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OFFICE HOURS: 10.00AM - 3.00PM on MONDAY - FRIDAY; CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS
PARISH TEAM: Fr Ben Brooks, Fr Chathura Silva, Fr Jessie Banez
Carolyn Gutteridge—**Parish Secretary**
Rosie Caelli—**Sacramental Co-ordinator**
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Twenty– Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (YEAR A) - 17TH SEPTEMBER 2023

The Season of Creation—Until 4th October

FIRST READING

Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

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? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will for give him his 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.

RESPONSORIAL 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

Romans 14:7-9

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 13:34

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

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 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.'



We are located on the country of the Tyerenotepanner, the Panninher and the Litarimirina people of the Stoney Creek Nation. We acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners, who have cared for land, sea, waterways and sky, as the ongoing custodians, for thousands of years. We honour Elders, past and present. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

Dear Parish family,

The Lord's Prayer, a central part of our Christian Tradition, is prayed by many of us each day – in some cases multiple times per day. In this prayer we say "...forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us...", but I wonder how often do we really think about what we are saying?

In my own experience, saying these words reminds me of the infinite mercy of God, but when I am offended by someone's words or actions, many times my first reaction is to correct them, or determine the best way to retaliate in order to come across in a better light!

The readings this week remind us that we will be forgiven our sins, only if we are willing to forgive those who offend us! Otherwise we risk being like the servant in the gospel who was shown much forgiveness, but was inflexible in not offering forgiveness to his fellow servant. Justice demands, in that case, that the forgiveness he received is withdrawn.

In 2020, Australia was shocked when a drunk driver killed four school aged children – 3 siblings and their cousin, while walking to get ice-cream in suburban Sydney. What was perhaps more shocking was the statement from the parents forgiving the driver. A year later, the Abdullah and Sakr families launched a movement – I4Give Day - calling for people to embrace the power of forgiveness, allowing us to let go of bitterness and rage.

Leila Abdullah, the mother of 3 of the children, commented that forgiveness is an action for the community. "We grieve individually but we heal together".

May we, individuals who are sometimes hurt or are grieved, open ourselves to the power of forgiveness in the midst of our community, centred on the forgiveness we have received from God through the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross.

Have a blessed week *Fr Ben Brooks*



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER:

For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

A VOCATION VIEW

**"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."
Make a stand for mercy, empathy, forgiveness, and selflessness!**



SEASON OF CREATION

First, let us join the mighty river by transforming our hearts. This is essential for any other transformation to occur; it is that "ecological conversion" which Saint John Paul II encouraged us to embrace: the renewal of our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our Creator. Furthermore, we should realize that an integral approach to respect for the environment involves four relationships: with God, with our brothers and sisters of today and tomorrow, with all of nature, and with ourselves.

More resources available at: <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

YOU ARE ASKED TO PRAY

FOR OUR NEWLY BAPTISED especially **Liam and Wyatt Siebert** (Shaun and Samantha) and **Sonny Lehman** (Bryce and Olivia) who will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism within our parish this weekend.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Denis Palmer, Sr Mary of the Holy Ghost OCD, Deacon Vinco Muriyaden, Michael Varger, Fr Martin Aye Ngwe, Fr Terry Yard, Kim Izard, Irene La Palombara, Alana Oehm, Kathy Aldred, Tina La Palombara, Greg Hopwood, Noelene Bye, Peter Brumby, Rod Badcock, Maria Holton, Teresa McMahon, Danielle Evans, Louisa Buttazzoni, Lalla Smethurst, Sally Griffin (Smethurst), Patsy Heath, Alex Thrower, Marie Cousins, Alida Moolenschot, Archivaldo Pechon, Sharon Manzone, Suzy Fenton, Elizabeth Nettlefold, Shirley Ambrose, Bev Callahan, Helen Wright, Alfred Weeding, Maureen Saunders, Mary Morgan, Mary Carter, Scott Bailey, Ralf Roston, Kristel Latham, Jennifer Dowell, Andrew Campbell, Bill Lewis, Vincent Burke, Eduardo Bilanes, Brian Hudson, Brian Beardwood, Jane Gillard, Joel Wilkinson, Jesse Moore, Elaine Blake, John Walsh, Clare Maddox, William Siegrist, Anne Harris, Jane Savaro, Amelia Eckert, Allison Thambugala, Ava Woolley, David Lewis, Christian Barrett, Xavier Banks, George Donovan, Max Jamieson, Jan McClean and Peter Marshall..

