

ST PATRICK'S, ST JOHN VIANNEY'S, STELLA MARIS & ST JOSEPH'S

Partnered Parishes of Mentone-Parkdale and Ricketts Point (Beaumaris & Black Rock)

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 13th September 2026

St Patrick's, 10 Rogers St, Mentone

St John Vianney's, Cnr Warren Rd & Brisbane Tce, Parkdale

Stella Maris, 2 Charlotte Rd, Beaumaris

St Joseph's, 542 Balcombe Rd, Black Rock

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm (*Mentone*)

Sunday: 8:00am (*Black Rock*)

Sunday: 9:00am (*Parkdale*)

Sunday: 10:30am (*Beaumaris*)

Sunday: 11:00am (*Mentone*)

Sunday: 5:00pm (*Mentone*)

Today's Gospel of the parable of the unforgiving servant presents one of the most beautiful teachings of Jesus, yet also one of the most challenging – that there must be no end to our forgiveness of others, if we want God to grant the same unmeasured forgiveness to us.

Every time we pray the 'Our Father', as Jesus taught us, we ask for God to apply the same standard to us as we have applied to others. Very daunting! Yet maybe we make things unnecessarily hard for ourselves, by having exaggerated or wrong ideas of what forgiveness entails.

(1) First, it is helpful to distinguish *forgiving*, in the strict sense, from *excusing*. Someone has an *excuse* when there are factors in the situation such that what they did was not actually wrong at all; or at least, they were not really to blame (or not fully) because they lacked relevant knowledge or were not free in their choice. But to the extent that someone genuinely has an excuse, they do not need *forgiveness* in the strict sense of the term.

Language is not black-and-white, and sometimes the word 'forgive' might indeed be used in a broader sense that also includes excusing. Jesus, forgiving on the cross those who were putting him to death, expressed this in terms of partially excusing them: 'Father, forgive them, *for they do not know what they are doing*.'

Certainly, we should look out for where there might be genuine excuses for the other person's action that caused us harm. Yet forgiveness, in a stricter sense of the term, is precisely for when *there is no excuse*. What it means is that we are still willing, not only to reject revenge, but to release the other person, in whole or part, from what would have been the just consequences of their blameworthy action.

This shows the error of someone saying, 'I can't forgive what they did. It was *inexcusable*.' They think of forgiveness *only* in terms of finding an excuse for the other, and when this is found not to exist, forgiveness is considered literally impossible.

Similarly, sometimes people are indignant at the Christian teaching of forgiveness, or of the possibility of divine forgiveness being offered to some criminal, perhaps because they think that Christians are *excusing* the crime and saying it was not so very wrong in the first place; or perhaps because they think genuine forgiveness of what is inexcusable is actually wrong, or simply impossible. (Maybe this gives us a deeper sense of how, when we say in the Creed that we believe in 'the forgiveness of sins', in a way we are professing an amazing mystery beyond human comprehension, like the Trinity.)

So: forgiveness does *not* mean pretending that what the other person did was not wrong in the first place, or constructing totally fictitious excuses for them. Such pretence is not virtuous, since genuine virtue is always in harmony with truth and reality.

(2) Second, forgiveness is not *primarily* a feeling. We do not have full control over our emotions, and so are not fully responsible for them. Rather, forgiveness is, above all, a *choice* of the free will – even in the face of contrary emotions. It is the choice to continue loving, to continue willing the good of the other person; and the choice to release them [*to the extent this is truly a good thing – see below*] from the just consequences of their wrongful act.

As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us (n. 2843): 'It is not in our power not to feel or

[continued p. 4]

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Justin Ford **Assistant Priest:** Rev Fr Joseph Nguyen

Presbytery: 10 Rogers St, Mentone 3194 **Office:** 3 Mitchell St, Mentone 3194 **Office hours:** 9am-5pm (Mon, Tues and Thurs)

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WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon 14th Sept	NO MONDAY MASSES UNTIL 12 OCTOBER
Tue 15th Sept	Our Lady of Sorrows 9:15am (<i>Mentone</i>)
Wed 16th Sept	Saints Cornelius & Cyprian 9:15am (<i>Mentone & Black Rock</i>)
Thu 17th Sept	9:15am (<i>Mentone & Beaumaris</i>)
Fri 18th Sept	9:15am (<i>Mentone & Black Rock</i>)
Sat 19th Sept	9:15am (<i>Beaumaris</i>) NO SATURDAY MORNING MASSES AT MENTONE UNTIL 10 OCTOBER

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
at **St Patrick's Mentone** every Friday
following 9:15am Mass until 4:30 Benediction.

