

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year A • 13 September 2026 • Psalter Week 4

TO FORGIVE WITHOUT LIMIT

MATTHEW 18:21-35



Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive someone. Jewish tradition said that God forgives three times and punishes on the fourth. Since human beings couldn't be more forgiving than God, forgiveness was, therefore, limited to three times.

Peter must have thought that forgiving someone seven times was more than generous, since it went far beyond what Jewish tradition taught. But Jesus says it's not enough; the Christian must forgive seventy times seven – in other words, never stop forgiving.

Jesus always showed mercy. As Pope Francis put it, the only people Jesus condemns are those who think they don't need it. 'Jesus does not say, "Blessed are those who plot revenge,"' Pope Francis said. 'He calls 'blessed' those who forgive and do so 'seventy times seven.' All of us have been looked upon with divine compassion. If we approach the Lord with sincerity and listen carefully, there may well be times when we hear his reproach: 'Should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?''

In other words, we must forgive because God has forgiven us. We must never stop forgiving. ■

REFLECT

What can we Christians say about forgiveness?

1. People are basically good. We have an innate goodness. The creation story in Genesis tells us God saw all that God had made and found it very good. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis uses a beautiful word to describe God's relationship with creation: All is a caress of God. When we see people as good, then we will treat them differently.
2. God forgives us first. That's the story of salvation. No matter how often God's people strayed, God never gave up on them. As Pope Francis puts it in his memoir *Hope*, we children get up to all kinds of things, we make mistakes, we sin, but when we ask for pardon, God's mercy embraces us and forgives us, always. God never tires of embracing and forgiving us. It is we who sometimes grow tired of asking for pardon. God never tires of forgiving us.
3. In receiving forgiveness, we give the past over to God – and let it go. We all know people who find this hard to do. They keep revisiting past sins. Crucified by scruples, they worry they didn't confess properly last time or didn't include everything. The

scrupulous aren't free. They've been so badly damaged by some event that they've been stuck ever since. Forgiveness sets us free, but not if we can't let go of the past. The challenge is to give the past over to God and live the present in love.

4. In order to live the present in love, we must be able to forgive ourselves. We can find that hard to do, especially if there's something in our past we feel especially guilty about. If I can't forgive myself, it's going to be hard to forgive others. If God can forgive me, then I must forgive myself.
5. Pope Francis described forgiveness as 'a human right. The ability to be forgiven is a human right. We all have the right to be forgiven.' In his letter on marriage and the family, *Amoris laetitia* (The Joy of Love), he says that pastors must 'avoid judgements which do not take into account the complexity of various situations' and must 'be attentive to how people experience distress because of their condition.' All of us have been looked upon with divine compassion, he writes. 'We should hear God saying to us, "Should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?"'

Being compassionate, he continues, doesn't mean watering down church

teaching. Jesus proposed a demanding ideal, but 'never failed to show compassion and closeness to the frailty of individuals like the Samaritan woman or the woman caught in adultery.'

6. Conversion is always a work in progress. Pope Francis had a word for it: gradualism. In *Amoris laetitia*, he says that no one drops down from heaven perfectly formed; 'families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love... All of us are called to keep striving towards something greater than ourselves and our families, and every family must feel this constant impulse.'

My true self is something I must keep striving toward, turning from my old life to one like Christ's. My conversion is ongoing. I must work at being a better me, seeking to love more, forgive more, be kinder, more compassionate, more tolerant. I'll never be perfect, but I must keep trying. That's gradualism.

7. Forgiveness sets us free. To forgive is to stop wasting energy on resentment and grudges. In forgiving, I liberate myself to live. As Lewis Smedes put it in *Forgive and Forget*, 'To forgive is to set a prisoner free and to discover that the prisoner was you.' ■

DO

Is there somebody you need to forgive or with whom you need to be reconciled? Perhaps you could seek them out this week.

SAY

'The Lord is compassion and love'

PRAY

For the Christian, there can be no limit to mercy and forgiveness. Pray for the strength to forgive always.

LEARN

Mercy was at the heart of Jesus' ministry.

Forgiveness sets us free.

We must think of ourselves as an army of the forgiven.

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.*

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,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

Anger and wrath, these are abominations,
and the sinful man will hold them fast.

The one who seeks vengeance will be paid vengeance from the Lord,
and he who keeps a record will have his own sins recorded.

Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done,
and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray.

Does one person harbour anger against another
and yet seek for healing from the Lord?

Does he have no mercy towards someone like himself
and yet pray concerning his own sins?

If he himself, being flesh, maintains wrath,
who will make atonement for his sins?

