

## Prayers of the Faithful

**PRIEST:** 'The Lord is compassion and love.'  
God's Word has been broken for us  
and its teaching nourishes our spirit.  
Strengthened by that teaching we approach our God  
for what we need.

For the gift of gentleness. (pause)  
God commands us to avoid anger and resentment.  
May we have the gift of gentleness towards others,  
not returning evil for evil but striving for that compassion  
and love that we hope for from the Lord.  
Lord, hear us.  
**ALL: Lord Hear Us**

For a sense of Christ's presence among us.  
(pause)  
May we be moved by a sense of Christ's presence.  
By lives that reflect his teaching, may we be his faithful  
disciples, witnessing the love and compassion of Christ  
who is Lord of both living and dead.  
Lord, hear us.  
**ALL: Lord Hear Us**

For a desire to forgive. (pause)  
Jesus commands us to forgive one another.  
May we take his teaching with such seriousness  
that we will truly live as his disciples,  
eager to forgive those who hurt us  
in our families and in our communities.  
Lord, hear us.  
**ALL: Lord Hear Us**

For an understanding of God's generous love.  
(pause)  
The gospel teaches us that God's love is boundless  
and God's forgiveness without limit.  
May we grow in understanding God's love  
so that we may be gentle with ourselves and with others.  
Lord, hear us.  
**ALL: Lord Hear Us**

**PRIEST:** God of compassion,  
fill us with a sense of your love for us  
and grant what we need.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
**ALL: Amen.**

### CATECHISTS NEEDED!

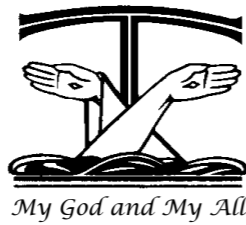
If you would like to learn more about becoming a Catechist  
please contact the Parish Office.

**RCIA** is a program for those seeking to find out more about the Catholic  
faith. It takes place within the parish, local faith community. It also offers  
opportunity to grow in knowledge of Jesus Christ accompanied by  
others on a similar journey. We welcome all inquiries, and there is no  
pressure or obligation. Each one has their own special story.  
We invite you to contact the parish priest if you:  
– Have been baptised but have not completed the Sacraments of  
Initiation or were baptised in another church.  
– Have children over the age of five or teenagers (who will be supported  
through adapted form of the Rite).

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic please  
contact the parish office on 9331 4043.

**(We are looking for parishioners to be part of the RCIA team)**

*Our faith community acknowledges and pays respect to the  
Traditional Owners of the Land on which we worship,  
the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.  
We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present.*



**Parish newsletter of the communities of St Francis of Assisi Paddington & St Joseph Edgecliff**  
**17th September 2023 –Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time -Year A**  
*In the care of the Franciscans since 1879*

**St Francis of Assisi Church** 463 Oxford St Paddington **St Joseph Church** 12 Albert St Edgecliff  
**Parish Office:** 66 Gordon St Paddington 2021 **Tel:** 02 9331 4043  
**Email:** office@stf-stj.com **Website:** www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com

A note from Father Anthoni.

Thank you to parents, catechists, staff at school and parish  
office for your assistance in preparing our children for the  
Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Our  
Parish school continues to assist parents in preparing our  
children in their faith development.

I take this opportunity to congratulate, acknowledge and  
thank catechists for their commitment and passion in sharing  
and developing faith of our young people who attend public  
schools. You have been generous in sharing your time and  
being present in public space representing our parishes.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on the 11th  
November. Beginning from next year, Confirmation for  
parishes in City Deanery will be celebrated at the Cathedral. If  
you have any feedback or thoughts on how we can do things  
next year please let me know.

A couple of parishioners are assisting me to review of the Time  
and Talent Sheet responses. I am very pleased with the  
responses; as they show a level of support and commitment in  
reorganising our parish for the future. I am mindful of the  
distinct identity of the two parishes, the sense of community  
at the different masses, stories of parishioners, sisters and  
friars (history and spirituality of the place) and all the changes  
and development around the parishes over the century.

I encourage parishioners to introduce themselves, at least first  
name basis, to others before and after mass. I think it is  
important to get to know other parishioners who attend mass

every week with you.

Thank you to Brian McMahon for the reflection on Father's  
Day weekend and for prayers of the faithful. I invite others to  
reflect and share their thoughts and their faith. I enjoyed  
reading Brian's reflection. It is good and necessary to hear  
what your thoughts are on matters of faith and spirituality in a  
post-modern world.

My prayer focus is on how to be a parish in the future. We  
need to think about transmitting faith, building community,  
faith formation, meeting the needs of parishioners and how to  
engage the world around us.

Fr Peter Clifford will continue to assist with our Sunday  
morning masses. I am at Edgecliff on 1st and 3rd Sundays and  
Paddington on 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Animal Blessing – St Francis Regional Primary School and St  
Francis Social Services (Centre 360 and House of Welcome) are  
involved in this year's celebration. Please invite your  
neighbours and friends. It is a great opportunity to engage  
with parishioners and our extended community and celebrate  
St Francis.

The installation of a new sound system for St Francis Church,  
Paddington will begin on the 9th of October. I sincerely hope  
it will solve the problems we have been facing especially  
during big celebrations and when the church is full.

Fr Anthoni Selvaraj ofm

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023

**First Holy Communion** was celebrated with a  
focus light and the bible. We pray their  
First Holy Communion continues a life  
connection with our Heavenly Father and  
Church.

**We are accepting registration forms for  
Confirmation at St Francis.**

Preparation 21st & 28th October  
Rehearsals 4th November  
Sacrament: Saturday 11th November-  
5.30pm

### Save the Date

**Blessing of the Animals** Saturday 14th  
October **10.30 to 1.30pm.** Please call the  
office to volunteer on the day.

## Thankyou for your recent contributions:

We appreciate and are honoured by your  
generosity in supporting the many charities and  
support programs and helping to do the Lord  
work.

## CRISIS & POLARISATION Through the thought of René Girard

7pm, Thursday October 5th, 2023  
Pitt Street Uniting Church (264 Pitt Street,  
Sydney)  
Panel discussion, followed by Q&A and reception  
Tickets: \$45, concession \$30  
[https://events.humanitix.com/australian-girard-  
society-panel-discussion](https://events.humanitix.com/australian-girard-society-panel-discussion)  
Enquiries: Sheelah Treflé Hidden  
treflehidden@icloud.com



## Seasons of Creation Feast of St Francis.

1 Sept (World Day of Prayer) to 4th  
October

Please put your mass intentions in with the  
collection or the office to ensure that it is  
published in a timely manner.

## WELCOME

New to the parish? Please come and meet one of the Parish Team  
after mass to introduce yourself and find out more about our  
community. We also welcome you to contact our Parish Office.

## OUR PARISH

**Franciscan community:** Fr Peter Clifford ofm, Br John Lourey ofm  
**Parish Administrator:** Fr Anthoni Selvaraj ofm  
**Parish Secretary:** Enza Sinapi, Cate Stivala  
**Catechist Co-ordinator/Safeguarding Support:** Enza Sinapi  
**Cantor, Edgecliff:** Tanith Bryce  
**Music Dir. & Organist, Paddington:** Noel Debieen & Bransby Byrne  
**Cantor, Paddington:** Nicole Smeulders  
**Principal, St Francis of Assisi School:** Nicole Hudson

## St Joseph, Edgecliff

Mass: **Sunday:** 9am, 10.30am & 5.30pm  
Mass: **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday:** 5.30pm  
(Reconciliation: prior to Thursday evening Mass - from 5pm)

Liturgy of the Word/Communion: **Wednesday, Friday:** 5.30pm

Baptisms: **1st & 3rd Sundays** at 11.45am

## St Francis of Assisi, Paddington

Mass: **Saturday Vigil:** 5.30pm  
Mass: **Sunday:** 8.30am, 10am with choir  
Mass: **Monday, Tuesday, Friday:** 9am  
(Reconciliation: prior to Saturday Vigil Mass - from 5pm)

Liturgy of the Word/Communion: **Wednesday, Thursday:** 9am

Baptisms: **2nd & 4th Sundays** at 11.45am

**We remember those in need of our prayers: our deceased, those in hospital,  
nursing homes, and the homebound.**

**Recently Deceased:** Maria del Carmen Alvarez, Julian Ugarte, Elaine Hunt, Frank  
Elgar, Patricia Garside, Diane Stanton, Fritz Mayerhofer, Robyn Carrington, Luke  
Mitchell, Paul Lourey, Luke McCarthy, Wendy Blacker, Roger Arundell, Flora Autore,  
Michael Murray, Michael Gilbert, Mary Gardner, Annette Murphy, Jocelyn Murphy,  
Fr Allen John Hartcher ofm, Mario Ascenza, Sr Robyn Wheeler RSC, Merle Fraley,  
Ellen Bonica, Edward Kiernan, John Vincent Toohey, Beverly Wade.

**Mass Intentions:** Patricia Richmond-Kiernan, Juliana Karlovcec, Mary Markovitch,  
Jose Luis, Herrera, Noelene Waldron, Eva Khun, Helen McCarthy, Patricia Richmond-  
Kiernan, Christopher Roeder, Isabel Scarf, David Saw, Bryan Digges, Jerry Austin,  
Samual McIntosh, James Evans, Chris May, Adele Ramos, Mary Agnes Kiernan, Mila  
Svehla, Giuliano Family, Anthony Dainer, Hector Destro, Christopher von  
Kaisenberg, Dudley Williams, Nick Williams, Dominic Casamento and Nita  
Casamento, Peter John Little, Alia Chua, Florence Tann, Winifed Yii, Samuel  
Macintosh, Patricia Ann Dillon, Sheila McLaughlin Dillon, Beth Epstein, Helen Miller,  
Phillipe Requin, Norma Coulson, Clare Kenny, Mark Crees, Jonathan Crees, Annabel  
Wilson, Georgia Richter, Francesco Cardamone, Shirley O'Shea, Pat and Ned  
Theodore and their daughter Virginia Ross, Nea Gooley, Tico Salcedo Gania & Dia  
families, Genevieve Tico Salcedo, Michael Gearin.

### Overview of the Archdiocese's Safeguarding Policy

[https://www.sydneycatholic.org/casys/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Overview-of-  
the-Policy.pdf](https://www.sydneycatholic.org/casys/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Overview-of-the-Policy.pdf)

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime  
are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please  
contact the police. Alternatively, You can contact the *Safeguarding  
Ministerial Integrity Office: on 9390 5180 or  
safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org.* You may also want to speak to  
your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The  
Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

**Our faith community demands that the Christian Churches  
including the Catholic Church provide full and meaningful  
reparation for those who have suffered clerical  
and institutional sexual abuse.**



Archdiocese  
Franciscan Friars

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney  
Franciscan Friars Australia



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Parish  
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www.franciscans.org.au



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.**

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## HOMILY

### PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

**I believe in God, / 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.**

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

#### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R. 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.**

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. 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.

**R. Amen.**

### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R. It is right and just.**

### PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

**All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

### COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

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

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

**R. Amen.**

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace*

### LAMB OF GOD

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. 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.

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

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** cf. Ps 35: 8

**How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. 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.

**R. Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Go in peace.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

### THE CALL TO FORGIVENESS

A well-balanced life is something worth striving for, but human nature being what it is, balance is not always easily achieved. Today the readings deal with the question of balance and consistency regarding how we expect God to treat us and the ways we deal with each other. Resentment, vengeance, and anger can all find their place in the human heart and Ecclesiasticus advises that a more tolerant approach is more beneficial. If we cannot forgive each other, how can anyone expect God to forgive our failings?

Matthew approaches the question from the other direction. Rather than looking at what we will receive from the Lord, the striking parable of the two debtors teaches us to look at what we have already received. Since God has already looked kindly and mercifully on us this should lead to a corresponding degree of forbearance with one another.

While it is not stated in today's reading from Romans, Paul is dealing with a community where there was some tension regarding eating meat left over from temple sacrifices. For the more liberal members of the community eating this meat was not a problem. Others in the community were scandalised and thought it was idolatry. Paul's approach is to remind both groups that whatever we do influences our brothers and sisters. As Christians, the way to find a sense of balance is to remember that we are called to live for the Lord. Sometimes this calls us to die to ourselves to preserve peace and unity. Christ gave his life for us all, should we not do the same for each other?

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

17 SEPTEMBER 2023

HOW OFTEN MUST I FORGIVE? There is much truth in the proverb, 'to err is human, to forgive divine'. We all make mistakes. We all do or say things we later regret. And yet, when others wrong us, we can find it beyond our human strength to forgive. As we celebrate the mystery of Christ's love today, let us ask Jesus to heal our divisions and fill our hearts with his spirit of forgiveness.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Sir 36: 18

**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.**

### GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**R. And with your spirit.**

### PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

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

**R. Amen.**

### 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 Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.**

## COLLECT

P. 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.

**R. Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Sir 27:30-28:7

**A reading from the Book of Sirach. Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.**

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?

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.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### RESP PSALM

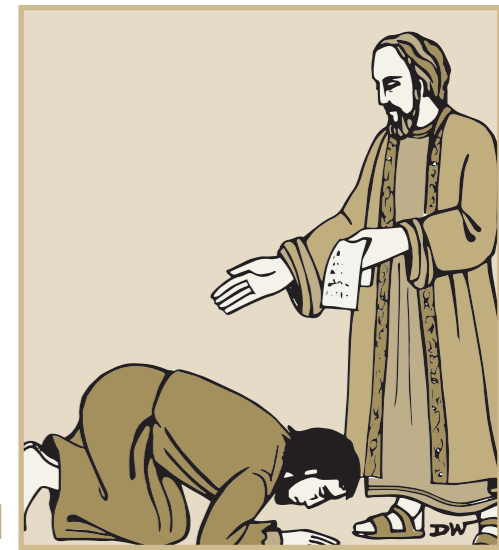
Ps 102: 1-4, 9-12. R. v. 8

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

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

Rom 14: 7-9

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.**

*Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*

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.**

**R. Thanks be to God**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 13: 34

**Alleluia, alleluia! / I give you a new commandment: / love one another as I have loved you. / Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

Mt 18: 21-35

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.*

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