

13th September 2020: Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)



FORGIVE FROM THE HEART

Jesus Christ is the perfect example of forgiveness. He died for us when we were still his enemies by sin. Through his death we are brought to life. Christ's life and death have an influence on us all. We are to forgive each other as Christ forgives us, since we ask God our Father to forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

I do not tell you to forgive seven times, but seventy-seven times.

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS & FEAST DAYS

Sat 12 18:30	<i>First Mass of Sunday</i> Alex & Laura Estelita RIP
Sun 13 09.30 11.00	<i>24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</i> <i>Mass</i> Christina Condon RIP
Mon 14 09.30	<i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i> Thanksgiving for the Wellbeing of Pauline Assemien
Tue 15 09.30	<i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i> Thanksgiving for Aaron Bisnaught
Wed 16 09.30	<i>Saints † Cornelius, Pope and † Cyprian, Bishop</i> Special Intention for Yolaine N'Guessan
Thu 17 09.30	Special Intention for Cath Watts
Fri 18 09.30	Special Intention for Joan Warrington
Sat 19 09.30 18:30	People of the Parish <i>First Mass of Sunday</i> Eonal O'Connell RIP
Sun 20 09.30 11.00	<i>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</i> Thanksgiving for the Wellbeing of Pauline Assemien Wellbeing of the members of the SVP

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

On Monday we celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. This feast originated to commemorate the finding of the true Cross by St Helen and the dedication of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre on that site. But it also serves a deeper purpose; to honour the sign of our salvation in Christ. As we trace the cross on ourselves, let us do so with reverence and gratitude.

SCRIPTURE INSIGHTS

There is a paradox in the title of today's feast, for Paul so emphatically points out in his First Letter to the Corinthians(1:23), the Cross is a "stumbling block" for the Jews and "foolishness" for the Gentiles. For the Romans, crucifixion was so shameful and heinous a form of capital punishment that they would not inflict it upon a Roman citizen. For the Jews, God's Word in Deuteronomy had pronounced a curse on anyone who hung upon a tree. (Deuteronomy 21:22-23). An entirely different perspective however, is voiced in the Gospel.

Three times within this account, the evangelist speaks of Jesus being "lifted up" on the Cross. The Greek verb hypsoo has two meanings: "to raise" as in raising up on a cross and "to exalt" or to glorify. In John's narrative, the lifting up of Jesus on the Cross is his exaltation. For on the Cross, Jesus' work of salvation is accomplished. This realization even leads Paul to speak of "boasting" in the Cross of Christ in his letter to the Galatians. (6:14)

The gospel we read on this feast draws a parallel between Moses lifting up the serpent in the desert and the lifting up of Jesus. Moses' action brought healing to those who had sinned through their lack of faith in the ways of God. Jesus' crucifixion brings eternal life to those who believe in Jesus as the "way" of God. NO wonder the Cross is a universal sign for Christians, that looking at it we remember and embrace the saving work of God in Christ. Let us glory in the Cross of Christ, for by it we are saved and made free.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK

Offertory: £264 (Gift-Aided), £482 (Non Gift-Aided)
 Standing Orders: £550

WAYS YOU CAN DONATE

Gift Aid	Tax payers can increase their donations by 25% at no cost to yourself. Contact the parish house for more details.
Standing Order	(Preferred Method) Account Name: RCAS St. Philip Neri Sydenham Sort Code 60-21-12 A/c No: 37298445
Cheques	Payable to: RCAS St. Philip Neri Sydenham
Cash	Offertory collection at Mass.

CONTACT POINTS

Treasurer	David Simpson sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk
Secretary	Steve Pearce (9 am-12 noon, Mon-Fri) sydenham@rcaos.org.uk
Catholic Club	Margaret Doherty 07930 889632
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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.

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 Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

FIRST READING – Ecclesiasticus 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 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – Psalm 102: 1-4, 9-12. R.v.8

**R. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.**

1. My soul, give the thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.
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.
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.
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.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life.

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.