



ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!
SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2017
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

Fr. John Monbourquette, in his bestselling book *How To Forgive*, writes: "If you want to be happy for a moment, then seek revenge. If you want to be happy for a lifetime, then grant forgiveness." He follows it up by explaining the four possibilities and consequences if we do not forgive.

First, we perpetuate the grief suffered within ourselves and in others. When we feel assaulted or violated, we tend to mimic our offender. Any predisposition to hostility and to domination of others risks being transmitted from generation to generation through families and cultures. Only forgiveness can break the chain reaction.

Second, we live with constant resentment. Resentment is a form of disguised anger that festers around a badly healed wound. Its negative effects include paranoia, and it is the origin of psychosomatic illnesses like cancer, arthritis, arteriosclerosis, multiple sclerosis, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

Third, we remain fixated on the past. People who will not or cannot forgive have trouble living in the now. Unforgiveness paralyzes life: memories of the past only increase old pain; the future is blocked, and there are no new projects or new relationships.

Fourth, we seek revenge. The instinct for revenge blinds anyone who gives in to it. It only leads to an endless cycle of violence similar to Mafia vendettas.

In the Gospel, Jesus confronts Peter with the truth that the spirit of forgiveness knows no limits. Jesus then proceeds to tell the parable of the....

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THE REV'D TIFFANY SPARKS PRESIDING AND PREACHING

Next Week's Readings

- Exodus 16.2-15
- Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45
- Philippians 1.21-30
- Matthew 20.1-16

Sentence: If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. Psalm 130.3-4

Collect: O God, you call your Church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

•**Readings:** Exodus 14.19-31; Psalm 114; Romans 14.1-14; Matthew 18.21-35

Psalm 114

- 1 When Israel came out of Egypt:
and the house of Jacob from
among a people
of an alien tongue,
- 2 **Judah became his sanctuary:
and Israel his dominion.**
- 3 The sea saw that, and fled:
Jordan was driven back.
- 4 **The mountains skipped like
rams:
and the little hills like young
sheep.**
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you
fled:
O Jordan, that you were driven
back?
- 6 **You mountains, that you
skipped like rams:
and you little hills like young
sheep?**
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the
presence of the Lord:
at the presence of the God of
Jacob,
- 8 **Who turned the rock into a
pool of water:
and the flint-stone into a
welling spring.**

Matthew 18.21-35

Then Peter came and said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ‘For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, “Pay what you owe.” Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?” And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

We give thanks for :

- * The life of Dorothy Tanner
- * Our Church family and community
- * All who help in the mission of the Church.

We pray for :

- * The Parishes of Warwick and Red Hill
- * St John’s Cathedral Shop
- * The Southport School.

For health and healing for :

Thomas Moore, Beryl and Tom Wakefield, Anthony Bugden, Saloni Paul, Fred Morrison, Theda Lowe, Jan, Romola Squire, Fr Neville and Eileen Jackson, Robert Johnston and Sue McCurdy.

At home or nursing home :

Jean Ward, Noela Burdett and Joyce Shearing.

WHAT IS GOING ON AT ST. PAUL'S?



THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Scottish Night at St Barnabas—a fun evening was had by all.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST—
Saturday 30 September.

MEN'S BREAKFAST—
Saturday 21 October. Please contact Sarah and Mark Combe for more details.

BOARD GAME GROUP—
Run by David Adams. Every second Saturday in the Crypt at 7.30pm. All welcome!

MORNING PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY GROUP—Wednesday mornings at 9:05am. If you are interested please come along. All Welcome!

PRACTICALLY SPIRITUAL—
This is a group that meets once a month to reflect on theological books. Talk to Rev'd Tiffany or Rev'd Kathy on how to become involved.

JUBILEE TERRACE PLAY-GROUP—**Fridays 9:30-11:30am**. For more information contact Sarah Combe on ph: 0403 771 442 (leave a message if there is no answer).

BOOKFEST:

Please note the dates: Friday 6 and Saturday, 7 October. How can you help? Advertise us on social media, bake cupcakes or biscuits to sell on the day or ask Ann Caston how you can help.

BOOK CLUB—Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm Tuesday 10 October. The book currently for discussion is 'The Art of Hearing Heartbeats' by Jan-Philipp Sendker. When a New York lawyer disappears neither his wife nor daughter has any idea of where he is.... until they find a love letter written to a Burmese woman. If you enjoy reading do come and join us. For details talk to Ann Caston.

HISTORIC MEMORABILIA—
In 2026 our hall will be turning 100 years. We are currently looking to carry out restoration work of the floor. If anyone has historical photos/memorabilia of the church and hall could you please talk to Rev'd Tiffany.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY

How Funds are Used?

Your giving to our parish community helps our community grow! Your donations go towards having a full time minister, electricity, insurance, rates, copyright, cleaning, music ministry, supporting Children's Church, grounds maintenance, Mission giving to Anglican Board of Mission, Bush Ministry Fund and the Anglicare women's shelter. These are agencies that provide clean water to 3rd world communities, educational opportunities and safe shelters to the vulnerable. Without your contributions our parish would not be able to support a full time minister, pay the costs of running the parish and to support these wonderful missions. Every dollar goes towards making a difference to Ashgrove and to the world.

HEARING IMPAIRED?

St Paul's has provision for people with hearing impairment. A headset is available from the back of church, or a receiver for those with a hearing aid (turn on and switch ear piece to the T switch).

We are on the web!

stpaulsashgrove.org.au

**ANGLICAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA**

St Paul's Anglican Church
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Queensland 4060
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OUR MISSION

**WE PARTICIPATE IN
GOD'S MISSION OF
TRANSFORMING
INDIVIDUALS AND
COMMUNITIES,
OFFERING MEANING
FOR TODAY AND HOPE
FOR TOMORROW
THROUGH JESUS
CHRIST.**

HELP US GROW!!!

Bank online!!

For easier ways to give and build up St. Paul's and our mission. Give online.

Account Name: Ithaca-Ashgrove Anglican Parish.
BSB 704901 Acc No 00004420



BITCOINS ACCEPTED HERE!!!

St. Paul's is the first Church in Australia to accept virtual currency! Scan code for our wallet details!



WHO ARE WE? MINISTRY AT ST. PAUL'S

Rector:

The Reverend Tiffany Sparks
0405224616

tiffany.sparks@stpaulsashgrove.org.au

Hon Associate Priest: The Reverend Pam Hynd: pam.hynd@stpaulsashgrove.org.au

Honorary Priests: The Reverend Kathy Hammer and the Reverend Jack Hammer: jkhammer@bigpond.net.au

Wardens: Peoples Wardens: Sarah Combe and Rae Haggarty; **Priest's Warden:** George McCallan

Welcoming-Care Group: Elizabeth Sillano and Gill Outen

Choir: Robyn Carl

Rosters: Tiffany Sparks

Thrift Shop: Margaret Marshall & Deborah Walker

Mother's Union: Joy Lloyd

Playgroup: Sarah Combe

Book Club: Ann Caston

For all inquiries please email the office: info@stpaulsashgrove.org.au

From pg 1:

Unforgiving Servant wherein a king shows mercy to his servant by canceling entirely his huge debt even if the original request was only an extension of patience and time to pay the debt!

But because he refuses to forgive a fellow servant who owes him a mere pittance, the king imposes the former sentence ("to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property") and even adds to it ("handed him over to the torturers"). Failure to forgive a brother will bring severe punishment!

We are all God's debtors (cf Rom 3:23). The parable teaches us that the Kingdom of heaven is to consist of people who are both forgiven and forgiving, who have both received mercy and are merciful. "For the judgment is merciless to one who has not shown mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment" (Jas 2:13).
365 Days with the Lord 2017

