

- ❖ **Nursing Anger:** The Book of Sirach, or Ecclesiasticus, was used to instruct new candidates for Baptism with all its wisdom lessons. Today, forgiveness is the theme.
[Q]: *Are you nursing anger or resentment? What behaviour is this causing? Do you want to change?*
- ❖ **Remember the Covenant:** Breaking the habit of bitterness takes courage and humility. We are asked to humbly remember the covenant of the Most High – the forgiveness of our sins on the Cross. When we remember and receive that we are loved and forgiven, we are able to respond with love and forgiveness.
[Q]: *Where does the covenant forgiveness journey lead you at the moment?*
- ❖ **Difference or Division?** We hear St Paul's Letter to the Romans for the last time this Sunday. Tensions existed between Jews, who kept laws and customs faithfully, and Gentiles, who felt no obligation toward the laws of the Jews.
[Q]: *Do you identify with a particular group in the church? What barriers or ill feeling exist toward others not in your group? Are you able to listen and grow with people who are different from you? Is your influence fostering division or unity?*
- ❖ **Extravagant Forgiveness:** Encouraged by the previous Gospel episode of forgiveness, Peter asks Jesus precisely how generous does one have to be toward someone who has sinned. Rabbis taught three times. Peter suggests a large and generous amount using the perfect number 7. Jesus pronounces an extravagant amount: 77 (double perfection!). Strict justice gives legal prescriptions and punishments, but Jesus invites disciples to be overwhelmed by God's love and mercy.
[Q]: *Where does the punishment vs forgiveness challenge touch your life at the moment? What would it look like to move from 7 to 77 with yourself / with others?*
- ❖ **Challenged to Change:** 10,000 talents is the largest number in Jewish arithmetic. The word 'talent' is Greek for a weight of metal; the largest unit of measurement. One talent was the equivalent of 15 years of the average wage. 10,000 talents is equal to our phrase 'billions of dollars'. It is beyond repayable. Strikingly it is forgiven. This same servant then refuses to forgive someone owing him \$100. He is unmoved by the extraordinary forgiveness he received.
[Q]: *What feeling do you experience when you read this parable? Can you see yourself in the one forgiven? Do you let God's forgiveness on the Cross change you?*
- ❖ **Parables of Subversion:** A parable is a story that holds a seed of subversion; its purpose is to challenge and change established patterns. The King in this parable offers extravagant forgiveness, while the full meaning indicates that the receiver is expected to pay it forward and forgive in turn. This is suddenly dangerous and unexpected; the parable catches us with a challenge to change and our own eternal destiny. Allow some time to wrestle with this parable and listen to where it may lead you.

With today's change in mass time to 10:30 a.m., we start a new page in our shared life. As I keep hearing, change is never easy. I agree but I also know that change is a constant. Whether we like it or not, it happens. I learnt this from my father, who was a great believer in the principle of the inevitably and benefit of change when approaching business. Dad's basic line was simple – 'change or die'. As a religious, I learnt from my Province that it is better to work for the change we choose, rather than just have change happen to us, change that we may never want or choose.

I would then offer that we may take this change in time as an opportunity to reflect on our life in a rapidly changing world. On general reflection, I assure you that we do not assume change just for the sake of change, nor is all change good. We so readily see this in our world.

Change calls us to readjust, to step out of our routine, to leave our comfort zone. It is a call to start afresh, which, by the way, is a constant call in the Christian life. In this Season of Creation, Pope Leo calls us to renew our hearts, to conversion, to work for needed change and reform to structures in our world. While rooted in the realities of our world, to which we respond, with the aim of building up our world in the light of the Gospel, our journey is primarily a spiritual one; one that knows life is not about continual smooth sailing. Rather we are called to ask ourselves the hard questions, the questions that truly challenge us, that engage us more fully in the struggle of life.

We were recently opened up to the life of one of our forebears in faith – Bishop Barthélémy Bruguière (1792 –1835). He died trying to reach his mission as leader of the newly formed Church in Korea. Thus, in 1832, he left Siam, where he was already Co-adjutor Vicar Apostolic, ministering at our Assumption Cathedral, to undertake the most difficult and dangerous journey of getting to his mission in Korea. This journey may have killed him, but he never stopped walking towards his goal in spreading the Gospel.

I was impressed to read of Bishop Bruguière's unbeatable courage in the face of numerous and harsh difficulties arising during his journey to Korea. His approach was down to earth and simple, summed up by one line: "There is no known path at all. I have to pave a way."

This is mirrored in the preaching of St Augustine, who said:

"You must be dissatisfied with the way you are now if you ever want to get to where you are not yet. When you are self-satisfied, you get stuck where you are. If you say to yourself, 'That's enough; I need not go farther,' it is then that you die. Keep on walking, don't stop on the road, don't turn around and go back. Especially don't wander off the road by turning away from Christ. A lame man limping along the road goes farther towards God than a sprinter running off the road." - **Sermon 169**

Enjoy the journey! – John P Murray osa



CALENDAR

Monday

September 14
*The Exaltation
of the Holy Cross*
Nm 21:4b-9
Phil 2:6-11
Jn 3:13-17

Tuesday

September 15
Our Lady of Sorrows
1 Cor 12:12-14,
27-31a
Jn 19:25-27 or
Lk 2:33-35

Wednesday

September 16
*Sts. Cornelius,
Pope, and Cyprian,
Bishop, Martyrs*
1 Cor 12:31-13:13
Lk 7:31-35