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Alcide Taurian who has died recently, John Freeman, Mary and Jan Siejka, Brian Harley, Shirley Ranson, Henk Kortekaas, Margaret Niekamp, Theresia Zegveld, Douglas Clayton, Roska family—Joey, Celestina S, Filomena, Romulo, Bernardo, Rachael; Rosario Roska Valdehueza, Roger Leslie, Dimetrio Surriano, Dane Sutton, Norma Tripp, Wayne and Joy Dunn, Norah Durrant, Mary Johnson, Colin Meek, Paul Langford, John Thynne, Catherine Moss, Lucia Pinterich, Patrick O'Brien, Irene Silva, we remember all victims of the COVID-19 virus and all whose anniversaries occur at this time and for the Holy souls in Purgatory.

FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY: As the COVID virus continues to affect our lives, we pray in a special way for all those involved in frontline services. We pray for the gift of healing and peace for all who contract the virus, especially for those who are in hospital, and for their families.

PARISH ACTIVITIES, INFORMATION AND NEWS

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE The monthly meeting of the Launceston Branch of the will now be held at the Launceston Parish centre on **Tuesday, 19th September, 2023**, starting at 1pm. Rosary at 12.30pm. New members welcome. Enquires to Victoria on 0408398785

MONDAY NIGHT ROSARY is being held each Monday night in Church of the Apostles at 7.30pm. Come along and offer your thanks to "Our Blessed Mother Mary" for the Blessings she bestows on us each day. **All Welcome.**

MORNING MEDITATION at the **Emmanuel Centre Tuesdays at 11am**. Newcomers are welcome. Enquiries: ph: 6334 1082

LECTIO DIVINA Every Friday morning 10.30 am for 1 hour, at the Pastoral Centre, Lectio Divina - Contemplating and praying the scriptures for the upcoming weekend Mass readings. A time to slow down, to listen with the ears of your heart. Everyone is welcome.

FRIDAY HOLY HOUR Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place for one hour every Friday after the 12noon Mass at the Church of the Apostles.

THE CARMEL SHOP: 7 Cambridge Street, West Launceston is open on Wednesdays between 11.00am - 4.00pm

Morning Tea after 10.30am Mass at Church of the Apostles—All are welcome

Rome Pilgrimage

The Archdiocese and Fr Mike Delaney have organised a Pilgrimage to Rome from the 14th – 24th January 2024. Accommodation in Rome is at Domus Australia with Rome highlights including visits to the major Churches, Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel and ancient catacombs. We will also visit Oviotto and Assisi.

Cost for the Pilgrimage is \$3,050 – Airfares, extra accommodation outside the tour period, travel insurance and some meals extra. Bookings must be made by Friday 29th September. Contact the Rome Pilgrimage Team on 1800 753 959 or via email: pilgrimage@sydneycatholic.org.

INVITED TO ENTER

Silent, Guided and Directed Retreat

15th—21st October, 2023

Emmanuel Centre, Newstead

Directors: Maureen O'Halloran and Belinda Chapman

Cost: \$800 (includes accommodation, all meals, spiritual direction and prayer resources)

Bookings and Information: Maureen 0400038095

Email: mjohalloran@bigpond.com

You are invited to enter the "I am" sayings of Jesus in John's Gospel and discover your corresponding identity within each

I am the Bread of Life I am the Door I am the Good Shepherd I am the Vine I am the Light of I am the Way the Truth and the Life I am the Resurrection and the Life

Please join us for a Kitchen Table Conversation!

Dates: Thursday 28 September from 3.30pm to 4.45pm or **Tuesday 10 October** from 7pm to 8.15pm

Location: Online via Zoom

What is a Kitchen Table Conversation? A Kitchen Table Conversation is a wonderful opportunity to join with others to listen, learn and reflect on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum that will be held on Saturday 14th October 2023.

What is the Referendum? The referendum is the culmination of a decade-long process that gained momentum with the release of the Uluru Statement from the Heart in 2017, when over 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates offered an invitation to non-Indigenous Australians to walk with them to create a better future.

Join us for a Conversation! These kitchen table conversations are **your** opportunity to come together as a community, better understand the issues and talk about the pathway forward.

Register at: adultformation@catholicmission.org.au.

Catholic Mission

Bank details for direct debit donations to support the financial needs of your Parish:

Account Name: Launceston Catholic Parish

BSB: 067 000; **Account No:** 1031 6153.

Reference: "your surname"

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday	6.00pm Vigil	Sacred Heart, Newstead
Sunday	7.30am	Carmel
9.00am	St Finn Barr's	Invermay
9.00am	St Patrick's Chapel	Prospect
10.30am	Apostles	
5.30pm	Apostles (April—September)	

WEEKDAY MASSES 18th—23rd September

7.30am Monday to Saturday at Carmel

Tuesday:	12noon	Newstead
Wednesday:	5.30pm	Apostles
Thursday:	12noon	Invermay
Friday:	12noon	Apostles
Saturday:	7.30am	Carmel

RECONCILIATION

Saturday:	9.30am -10.30am	Apostles
	5.15pm -5.45pm	Newstead

MASS LIVE-STREAMED Each and every Sunday at 9am

On Facebook @catholicparishlaunceston

if you don't have a Facebook account go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/CatholicParishLaunceston/videos/>

Sunday Mass is also televised every Sunday Morning on WIN and WIN HD, 6.00am - 6.30am.



PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN..

LAUNCESTON PARISH YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Enquires: please contact Fr Chatty 0469 661 578



YOUTH GROUP for young people from grades 5 to 12 - Music, Sport, Adventures, Social Work, Faith meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 6.00pm - 7.30pm St Ailbe's Hall.

Next meeting: Thursday 14th September

Young Adults Group: 2nd and 4th Sundays

Next meeting: Sunday 24th September

7pm @ the Pastoral Centre

Children's Corner

Jesus told the following story to show how we need to forgive others. Use the words below to fill in the blanks.

One day a _____ gathered his officials to find out how much _____ they owed him. One official owed the king fifty million _____ coins, but could not pay back what he owed. The king ordered that he, his family and _____ be sold to pay back the debt. The official _____ for mercy. The king felt sorry for him and set him _____. As the official left, he met a man who owed him one hundred silver _____. He grabbed the man and said, "Pay me back what you owe me!" The man begged for _____ but the official had him thrown in prison. When the other officials found out they told the king. The king was so _____ he called the official back and ordered him to be _____ until he paid back everything he owed.



coins mercy
punished
money
king
angry
free
possessions
begged
silver

GOSPELS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Monday 18th:	Luke 7:1-10
Tuesday 19th:	Luke 7:11-17
Wednesday 20th:	Luke 7:31-35
Thursday 21st:	Matthew 9:9-13
Friday 22nd:	Luke 8:1-3
Saturday 23rd:	Luke 8:4-15

NEXT SUNDAYS READINGS:

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:6-9

Psalm 144:2-3,8-9

Philippians 1:20-24,27

Matthew 20:1-16



Ponder and pray the living Word of God

Encountering Christ Retreat

Behold I Make All things New! (Rev. 21:5)
NOVEMBER 3-5th, 2023 @ The Emmanuel Centre

Catholic women, single or married, ages 18+, are invited to a weekend of prayer, talks, silence, and fellowship, hosted by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia. This retreat will help you grow in your love for and devotion to the gift of the Holy Eucharist. The retreat begins Friday evening, 3 November, and concludes Sunday midday, 5 November. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be part of the retreat. Retreatants may select overnight accommodation or day attendance only. All meals are included. Live in retreat fee: \$300. Full retreat - Day only attendance: \$150.

Please email emmanuelcentre@ahtas.org.au to register or call (03) 6334 1082 / 0458 003 642.

Show Forgiveness

How does God forgive us when we do wrong things?

How can we show forgiveness to others?