, Wilfredo Baylin, Reynaldo Magada, Sylvia Mantinaos, Peg Butz, Eddie Pook, Christopher Castro, Erlinda Marquez, Sara Sabas, Peter Swan,

*"Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord, and let perpetual light shine
upon them. May the souls of the faithful
departed, through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. Amen.*



SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Val Malone, Peter Catlin, Yola Bier, Charlotte Crombie and family, Maggie Mc Keown, Dawn Boag, Mary Pidcock, Peter Bergin, Tony Anderson

*Prayer intentions will remain in the bulletin
for two weeks.*

- **Institute for Synodal Evangelisation's Fourth Formation Forum: "What Do We Believe?" – Tuesday, 15 September, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Venue: Haydon Hall, St Christopher's Pastoral Centre.** Online: us06web.zoom.us/j/87199525802 (Meeting ID: 871 9952 5802) | Cost: Free (registration required) | Register: tinyurl.com/35vs84jZ Enquiries: institute@cg.org.au.
- **112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) 2026 – Theme: "Even just one of these children"** <https://acmro.catholic.org.au/wdmr/2026>

CENTRAL CANBERRA, BRADDON & DICKSON

- **RCIA theme program this week theme is "The Incarnation" facilitated every Thursday at 6:00 pm. Venue: St Brigid's Parish Hall.** Adults who are interested about learning the Catholic Faith or desire to be Catholic may enlist themselves for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) by contacting our email innorth@cg.org.au
- **Altar Server Training at St Brigid's & St Patrick's.** St Brigid's and St Patrick's are seeking new altar servers. A three-night training course will be held on Mondays, 14 and 21 September at 6:30pm. Attendance at all sessions is required for induction and rostering. To register your interest, email Hugh at hajones1981@outlook.com.
- **Cana Youth (Years 7–12) – Saturday, 19 September, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm following the Vigil Mass. Venue: St Brigid's Parish Hall. Topic Night: Be a Disciple!**

ST JOSEPH, O'CONNOR

- **Sacrament of Confirmation – 8:30 am Sunday Mass, 13 September 2026.** The Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse during which 24 students from St Joseph's Primary School will receive the Sacrament. Let us keep them in our prayers.
- **Junior Schola Cantorum – Rehearsals every Saturday, 9:30 am.** Choral training for ages 8–16, preparing for the 2028 Eucharistic Congress in Sydney. Based on the Royal School of Church Music and Jubilate Deo programs. Morning tea provided. Register at: <https://linktr.ee/stjoseph.choristers>
- **Choral Vespers – Sunday, 20 September, 4:00 pm.** Join St. Joseph's Choristers for an hour of sacred choral music, featuring choral works by prominent Catholic composers William Byrd and James Moore, concluded with Benediction, followed by afternoon tea. Come and Sing Session at 3:00 pm RSVP here: <https://linktr.ee/stjoseph.choristers>
- **Children's Liturgy continues this term during the 8:30 am Mass until 20 September.** All children are welcome.
- **Term 4 Children's Liturgy will commence on 18 October.** We thank our wonderful volunteer leaders for their support of this important ministry. Please continue to keep our children and leaders in your prayers.
- **Unpacking the Short Saying of Jesus – Next Session: Thursday, 17 September.** For more information, contact Anna.Wierzbicka@anu.edu.au

BLACKFRIARS, WATSON

- **The Eucharist in the Life of the Church – The Eucharist and Devotion' with 'Thomas Aquinas on the Eucharist & Corpus Christi' – Mondays, 14, 21 & 28 September, 7:15 pm for 7:30 pm. Venue: Parish Centre.** Register at innorth@cg.org.au. For more information, contact Roger Paul at rpaul2572@gmail.com | <https://tinyurl.com/EucharisLifeChurch2026>
- **Ecumenical Creation Service – Sunday, 20 September, 9:30 am.** Join the Holy Roundabout churches for an Ecumenical Creation Service under the cherry tree at St Margaret's and Holy Cross, Hackett. This year's Season of Creation theme is "Living Water", focusing on hope and ecological healing. Morning tea follows; please bring a plate.
- **The Craft Group.** Offering friendship, company and cuppa on Wednesdays (except 3rd Wednesday) from mid-day in the parish centre. All welcome!
- **Scripture Reflection** for the following Sunday is held each Wednesday in the parish centre from 7:30 pm to 8.30 pm. All welcome.
- **ACU Noon Masses.** Starts with adoration at 11:15 am every Tuesday and Wednesday at the Signadou Chapel (during Semester period)
- **Cana Kids (Years 4–6) – Sunday, 20 September, from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm following the 10:00 am Mass.** Venue: Parish Centre.