Exposition at Stella Maris Beaumaris
every Saturday 9:45-10:15am.

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

Wednesdays following 9:15am Mass (*Mentone*),
Saturdays following 9:15am Mass
(*Beaumaris*) and at 5:15pm (*Mentone*).

NO SATURDAY MORNING CONFESSIONS AT MENTONE UNTIL 10 OCTOBER

Recently Deceased: Ann Boyle, Joan Carmody

Anniversaries: Antonio De Angelis,
Cesar Diaz, Henryk Weber, Frank Quinn,
Clive Pereira, Mary Carroll, Ronnie Carroll,
Bridgie Heffernan, Jack Carroll, Lis Freeman,
John Lucian Wickremeratne,

We pray for those who are sick: Nick Bond,
Vern Morgan, Ching Price, Francis Archer,
Janis Williams, Alan Laver, Michael Papworth,
Mirella Townsend, Aliai Coyle-Madut,
Albert Ricardo, Kaye McCall, Barry Martin,
Dean Bevis, Amelia Martin, Jim Lacey

Cuppa N Chat at St Patrick's Mentone,
today, 13th September in the **Parish Centre**
following 11am Mass. Come and make
yourself known to fellow parishioners!

Safeguarding Sunday

Concluding National Child Protection Week, we focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. As the Body of Christ, we are all called to ensure that the Church is always safe and welcoming. Let us be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Whether through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to give them our care.

Our Parishes are committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all persons. A copy of our Child Safety policy is on the noticeboard in our churches and on our website, www.sspjv.org

ROSTERS 19/20 September 2026

St Patrick's - Mentone

6:00pm	Commentator/Reader	J Dillon
	Extraordinary Minister	J Stoppa
11:00am	Commentator/Reader	K Mooney
	Extraordinary Minister	A Earle
5:00pm	Commentator/Reader	J Renden
	Extraordinary Minister	C Giosis

St Joseph's - Black Rock

8:00am	Reader/Commentator	T Warnock
	Extraordinary Minister	T Papworth

St John Vianney's - Parkdale

9:00am	Reader	B Fitchet
	Commentator	P Edkins
	Extraordinary Minister	B John
	Extraordinary Minister to the Sick	K Lowe
	Flowers	B John
	Pilgrim Statue	M Jensen

Stella Maris - Beaumaris

10:30am	Commentator/Reader	M Chenhall
	Extraordinary Minister	M Hutson

Readings next week: 25th Sunday OT - Year A

Isaiah:	55: 6-9
Philippians:	1: 20-24 27
Matthew:	20: 1-16

Under the Mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Prayers for unborn babies in the womb

Join us on

Thursday 17 September
4pm to 6pm

The Flame of Love
Holy Rosary

The Rosary Of the
7 Sorrows Of Our Lady
& *The Scriptural Rosary*
(lead by bead)

St Patrick's Church Mentone



The Youth Group (under 18s) will meet, for this month, on 3rd Sunday of the month - 6pm next Sunday 20th September

ST PATRICK'S YOUNG ADULTS GROUP
18-35 YEARS OLD

THE ANGELS

SERVING GOD
SERVING HIS PEOPLE

SUNDAY
13 SEPTEMBER
6PM TO 8PM

ST PATRICK'S
PARISH CENTRE
3 MITCHELL ST
MENTONE

St Patrick & the Holy Angels 2026 Organ Series

'Music Inspired by Gregorian Chant'

3.30PM SUNDAYS

20TH SEPTEMBER:
DR ALAN COOK (DIRECTOR OF MUSIC ST PATRICK'S MENTONE)

FREE ENTRY
(DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED) - NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED

TEMPORARY CHANGE IN WEEKDAY MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE, 14TH SEPTEMBER - 8TH OCTOBER

- No Monday Masses at St Patrick's during this period.
- No 9:15am Saturday morning Masses or 9:45am Confessions at St Patrick's during this period.
- 9:15am Mass, 9:45 Adoration & Confessions, will continue as normal, Saturday mornings each week at Stella Maris.

