

Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins ...
who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

Psalm

Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. *Second Reading*

A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. *Gospel acclamation*

'All major religious traditions carry basically the same message, that is love, compassion and forgiveness ... the important thing is they should be part of our daily lives.'

Dalai Lama XIV

Almighty God, our creator and guide,
may we serve you with all our heart
and know your forgiveness in our lives.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:
Ecclus. 27: 30–28: 7; Ps. 102 (103); Romans 14: 7–9; Matthew 18: 21–35

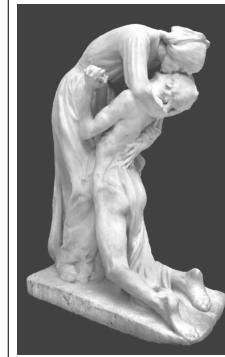
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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

Forgiveness (*Le Pardon*) Pieter Braecke 1893



PREGO LEAFLET

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A, 13th September 2026

'Lord, how often will my brother
sin against me, and I forgive him?'

This Sunday's readings focus on forgiveness, reminding us that there is no limit to God's mercy and unconditional love. We cannot repay God's forgiveness, but we can imitate God's free, unearned mercy by forgiving others with patience and compassion.

The **First Reading** warns against anger, telling us to not keep a record of grudges. Letting go of anger restores peace to ourselves. We are to live by the commandments, overlooking errors and forgiving our neighbour.

The **Psalmist** praises the depth of the Lord's compassion and mercy, telling of God's care for us. There is no end to his forgiveness nor love.

St Paul (**Second Reading**) explains that we belong to the Lord both in life and death. Christ died and rose because of his great love for us. We, too, are called to live not for ourselves but for others, showing love and mercy.

Jesus (**Gospel**) teaches about forgiveness through the parable of a servant forgiven a large debt by a merciful king; the servant then refuses to forgive a much smaller debt. Jesus warns that people should not expect mercy from God if they do not show mercy to others. We are called always to forgive others wholeheartedly.

This week, we pray for one another and ask for the grace to forgive, welcoming the healing and reconciliation forgiveness brings.

We remember too those who are unable to forgive, and all who are affected by war, violence and unrest throughout the world.



Opening Prayer

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.

Psalm 102 (103)

**R./ The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

He will not always find fault;
nor persist in his anger for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our faults.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so strong his mercy for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far from us does he remove our transgressions.

I come humbly before the Lord and gently become still. I note how I am feeling;
what is going on in my life now.

Remembering that I am loved just as I am – and forgiven – I invite the Holy
Spirit to deepen my awareness of the Lord's welcoming presence.

Then I read these beautiful verses, pausing to allow them to soak in.

Where am I being drawn? Which word or phrase particularly touches me?

What emotions, memories are stirring within me? I ponder.

The psalm and its refrain tell of God's deep forgiveness and boundless love.
The Lord is '*slow to anger*'; '*rich in mercy*'; '*gracious*'; and full of compassion.
Perhaps these words bring others to mind ... the Lord who is *kind, caring,
loving, thoughtful* ...?

What does it mean to me to be '*crowned with mercy and compassion*'?
Perhaps there's a time I can readily recall when I've experienced the Lord's
compassion and kindness. As one good friend to another, I share with the Lord
whatever arises from my heart, and I listen for his voice.

With gratitude, I slowly close my prayer. '*Glory be ...*'.

Gospel Matthew 18: 21–35

At that time: Peter came up and said to Jesus, 'Lord, how often will my
brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?'
Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.
Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished
to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was
brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not
pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all
that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees,
imploping him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything."
And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave
him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his
fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he
began to choke him, saying, "Pay what you owe." So his fellow servant fell
down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you."
He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.
When his fellow servants saw what had taken place they were greatly
distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken
place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, "You wicked
servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And
should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on
you?" And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he
should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one
of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

I give myself time to settle before God, and then read and re-read the Gospel.
Perhaps in my mind's eye I talk with each character: the forgiven and unforgiving
servant; the fellow servant who did not receive forgiveness; the king; Peter;
the other disciples; Jesus himself ...

How does Jesus's teaching on forgiveness make me feel?

How have I felt in the past when I've received forgiveness myself? Perhaps
lighter, healed, grateful, restored, joyful ...?

Jesus implies that there should be no limit on our willingness to forgive.

Are there times when I've struggled to forgive others or to show compassion?

I share this with the Lord and I listen to what he may say.

I may find it helpful to repeat these words from today's Psalm:

*It is the Lord who forgives all your sins, who heals every one of your ills, who
redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with mercy and compassion.*

Thanking God for these gifts of love and forgiveness, I close with an '*Our Father*'.