

# Sunday Message

24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## THE WORD

Year A • 17 September 2023 • Psalter Week 4



### FORGIVE WITHOUT LIMIT

MATTHEW 18:21-35

Peter and his companions must have got a terrible shock. Peter has just asked Jesus how many times should he forgive someone. Would seven times be enough? According to Jewish tradition, God forgives three times and punishes on the fourth. Since human beings could not be more forgiving than God, forgiveness was, therefore, limited to three times.

Peter must have thought that to forgive someone seven times was being more than generous since it went way beyond what Jewish tradition taught. And certainly, to a reasonable person, seven times seems very generous indeed.

But Jesus says it is not generous enough. The Christian must forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven. In other words, Jesus is saying that the Christian must never stop forgiving. There must be no limit to our mercy and forgiveness.

Mercy, Pope Francis reminds us in his letter *Gaudete et Exsultate*, is the fulfilment of the golden rule: "In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you."

"Giving and forgiving," explains Pope Francis, "means reproducing in our lives some small measure of God's perfection, which gives and forgives superabundantly."

Note the word 'superabundant.' The bigness of it, the extraordinary excess of it, the extravagant nature of it. God gives and forgives superabundantly. God gives and forgives without limit. God's mercy abounds and expands like the universe.

That's how we are called to live. To forgive - not once, not twice, not even 70 times - but today and tomorrow and everyday. To show mercy - not occasionally, not when we feel like it, not when we're coaxed or coerced into doing it, but today and tomorrow and everyday.

As Christians, we must always seek to forgive and to be forgiven. ■

## PRAY

To forgive someone who has hurt us or betrayed us badly can be very difficult. Pray for the strength always to try to forgive.

## LEARN

Forgiveness is at the heart of Jesus' message.

For the follower of Jesus, there can be no limit to mercy and forgiveness.

Forgiveness sets us free.

## SAY

**"The Lord is compassion and love."**



## DO

Confession is the wonderful celebration of God's forgiveness, which sets us free. How long is it since you have been to confession? Perhaps you could consider going this week.

## REFLECT

It took Gary Ridgway nearly 20 years to be brought to justice. Ridgway, from Seattle in the USA, was a serial killer who told police he was missing the part of humanity that makes people care about others.

By the time he was caught, he had murdered at least 49 women, including a 16-year-old called Linda Rule. For years Linda's father, Robert, and her family sought justice for Linda. Finally, in 2003, Ridgway was arrested.

In court, Ridgway remained cold and without remorse. One by one, his victims' loved ones spoke from their hearts, expressing their contempt for the killer sitting before them. The courtroom was full of anger and pain,

understandably so. But the bespectacled Ridgway sat unmoved. The judge lambasted him for his "complete absence of compassion."

Then it was Robert Rule's turn to address the court. Rule was old by now; he worked as a Santa at a shopping centre and he looked the part. Plump, with a big white beard, he wore a pair of brightly coloured braces for his day in court. While family members of other victims had sobbed or screamed or wished death on Ridgway, Rule was composed as he faced his daughter's killer. What he said surprised everyone, including the cold-hearted murderer.

"Mr Ridgway, um," he began, "there are people here who hate you. I'm not one of them. I forgive you for what you've done.

You've made it difficult to live up to what I believe, and that is what God says to do, and that's to forgive. And he doesn't say to forgive just certain people. He says to forgive all. So you are forgiven, sir."

As the father spoke, Ridgway's chin began to quiver. He blinked rapidly. He started to weep. And then he took off his glasses to wipe the tears. Robert Rule's words of forgiveness got to Gary Ridgway's heart in a way no other words could.

That's the power of forgiveness. As Robert Rule demonstrated, and as Gary Ridgway discovered, forgiveness sets us free. ■





HASLEMERE  
HINDHEAD  
CHIDDINGFOLD

# Parish Bulletin

## “Evangelii Gaudium”

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday calls us to be joyous in proclaiming our faith. “Evangelii Gaudium” is Latin for “Joy of the Gospel”. The day supports the work carried out by the Mission Directorate on behalf of the Bishops’ Conference.

A key focus of work for the next few years is responding to Pope Francis’ calling of a Jubilee Year in 2025 with the theme Pilgrims of Hope. The Holy Father has invited the whole Church to prepare for the Jubilee in the two years prior through:

Reflecting on the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council in 2023.

Deepening our prayer life, with a special focus on the Lord’s Prayer, in 2024.

To support the Church in England and Wales in this important initiative the Mission Directorate has produced a series of videos on the four Constitutions which reflect on the Liturgy, the Word of God, the Church and on its role in the modern world.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/evangelii-gaudium-sunday>

A range of resources are being prepared for the Year of Prayer in 2024 which include a course on the Lord’s Prayer from small groups for Lent, encouragement to try different ways of praying from the tradition of the Church. The Mission Directorate will be supporting the Jubilee co-ordinator appointed by each diocese.

Please support the Mission Directorate through prayer and giving to the second collection. However much you give, big or small, it will go directly to support this important work to bring the joy of the Gospel to all.

## A parish update

Diane our parish secretary will carry on with her work in the meeting room above the Parish Hall for one more week or so.

Fr Rajesh

## Fair Trade Luxury Hamper Raffle

We are going to hold a Fair Trade Luxury Hamper Raffle to raise funds for a protective fence around the planned Parish Allotment from deer, which will be raffled on September 24th!

## First Holy Communion

The First Holy Communion programme for 2023-24. The 1st session will be on the Sunday **1st of October** at 10:00 am in Our Lady of Lourdes church parish hall. **If you have not yet enrolled your child’s name then please do so soon.**

## New Mass Setting

At Our Lady of Lourdes we are starting to learn a new

mass setting - Mass of New Hope which has been composed by parishioner and choir member Audrey Podmore. We will be singing the Kyrie and Alleluia from this setting throughout September, building up to the complete mass over the next few months.