- 5:15pm Saturday evening confessions will continue as normal each week at St Patrick's, prior to the Vigil Mass.
- 9:15 Saturday morning Masses and 9:45 Confessions resume at St Patrick's, Saturday 10th October.
- 11:00am Monday Masses resume at St Patrick's, Monday 12th October.

SAINT OF THE WEEK 18 September:

St Joseph of Cupertino, the Flying Saint (1603-63)

St Joseph (Giuseppe Desa) was born in a stable in Copertino / Cupertino (then in the Kingdom of Naples), near Lecce in the 'heel' of southern Italy, on 17 June 1603. Not clever, he was nicknamed *boccaperta* (open mouth) for his gaping. Because of a tumour he had to leave school, and was bedridden for five years.

Failing as an apprentice shoemaker, at 17 he asked to join the Conventual Franciscans, but was refused because of his ignorance. The Capuchins accepted him as a lay brother, but soon dismissed him as unfit for any work, due to his religious ecstasies. Finally the Conventual Franciscans took him on in the stables; and eventually, his virtues and devotion being recognised, he was accepted to train for the priesthood with them.

He struggled with studies, Latin in particular, and could only read poorly. Fearing the examination for diaconate, he prayed to Mary. Of the many gospel readings on which he might be tested, he had mastered only the shortest (*Lk 11:27-28*); but the bishop, opening the book, chose that very one. Then before the priesthood examination, he spent the night in church in prayer.

After testing four of the five candidates, the examining bishop received news of a promotion – so he passed Joseph, the final candidate, without examining him. (He has thus become a patron saint of those sitting exams.)

Joseph was ordained priest in 1628. His life was now a series of visions, and ecstasies that might be triggered by anything having reference to God; and more than any other saint, he is famous for numerous levitations.

All this brought him great troubles. He was ordered to appear before the Inquisition in Naples; and to stop the public commotion at the manifestations, for 35 years at different friaries his superiors ordered him basically to stay in his room (with a chapel for him to say Mass).

Notable for obedience and humility, St Joseph had great devotion to the Eucharist, to Christ's Passion, and to Mary. He practised great penances, including seven 40-day Lents each year; yet he was a man of joy. From 1657 he was at Osimo in the Papal States (near Ancona, eastern Italy); and he died there on 18 September 1663. He was beatified by Pope Benedict XIV in 1753, and canonised by Pope Clement XIII in 1767. Because of his levitations, he is popularly patron saint of pilots, air travellers and astronauts.

The Flights of St Joseph of Cupertino

A fine resource on the topic of levitation is *The Physical Phenomena of Mysticism* by Fr Herbert Thurston SJ (1951, available in print and online; pp. 1-31). He writes:

'In the imperfect and limited enquiry which I have had time to make, I have taken note of the names of...over 200 persons alleged to have been physically lifted from the ground in ecstasy. [*35 of those he lists are saints.*] In about one-third of these cases there seems to me evidence which, if not conclusive, is to say the least respectable...

'[When] students of psychic phenomena discuss the subject of mystical levitations it is nearly always St Joseph of Copertino to whom they make appeal...Certainly, if we may trust the published narratives of his Life, his is by far the most astounding case of levitation of which we have any record. It would be impossible to give a detailed account of his elevations and flights, which seem to have been observed on more than a hundred different occasions.

'...When in 1645, the Spanish Ambassador to the Papal Court, the High Admiral of Castile, passed through

[Assisi] he visited Joseph of Copertino...No sooner had [Joseph] entered the church than his eyes rested on a statue of Mary Immaculate which stood over the altar, and he at once flew about a dozen paces over the heads of those present to the foot of the statue...leaving the Admiral, his wife and the large retinue which attended them speechless with astonishment...

'Still more trustworthy is the evidence given of the Saint's levitations at Osimo...There his fellow-religious saw him fly up seven or eight feet into the air to kiss the statue of the Infant Jesus which stood over the altar, and they told how he carried off this wax image in his arms and floated about with it in his cell in every conceivable attitude.

'On one occasion during these last years of his life he caught up another friar in his flight and carried him some distance round the room, and this indeed he is stated to have done on several previous occasions. In the very last Mass which he celebrated...he was lifted up in a longer rapture than usual. For these facts we have the evidence of several eye-witnesses who made their depositions, as usual under oath, only four or five years later.'

HYMNS: Mentone 6pm Vigil Saturday

Parkdale 9am Sunday Mentone 5pm

Mass Setting: *Mass of Our Lady, Help of Christians*

Entrance: 451 As We Gather At Your Table

Offertory: *organ solo*

Communion: 466 Christ Is The Heavenly Food

Recessional: 485 Father, We Give You Thanks

Mentone 11am Sunday

Mass Setting: *Mass of Our Lady, Help of Christians*

Entrance: 451 As We Gather At Your Table

Offertory: Motet: *Da pacem* - C Gounod

Communion: Motet: *Tollite hostias* - C Saint-Saens

466 Christ Is The Heavenly Food

Recessional: 485 Father, We Give You Thanks

Black Rock 8am Sunday

Entrance: 789 Praise My Soul The King of Heaven

Offertory: 793 Make Me A Channel of Your Peace

Communion: 730 Keep In Mind

Recessional: 722 In Faith And Hope And Love

Beaumaris 10:30am Sunday

Entrance: Praise My Soul The King of Heaven

Offertory: Make Me A Channel of Your Peace

Communion: Amazing Grace

Recessional: In Faith And Hope And Love

Readings this week: 24th Sunday OT - Yr A

Sirach: 27: 30 - 28: 7

Romans: 14: 7-9

Matthew: 18: 21-35

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Deacon Nigel McBain

This Monday 14 September, we will welcome Rev. Nigel McBain, who will minister in our parishes in September and October, as he prepares for Priestly Ordination for the Ordinariate in December. As Deacon, among other ministries he will read the Gospel, sometimes preach the homily, and conduct Baptisms.

[continued from p. 1 - Forgive seventy-seven times]

to forget an offense; but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies the memory in transforming the hurt into intercession.'

Recalling also, anger is not wrong *in itself* – it is part of the emotional repertoire God has given us, a natural response to injustice, motivating us to resist the injustice. But as with any emotion, it must be under the guidance and discernment of *reason*. Thus reason checks whether our anger is justified: is the injustice real or merely imaginary? And even if the injustice is real, we must not let our legitimate anger control us, or get out of control – as so easily happens. (The anger condemned by Scripture refers to the emotion *lacking this due rule of reason*.)

Then when its work is done, we must let the anger go. There is more to reality to think about. Prolonged anger tends to be dysfunctional and makes us unhappy. (And often enough, the person we are brooding about knows or remembers little or nothing about it – so we are hurting ourselves, not them.)

(3) Finally, genuine forgiveness doesn't necessarily mean releasing the other person from *all* the just consequences of their wrongdoing.

Is this a limitation on the unmeasured forgiveness to which Jesus calls us? The solution is, that *love* is supreme – and this means, to will and to act for the genuine good of all people involved. This will always mean hoping for

any necessary reform of the wrongdoer, and for their eternal salvation.

However, it does not necessarily mean releasing them from all consequences in this world. Very often indeed, it might mean just that – especially if we are talking about so many of the less significant wrongs that happen in everyday life. We are called just to *let things go*, recognising also how we ourselves are far from perfect. 'Overlook the offence', our First Reading urges. (*Sir* 28:7)

But there are times (for example when a crime has been committed) when justice must be done and restored; that the innocent must be protected from further harm; and that the wrongdoer must be led to reform. And short of crime, there are also other times when for the good of all, we need to stand up for ourselves and for others, and insist on our rights.

So all this helps us to see that Christian forgiveness is not something impractical or impossible.

With God's grace, we can always choose to keep loving, to keep willing the true good of the person who has wronged us. We received mercy undeserved from God, and we give it to others undeserved. And when someone does wrong us, why not view that as a precious *opportunity* God sends, precisely so we can gain greater gifts of his mercy for ourselves, for our own many sins? Only thus can we claim to ourselves his promise, that as we forgive, forgiveness will likewise be shown to us.