Remember the end of your life and cease from enmity,
remember destruction and death
and be true to the commandments.

Remember the commandments
and do not be angry with your neighbour;
remember the covenant of the Most High
and overlook error.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 103(102):1-2. 3-4. 9-10. 11-12. R. 8

**R: The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.**

1. Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits. **R.**
2. It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion. **R.**
3. He will not always find fault;
nor persist in his anger 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 his mercy for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far from us does he remove our transgressions. **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 14:7-9

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

Brothers and sisters: None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we

are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL John 13:34

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord,
that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: Peter came up and said to Jesus, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.'

'Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, "Pay what you owe." So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

Or

**The chalice of blessing that we bless
is a communion in the Blood of Christ;
and the bread that we break
is a sharing in the Body of the Lord.**

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.



St Patrick's Church
King Street
Wellington
TF1 3AP

THE BEACON

Parish Priest: Fr Ravi Bosco
M: 07447 632733 E: frravi.bosco@gmail.com

Our Lady of the Rosary &
St Luke's Church
Church Road, Trench
TF2 7HG

Clergy: Fr Joe Donlan, Fr Michał Łatuszyński M: 07926 044405 E: stafford@pcmew.org

Parish Office: The Presbytery, King Street, Wellington, TF1 3AP E: ourladyandstpatrick2024@gmail.com T: 01952 – 242423

Safeguarding Rep: Cheryl Breeze M: 07748870755 E: olspsafeguarding@hotmail.com

Sat	12	17:30	Mary Price - Thanksgiving Mass - St Patrick's Governors	St Patrick's
Sun	13	08:45	Polish Mass	St Patrick's
Twenty Fourth		09:00	Janet and Alex Beyer - Diamond Wedding Thanksgiving	Our Lady's
Sunday in Ordinary		11:00	Parishioners	St Patrick's
		EDUCATION SUNDAY		
Mon	14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross		
		12:00	Alex Beyer - Health	Our Lady's
Tues	15	Our Lady of Sorrows		
		12:00	Souls in Purgatory/ CWL Monthly Mass	St Patrick's
Wed	16	Ss Cornelius & Cyprian		
		12:00	Tilly Sterlini - Special Birthday	Our Lady's
Thurs	17	St Robert Bellarmine		
		19:00	Chinju Mamballi Thomas RIP	St Patrick's
Fri	18	Ferial		
		09:30	Francis Lindsay RIP	St Patrick's
		12:00	Inez V Dennis - Funeral Service	St Patrick's
		18:00	Polish Mass	St Patrick's
Sat	19	17:30	Pat Jervis - 1st anniversary	St Patrick's
Sun	20	08:45	Polish Mass	St Patrick's
Twenty Fifth		09:00	Alfred Danes RIP	Our Lady's
Sunday in Ordinary		11:00	Thanksgiving AL family	St Patrick's
		HOME MISSION SUNDAY – 2 nd Collection		

SACRAMENT OF FORGIVENESS (CONFESSION)

30 minutes before Masses

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

30 minutes before weekday Masses

RIP: Alan Armitage, Victor Webb, & Inez V Dennis. We pray for everyone whose anniversaries are at this time.

BAPTISMS: Forms are available from the porch. Please hand your form to Fr Ravi. Baptism Preparation class on the last Saturday of the month at 12pm.

ROTAS (W, EM, C)

Sat 5:30 Denzil & Joanne, Nicky, Nigel & Bernadette **19/09:** Lynne & Lewis, Ann N, Anne & John

Sun 9:00 Janet & Alex, Catherine D, Bruce & Mick **20/9:** Pauline He & Tony, Catherine K, Laura & Edith

Sun 11:00 Jennifer & Paul, Jarmila, Kate & Geraldine **20/9:** Evangeline & Shreya, Anna, Diane & Collette

Weekly Offerings: Total: £1,684.23 - Standing Orders £763.12, Envelopes £307.02, Loose Plate £551.09, Dona £60.00
We can only add Gift Aid if donations are identifiable.

Bank details:

SRC DT 234025

St Patrick Wellington

Sort Code: 30-15-52

Account Number: 54546760

SRC DT -234025

Our Lady & St Luke Telford

Sort Code: 30-15-52

Account Number: 54582160



Please scan this QR code to donate to your parish online. You can register your card for gift aid to be added to every donation

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Children who have not received communion are welcome to join in children's liturgy.

DATA PROTECTION PRIVACY NOTICE

Our two parishes sometimes collect personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice.

