



The Parish of the Holy Spirit - *Te Wairua Tapu*

Archdiocese of Wellington

41 Britannia Street, Petone 5012 P.O. Box 33143 - New Zealand

Date: 13th September 2020

Reflection on 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Why It's So Hard to Forgive

Why do we find it hard to forgive others even though that is the only way to anchor God's forgiveness? I think the reason is because we fail to appreciate and celebrate our own forgiveness. Like the ungrateful servant in the parable, we focus on the 100 denarii our neighbour owes us rather than the 10,000 talents we owe to God, which God has graciously cancelled. Let us think about this in a mathematical perspective. A denarius is a labourer's daily wage. So his fellow servant owed him 100 days' pay, which could be paid back in a couple of months. However, this same servant owed his master 10,000 talents. A talent was equal to 6,000 denarii. So he owed his master the equivalent of 60,000,000 denarii. For a labourer working 5 days a week, 50 weeks a year, it would take 280,000 years to raise that kind of money. This figure shows that the servant owed his master so much that there was absolutely no way he could ever hope to repay that.

This is symbolic of the debt each of us owes God through sin; a debt we could never ever hope to repay even if we spent our whole life in sackcloth and ashes. Not even the combined penitence of all humankind suffices to blot out a single sin. But Gods' infinite mercy sent Gods' own Son to die on the cross and take away our sins. And all He asks of us is to be grateful; to realise that He has done for us so much more than we could ever be required to do for our neighbour.

If we find ourselves in the club of those who find it so hard to forgive other people, chances are that we have not come to appreciate and celebrate enough the immeasurable forgiveness that we ourselves have received from God. So, let us pray today for a deeper appreciation of the amazing love that God has shown us in Christ. It is this awareness that will make it easier for us to let others off the hook for their relatively minor offences against us.

Fr. Marlon

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

Please remember these and other sick people of the Parish in your prayers:

Lena Barnao, Brother James, Pat Lee, Bob & Noeleen Marshall, Joan Hall, Michael & Anne Wheeler, Rosa Marie Santos, Lie Perez, Margaret Tinney, Helapia Teofilo, Tim Heath, Helen Thomson, Margaret Smith, Monty Garrick, Eileen Dellabarca, Mary Fagan, Niamh Quinn, Niko Perez, Valelia Lafaele, Etuale Perez, Bill S, Matalena Lemoto.

If you know of anyone who is confined to their home or who needs a visit with Holy Communion, please advise the Parish Office (971.7885)

ANNIVERSARIES:

We remember and pray at all Masses for our loved family members, friends and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time.



August - David Corderoy, Barry Rush, Milly Sukroo, Lesley Buckley, John Hardie, Tony Ryan, Stephen Morrissey, John Balmer, Gwendoline McNamara, Mona Hobbs, Eric Foote, Denis Lennane, Kath Theobald, Eunice Clarke, Denis Horgan.

September – William Elstone, Niam Lam Nuan Pau, Mons Norm Pettit, Moira Whittington, Len Denis, Anthony Noaro, John Hall, Kay & Max Wedde, Margaret Roughan, Henry Nissanka, Thomas Doherty, Paul Hegedus, Gordon Sinclair, Sophie Archer, Thomas Morrissey, Andrew Haughey, Phyllis Fitzgerald, Gwenyth Dunford, Tom Moran, Thelma Lowe, Ken Barwell, Josef Krummenacher, Maurice Tansey.

May they rest in God's eternal peace.

Notices

“The Pastoral Teams of *Te Wairua Tapu* and *Te Awakairangi*, at the suggestion of Cardinal John, met on 20 August at Pa Maria, Thorndon, for an afternoon of prayer and discernment in regards the Parish Consultations. Fr Brian Cummings, SM, facilitated the afternoon, and the Teams will continue to prayerfully consider the implications of the consultations over the month before meeting again. Please keep our Pastoral Teams in your prayers.”

BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

The next Baptism preparation session will be held on Thursday 1st October (first Thursday of the month) in the Petone Presbytery Meeting Room, 41 Britannia St. Petone (back of Sacred Heart Church) 7:00pm. Parents wishing to have their child baptized are invited to attend. If you wish to attend the session please register by contacting the Parish Office at 971 7885.

END OF LIFE CHOICE ACT REFERENDUM

Be informed about the End of Life Choice Act Referendum:

- The End of Life Choice Act is not an option of ‘last resort’. It will not just apply to the ‘exceptionally difficult cases’. It does not require that a person first make use of available treatments or counselling, nor that they first receive palliative care. A person does not need to be in physical pain.
- If euthanasia becomes legal in NZ, people will access it because they think they lack other choices. Even though quality palliative care is effective, there is no corresponding legal right to access palliative care. Under current law, people can already say ‘no’ to treatments and can receive whatever level of pain relief they need. These days, no-one need die in pain.

The EOLC Act is badly drafted and seriously flawed. Whatever one's views about the idea of euthanasia, it is not ‘compassion’ to vote for a dangerous law.

See www.riskylaw.nz or www.votesafe.nz or www.carealliance.org.nz or www.nathaniel.org.nz

Authorised by John Kleinsman, 15 Guildford Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington