



# St John Vianney's Catholic Parish

embracing the worshipping communities of  
Manly & Gumdale



## Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A 13th September 2020

### No limit to granting forgiveness and pardon.....

Once two brothers, who lived in large acreage farms, had a falling out. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side by side, sharing machinery, and trading labour and goods as needed without any problems. Then the long enjoyed harmony fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference, and finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence. One morning there was a knock on elder brother's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's tool box. "I'm looking for a few days' work" he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there I could help with? Could I help you?" "Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you." "Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbour; in fact, it's my younger brother. Last week there was a field between us and he took his bulldozer to the river level and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll do him one better. I want you to build me a fence so I won't need to see his place or his face anymore." The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you." The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, nailing. About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job. The older brother's eyes opened wide. There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge, a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails and all and the neighbour, his younger brother was coming toward them, his hand outstretched. "You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done." The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in the middle, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter and said stay a few days I have a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother. "I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, but I have many more bridges to build.

Forgiving in the full Christian sense is a form of loving and caring. Today we are told to forgive others and our forgiveness should not be just once or twice, but seventy times seven. This means that it is an ongoing decision day after day, week after week, year after year, without counting the cost. When we do not forgive someone, it is because we are passing judgment on that person. Jesus commanded us not to judge others so that we will not be judged. Let us remember St. Francis of Assisi's prayer: "It is in pardoning that we are pardoned." Our failure to offer pardon means that we have forgotten God's goodness or have not fully appreciated the unconditional forgiveness we have received from Him.

Blessings,

Fr. Dantus Thottathil.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK:** Karen Booker, Michael Gibbings, Mary Schmidt, Joyce Starkey, Pat Wilson, Sandra Wilson, Maddie Bell, Sr Teresa Geraghty, Mary Forrester, Krystyna Kelly, Sheila Petersen, Richard Pook, Violet Maureen Phillips, Ash Dean, Dennis Patterson, Carmen Phairs, Irene Gavrila, Rosa Maria Santos, Dawn O'Sullivan, Leon and Roz Thomas, Maura Poots, Angela Geraghty, Hugo Callan, Joan Francis, Angela de Weger, Terry Coles, Margaret Brennan, Ted Chapman, Leslee O'Connell, Katherine Pickering, Stacie Stonier, Val Steeden, Mitchell Sweet

**For a name to be included in the 'Prayer for our Sick' list, the Privacy Act now requires the personal permission of the nominee or a close relative.**

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Gertrude Anderson, John Brian, Judith Brennan, Kathleen Carter, Peter Carter, David Cootes, Edna Dillon, Val Fagan, Bernard Foster, Alan Gill, Cecily Graham, Frank Grainger, Luigi Gregori, Luzette Hageraats, Gilda Hankins, Victoria Hardy, Maureen Harrison, Margaret Harrison, Annie Horswill, Keith Joseph Imeson, Andrew Jones, Michael Kearney, Mary Laracy, Diane Larkins, Lance Lawes, Pat Little, Margaret Murphy, Margaret, McIntosh, Peter McIndoe, Lisa Orford (Argent), Jessie Platt, Clem Raine, John Ryan, Florence Schmid, Paul Skillender, Leo Smith, Ray Tranter, Josephine van Daalen, Bob Ward, Madge Wiese.

### Quote of the Day:

Forgiveness is a strange medicine  
If you give it to others,  
it heals the wounds in your heart.

### PASTOR: Fr Dantus Thottathil MCBS

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### ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Fr Prem Rethnamony

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### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Les Sellwood (Chair), Joshua Walsh (Sec.), Bruce Corrie, Helen McNamara, Paola Nunez, Maria Jones, Pam Chapman, Julia McLean

**Archdiocesan Safeguarding Officer** for Manly is:

Les Sellwood: 0401 235 739

**STOPLINE Contact:** AOB@stpline.com.au

**This Parish is Child Safety Aware and also complies with Australian Privacy Laws. A copy of the Child Safety and Protection of Vulnerable Adults policy is situated in the foyer of the church.**

### Mass Times

**Wednesday 9:00am** Rosary and Mass at St. John Vianney's Manly (no bookings necessary)

**Saturday 5:00pm** Vigil Mass at St. John Vianney's Manly (40 people)

**Sunday 7:00am** Mass at St Jude's in Gumdale (20 people)

**Sunday 9:30am** Mass at St. John Vianney's Manly (40 people)

**Reconciliation:** By appointment only.

**First Reading:** Sirach 27:30 - 28:7

***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?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive 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:** Response: The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

**Second Reading:** Romans 14:7-9

***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.

**Gospel:** Matthew 18:21-35

***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 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.'

### **Announcements**

**Baptism:** This weekend, through Baptism, we welcome Charlotte and Ashton Thompson. Please keep Charlotte, Ashton and their families in your prayers as they begin their faith journey.

**Mass Attendance:** In recent weeks, we have noticed that not all people booked to attend our weekend masses have been attending mass. If you are booked to attend mass but cannot attend please cancel your booking to ensure that others can attend mass. If you require any assistance please contact the parish office on 3131 2610 or via email to [manly@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:manly@bne.catholic.net.au)

**National Child Protection Week 2020:** This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. The Church takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk.

**Holy Land Collection 2020:** The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land normally takes place on Good Friday. This year, due to the closure of churches around the world during Holy Week because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Pope Francis moved the date for this collection to Sunday September 13th to coincide with the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on September 14th. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land also rely on assistance from this collection. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Last year, Australian Catholics donated \$1.3 million to this cause, despite tough economic times, rural droughts and the increasing cost of living. This year, we are again facing great challenges due to COVID-19, but your generosity would again be greatly appreciated. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Sunday September 13th and please also keep them in your prayers. Thank you.

**Annual Catholic Campaign 2020:** Next weekend, our Church is delighted to be supporting the Annual Catholic Campaign. It is the one time a year that all of the parishes in the Archdiocese come together to help vital works of our church and local community. Funds raised will support ministries that directly impact this parish. The Campaign supports training future priests, caring for our elderly, retired priests, helping local families in dire need access a Catholic education and caring for those suffering physically and emotionally in our community.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

**From the Archdiocese:** 'The Chief Medical Officer has expressed confidence in organisations with COVID Safe plans and at this stage parishes following the [Industry Plan for Places of Worship](#) can continue to hold acts of worship with no additional operating restrictions.' Bishop Ken Howell

**Our Parish operates under the COVID safe plan and we can continue to celebrate mass following these guidelines.**

**Mass celebrations at St. John Vianney's:** Mass bookings for 40 people can be made until End-September.

To book please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/siv?embed=1>.

If you require assistance for bookings, please contact the parish office on 3131 2610 or email us at [manly@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:manly@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Mass Celebrations at St. Jude's:**

We are currently able to celebrate with 20 people in attendance with social distancing in place.

To book please contact: Helen McNamara via phone 0403 193 625 or e-mail: [Imac11@optusnet.com.au](mailto:Imac11@optusnet.com.au)