## St Anselms

Unfortunately there will be no Wine and Nibbles at St Anselms in September.

## Safety of Lone Workers

Are you sometimes a ‘lone worker’ in the Parish, for example, cleaning or flower arranging in any of the churches? If so, in order to comply with health and safety rules, please could you let another person know where you will be, what you are doing and when you anticipate completing your work. This is for your own safety and welfare.

## Mary’s Meals

Don’t forget to get your foreign currency ready!!

On **Sunday 1st October** we will be asking for everyone’s spare foreign coinage in support of the charity Mary’s Meals.

Mary’s Meals would like to invite you to collect all your foreign currency\* no matter how old or obscure. On the weekend of 23rd/24th September there will be envelopes at the back of church for you to take home and put all your foreign coins and notes into. Clear out your drawers and have a look under the sofa. Currently the charity feeds over 2.4 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education – by giving Mary’s Meals your foreign coins and notes you can help feed the next hungry child.

Mary’s Meals feeds in over 18 countries. Because of our low costs we can do this for as little as £19.15 per child per year!

\*We will also take UK coins/notes that aren’t legal tender.

## Repository at Our Lady of Lourdes

The shop will now usually be open every Sunday following the 11am Mass. We have cards and gifts for all occasions, do come and browse. You don’t need cash as we can now take electronic payments!

## 100 Club

Thank you to all members of the 100 Club for their continued membership.

The 100 Club is one of the main ways in which the whole Parish can continue to raise money on a regular basis for charitable donations. The cost of one ticket is £5 per month but you can have more than one ticket plus there is a chance of winning a cash prize, £150, £100 & £50.

If you are interested in joining the 100 Club forms are available at the back of the Church and these can be

passed to Fr Rajesh or contact The Parish Office.

## September Jubilarians

Barbara Munro Thomson, Yoong Kwan, Stuart Broughton, Catherine Annunziata, Maricel D'cruze, Mary Smith, Katherine Theobald, Ajish Chacko, Reena Affos, Nick Hughes, Kathleen Hudnott, Nathan D'cruze and Michael Leigh.

## Parish Census

If you have still not completed the Parish Census forms can be found at the back of all our churches. Even if you are already on the Parish Database we would be grateful if you would fill in the new form. Please note that the information asked for on the Census Form will be very limited and for Parish use only.

## Are you divorced or separated?

'Who Cares? We Do' Restored Lives Session, 7 October at St Joseph's Church, Dorking, RH4 3DL. A free support group for people going through divorce and separation. This self-help group is run by others who have experienced this loss and change in their lives and are on a recovery journey. The group meet monthly in various locations in West Sussex and Surrey. For more information [contact the Who Cares team](#)

## The Bible

A Quick Journey through the Bible - free study course at St Augustine's Abbey, Chilworth, Guildford – Saturday 23 September - no need to book. A new Chilworth Abbey

Study Morning is starting at the living Benedictine monastery of St Augustine's Abbey. It's led by Fr John Seddon OSB and will focus on Part 1 of Jeff Cavin's 'A Quick Journey through the Bible'. Catholic Holy Mass with Chilworth's Benedictine monks is at 9am followed by Video and Talks from 10.30am-12.15pm. Bring a friend if possible. Visit the monks online :

<http://www.chilworthbenedictines.com>

## Donation by QR Code

You can give to our parish (including any current appeals) by using the Digital Plate, our [Parish Website](#) also by using the QR Code which is displayed at all our churches and below.



Please be aware that the ramp door that allows access for daily private prayer at Our Lady of Lourdes from **9am to 4pm** locks automatically. Please exit by **4pm**

## Second Collection

**This Weekend**

**Home Missions Sunday**

## Please pray for:

**The sick:** Hazel O'Flynn, Joan Shaw, Abigail Stafford Johnson, Livy Miller, Louise Reeve, Patricia Reidy, Linda Donald, Tish Watkinson, Liz Jupp, Jo Allen, Jane Adolph, Carmel & Roland Murray, Teresa Marshall, Alberto Costantini, Sebastian Codlin, and Betty Harding.

**The Deceased:** Doreen Joan Cripps, Anne McDonald, Danny McNally, Joan Boyle, Stuart Quinnell, Jack Kerrigan and Eileen Mary Ellis.

## Mass Schedule & Intentions

### Sunday 17th Sept — TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6pm (Sat)	SA	All Parishioners
9.30am	HX	
9.00am	ST	
11.00 am	OLL	John Pope RIP

### Monday 18th Sept — Feria in Ordinary Time, Week 24

11.30am	HX	
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### Tuesday 19th Sept — Feria in Ordinary Time, Week 24

11.30am	HX	
10am	SA	

### Wednesday 20th Sept — St Andrew Kim Taegon

9.30am	HX	
10am	ST	Franco Russo RIP

### Thursday 21st Sept – St Matthew

9.30	HX	
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### Friday 22nd Sept – Feria in Ordinary Time, Week 24

10am	OLL	
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### Saturday 23rd Sept – St Pius of Peitrelcina 'Padre Pio'

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### Sunday 24th Sept — TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6pm (Sat)	SA	All Parishioners
9.00am	ST	
9.30am	HX	
11.00 am	OLL	Michael Fleming RIP

Confession on Saturdays by appointment, tel.: 01428 643877



**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.

**GLORIA**

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

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

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 prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

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.  
Amen.

**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,  
God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING** Ecclesiasticus 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.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalms 102

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**

Roman 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.

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew.

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.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**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.  
Amen.

**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.  
Amen.