LIVESTREAMED MASSES from St Patrick's are available online at <https://churchservices.tv/wellington>

First Holy Communion 2027: Enrolment forms for the next Holy Communion Group are available from the porch. The relevant dates will be:

- **Enrolment Masses:**
Saturday 12th December 5.30pm at St Patrick's
Sunday 13th December 9am at Our Lady's.
- **Parents Meeting:**
Monday 11th January at 6pm at St Patrick's
- **Lessons (Mondays):**

1 st February	15 th March
8 th February	22 nd March
22 nd February	12 th April
1 st March	19 th April
- **Practices:** 26th April and 10th & 17th May depending on groups and numbers
- **Sacraments:**
First Forgiveness – 8th March
First Holy Communion – 8th May at Our Lady's and 22nd May at St Patrick's

Sunday Word: A group of Parishioners along with Fr Joe Donlan meet in both churches every week to reflect on the Scripture Readings for the following Sunday - Our Lady's, Wednesdays at 10.30am; St Patrick's, Thursdays, after 7pm Mass. All are welcome.

Pastoral Care of the Sick: Fr Ravi visits the sick and housebound on Thursdays – 1st Thursday around St Patrick's; 2nd Thursday around Our Lady's; 3rd Thursday around Telford; 4th Thursday on request – every month. The person concerned or the next of kin should request and needs to be aware of these pastoral visits. As much as possible, we encourage people to attend church if they are able to on Sundays. We thank all those taking communion to the homebound and if you would to help in this important ministry, please do contact Eliska the Parish Secretary.

Parish Pastoral Team (PPT): We are looking forward to our next meeting at 10.30am on Saturday, 26th September at St Patrick's. The meeting will focus on all aspects of our life and mission during Advent and Christmas – Faith Formation, Faith Celebration, Faith Action and Faith Administration. We encourage all our parishioners to be part of the discernment process and share your hopes and plans to Fr Ravi or any of the members of the team before the next meeting.

Catholic Women's League: Members of the CWL will meet on Tuesday 15th September after the midday Mass. Also, at 1:30 we will have a speaker from The Severn Hospice, telling us about their work and to receive the cheque of £500 which was raised in Flora Quests name. All are welcome to join us.

Mass Counts 2026: The Mass attendance count takes place as usual on the third and fourth weekends of September and the first and second weekends of October. 19th & 20th and 26th & 27th of September and 3rd & 4th and 10th & 11th of October 2026. This will include all present at all Saturday evening & Sunday Masses on the named weekends.

More Counters Needed: Currently there is a shortage of counter for the collection of the 11am Mass at St Patrick's. If this is the weekly mass that you attend, please consider volunteering to be a counter. If you are interested, please contact the parish secretary.

Marriage Preparation: An in-person Marriage Preparation Course is available to all diocesan parishes this month for couples getting married this year or next. With an apology for the short notice, the course will take place on the 12th and 19th of September at St Vincent's, Altrincham – in the Westleigh Parish Centre, 100 Groby Road, WA14 2BJ beginning at 11am. Booking is essential – please contact natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org or call 07730 526826.

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School: Wellington, has had a fantastic start to the academic year. It has been wonderful to welcome our children, families and friends back to school and to share our exciting plans for the year ahead.

If you are new to the parish, or if you are looking for a nurturing and high-quality Catholic education for your child, we currently have places available in Year 1 and Year 2. St Patrick's is a welcoming school community built on strong Catholic values, where every child is known, valued and encouraged to flourish. If you know of a family who may be interested, or if you are considering a change of school for your child, please contact the school office to arrange a visit. Mr Hawes, Headteacher, would be delighted to show you around and share what makes St Patrick's such a special place to learn and grow. We look forward to welcoming you to our school community.

Pax Christi England and Wales: Are you committed to a world where people can live in peace and without fear of violence? Do you have the skills and experience to voice this message to people at all levels?

Pax Christi England and Wales are recruiting a new General Secretary to lead our small team, working with individuals, groups, parishes, the Catholic hierarchy and the network of organisations who share our values, including Pax Christi International, our mother body.

Based in London, we are open to some remote working and flexible working hours; job share applications will also be considered. If this sounds like you, or someone you know, we would love to hear from you. Download the Job Description and Person Specification from our website <https://paxchristi.org.uk>

To apply, please send your CV and a covering letter with your personal statement (each no more than two A4 pages) to: Treasurer@paxchristi.org.uk

Deadline for applications: midnight Wednesday 23rd September 2026 and Interviews will be held in London on Thursday 8th October 2026. Please share this opportunity with anyone who might be interested.

CAFOD school volunteers: We are looking for volunteers to deliver school assemblies and workshops and inspire children to make a difference. For further information: Anna Letizia on 07710 094449 or email alletizia@cafod.org.uk