

Father Paul writes 13th of September 2026



Today's bible readings deal with a subject which concerns us all – forgiveness. Our Old Testament reading reveals Joseph who was sold off as a slave by his brothers forgiving them, the psalm talks about the greatness of God's forgiveness. Then in the Gospel reading, Jesus provides a parable where a servant owed the King so much money that even if he worked forever, he would not be able to repay him. The King forgave the debt. Jesus asks us to forgive 'seventy times seven', which means forgiveness must be unlimited. To forgive someone who has hurt or offended us is never easy. Sometimes, it is extremely difficult. We need to pray for the gift of forgiveness. Unless we forgive, we will not be able to let go of the bitterness and resentment, and so will not know peace and healing. Only God can help us to accomplish it fully. We have the opportunity as we gather every time we worship to ask for forgiveness and to be absolved of our sins, so that we can move on knowing God's forgiveness. Forgiveness doesn't mean forgetting. It means remembering and letting go. Blessed are those who forgive; they shall obtain forgiveness for their sins.

New sets of planned giving envelopes are now available for those who use them week by week. The new sets of envelopes start on Sunday the 4th of October, so please let me know if you do use the envelopes and I will give you a new set. They are available also for anyone who would like to have them as well. Otherwise, we do encourage you to take up the direct debit system, by regularly giving through your bank. Our bank account details are found on the back page of the pew sheet. On Sunday the 4th October, we will celebrate the patron saint of the environment and animals, Francis of Assisi. As part of the celebration, I invite all pet owners to bring along their dogs, cats, guinea pigs or birds to be blessed as part of the 10 am service. We are all God's creatures and so we rightly bless them too. The Rev'd Deb Jeanes will be our preacher at both the 8 am and 10 am services.

My thanks to all who assisted in helping with the morning tea at Linden Park Primary School on Thursday. St Saviour's joined the Burnside City Uniting Church and the Austral Asian Community Church in providing morning tea to about 80 staff. They very much appreciated it. Thank you also for those who assisted and catered for Nettie Davidson's funeral. My particular thanks to Sue Lewis who coordinated the catering for both events, the morning tea and Nettie's funeral.

Your friend and priest,

Paul