FROM THE OFFICE

- **Cursillo 60th Anniversary Reunion, Saturday, 24 – Sunday 25 October, St Christopher's Parish Centre, Manuka.** To all who have participated in a Cursillo recently, or in the long-distant past, are invited to register and come along. Please register before 16 October. Contact acgcursillo@gmail.com More info and registration <https://tinyurl.com/cg60reunion>
- **Fatima Day Pilgrimage to Penrose Park Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy, led by Fr Emil Milat - Tuesday, 13 October.** The day includes the Rosary, Solemn Mass, Eucharistic Procession, and Confession. Return bus transport: \$55 pp. No refunds. For bookings and information: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1635863> or email wodensouth@cg.org.au.
- **ACU ALIVE BBQ & Praise Night – Young Adults.** Thursday, 10 September at 6:00 pm at the ACU Signadou Chapel.
- **Braddon Catholic Girls High School 50th Reunion Year 10 (1974) and Year 12 (1976) Saturday, 17 October at 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm.** Venue: Merici College, Wise St Braddon. Bookings are essential and tickets cost \$30. Book via Humantix by searching "Merici Alumni" then select the event "Class of 1974/1976 Reunion Braddon" RSVP by 1 October. Celebrations will continue from 7:30 pm at the Ainslie Football Club, 52 Wakefield Avenue Ainslie.

"Our Lord needs from us neither great deeds nor profound thoughts. Neither intelligence nor talents. He cherishes simplicity."

~Saint Therese of Lisieux



YOUR MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS COUNT A LOT...

First Collection

(Supporting all the priests of the Archdiocese)

A/C Name: **Central Presbytery Fund**, BSB: 062-786 and Bank Account: 00029248
Reference: Your parish location, name and intention (e.g., Campbell Smith 1st collect)

Second Collection

(Maintenance/upkeep of the Churches, staff salaries, liturgical needs, insurance, etc.)

~ **Central Canberra, Dickson & Braddon**: A/C Name **Canberra Central Parish**
BSB: 062-786, A/C: 00013150, Ref: Name & Giving Number

~ **St Joseph, O'Connor**: A/C Name: **St Joseph's Parish**
BSB: 062-786, A/C: 00012798, Ref: Name & Giving Number

~ **St Thomas More, Campbell**: A/C Name: **St Thomas More Parish**
BSB: 062-786, A/C: 00014869, Ref: Name & Giving Number

~ **Blackfriars, Watson**: A/C Name: **Blackfriars Parish Watson**
BSB: 062-786, A/C: 00013341, Ref: Name & Giving Number

Annual Father's Day Appeal for our Retired Priests.

The Appeal supports the 22 retired priests who have faithfully served our communities for many years. Please consider making a generous, tax-deductible donation. Donations can also be made online at www.cgatholic.org.au/donate. Thank you for your support.



PARISH SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

The CINCC is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of our children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people, to have a say, to be listened to, and to be protected. This approach is at the center of all of our thinking and action.

Parish Safeguarding Officers:

- **Central Canberra, Dickson & Braddon**: Barbara | CanberraCentral.Safeguarding@cg.org.au
- **St Joseph, O'Connor**: Noel | OConnor.Safeguarding@cg.org.au
- **St Thomas More, Campbell**: Margie | Campbell.Safeguarding@cg.org.au
- **Blackfriars, Watson**: Nicole | Watson.Safeguarding@cg.org.au

Please send any concerns or enquiries to the above parish email addresses. You may also contact Maria Hicks, Manager of the Institute of Professional Standards & Safeguarding (IPSS), at ipss@cg.org.au or 02 6239 9806.

CONNECT WITH US...

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Office Hours: Monday Closed
Tuesday to Friday: 9:00am–1:00 pm



"BE WHO YOU WERE MEANT TO BE
AND YOU WILL SET THE WORLD ON FIRE"
ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

The CINCC acknowledges the Ngunnawal people, the Traditional Owners who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.