Thursday

September 17
Weekday
1 Cor 15:1-11
Lk 7:36-50

Friday

September 18
Weekday
1 Cor 15:12-20
Lk 8:1-3

Saturday

September 19
Weekday
1 Cor 15:35-37,
42-49
Lk 8:4-15

Sunday

September 20
*Twenty-fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*
Is 55:6-9
Phil 1:20c-24, 27a
Mt 20:1-16a

PRAYER SEEKING
THE INTERCESSION OF
THE EIGHT BLESSED MARTYRS
OF THAILAND
AND THEIR CANONISATION

Almighty God, You called the eight Blessed Martyrs of Thailand to serve our Lord Jesus Christ, as priest, religious and lay people, laity leading as young disciples, and as a catechist. These eight Blessed Martyrs responded faithfully to Your call, dedicating themselves to Your redemptive mission for all. For the sake of this mission and their faith in You, they followed Your Son, Jesus Christ, in sacrificing their lives.

May the example of these eight Blessed Martyrs of Thailand inspire us to live our Christian faith today in the Catholic Church, ever giving witness to that faith in our daily life.

According to Your will, we pray that Your servants, the eight Blessed Martyrs of Thailand, may be canonised. We ask this as we seek to strengthen our own faith. So, if it is Your will, bless us with their canonisation, thus giving glory to Your Name.

Through the intercession of the eight Blessed Martyrs of Thailand, grant what we now humbly request in prayer (*take a silent moment*). **Amen.**

Leader: The eight Blessed Martyrs of Thailand
Response: Pray for us

Our website:
www.assumptioncathedralbkk.org

ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL

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PASTOR:

Rev. Ignatius Adisak Somsaengsuang

ASSISTANTS:

Rev. Peter Somphop Ruengwuthichanapuech
Rev. Peter Kittisak Kitsamret

MASS SCHEDULE:

Mon-Fri : Thai 06:00 hrs.
Sat : Thai 06:00; 17:00 novena followed by
mass
Sun : Thai 07:00; 08:30 and 17:00 hrs.
English 10:30 hrs.

BAPTISM:

Thai : **First Sunday** during 8:30 am mass.
English : **Second Sunday** during 10:00 am
mass.

CONFESSION:

Sundays : Before all masses (Thai).
English before 10:00 am mass.

CATHOLIC CENTER:

For religious articles, please visit the center opposite
the entrance of the Cathedral.

Opening Hours:

Mon-Fri : 08:30 – 17:00 hrs.
Sat & Sun : 08:30 – noon
Public holidays : Closed

Good News!

September 13, 2026

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sirach 27:30—28:7 / Romans 14:7–9 / Matthew
18:21–35

THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

As we hear today’s Gospel of the servant whose enormous debt is forgiven, yet who refuses mercy to a fellow servant owing far less, we cannot help but ask: how can this be? This is the first question that comes to mind. How could a person be forgiven so much and then, just a few minutes later, refuse to forgive something inconsequential in comparison? Selfishness doesn’t really explain it. Being so full of oneself doesn’t explain it. Being completely dense and obtuse is perhaps closer to the truth, but even that explanation comes up short.

The truth is that the exaggeration of the debt is secondary to the story. What is essential to the story is the invitation to reflect on what it means to be a human being. It is to acknowledge that, when all is said and done, everyone owes a huge debt. No one is exempt from gratitude. An honest acceptance of who we are—completely and totally dependent on God who created us—is the core truth. To be so disconnected from this truth as to not recognize one’s own dependence and be completely unaware of the need to be grateful—that is the real challenge the story considers. •

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY: UBI CARITAS (No. 500)

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS PLEASE STAND

Priest: Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY (No. 263)

PLEASE KNEEL

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (No. 264)

DOXOLOGY PLEASE STAND

Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

GREAT AMEN (No. 387)

COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (No. 387)

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil; graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

LAMB OF GOD (No. 390)

PLEASE KNEEL

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION: AMAZING GRACE (No. 645)

FINAL: MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE (No. 721) PLEASE STAND

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

Sunday, 13 September 2026

ENTRANCE: THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY (No. 644) PLEASE STAND

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Priest: I confess to almighty God,

All: and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do;

– and, striking their breast, they say –

Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

Therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: **Amen.**

KYRIE, ELEISON / LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kýrie, eléison,(2). Christe, eléison, (2). Kýrie, eléison, (2).

GLORY TO GOD

Refrain: Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, on earth peace to people of good will.

- 1. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.**
- 2. Lord, Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayers; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.**
- 3. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. (R)**

FIRST READING: Sir 27:30—28:9

A reading from the Book of Sirach:

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the LORD? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins? Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember

death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 103: THE LORD IS KIND AND MERCIFUL



- 1. Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. (R)
- 2. He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills.
He redeems your life from destruction,
crowns you with kindness and compassion. (R)
- 3. He will not always chide, nor does he keep his wrath forever.
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes. (R)
- 4. For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us.
(R)

SECOND READING: Rom 14:7-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ALLELUIA PLEASE STAND

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (Repeat)

**All: I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:
love one another as I have loved you.**

GOSPEL: Mt 18:21-35

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the Good News according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, Lord.

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven

times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PLEASE BE SEATED

THE APOSTLES' CREED PLEASE STAND

Priest: I believe in God,

All: the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**RESPONSE TO THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:
"In your compassion, hear our prayers."**

PLEASE BE SEATED

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST