



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

13th of September, 2020

Welcome

On behalf of everyone at St. John's, Toorak, a very warm welcome to this church and faith community. St. John's welcomes everyone to all services and events, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race or background.

This is a wonderful and historic church, founded in 1859, a faithful Christian presence for over 160 years! We are part of the Anglican Church of Australia and a member of the global Anglican Communion, comprised of 80 million people.

Normally, regular services of worship are held each Sunday at 8am and 10am, and Wednesday at 7pm. All are welcome. Services are followed by times of fellowship over food and drinks to which everyone is also welcome.

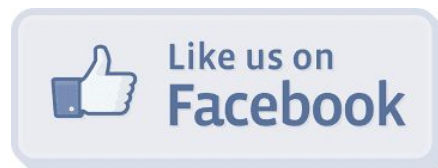
However, during this period of COVID-19, services have been suspended. Services will resume as soon as we are able.

This church actively follows Jesus' command to love God, love one's neighbour and to care for all people. Normally, our clergy and parishioners regularly visit the sick, home-bound, and the dying; however, during the pandemic pastoral care will necessarily take place via phone. We care for the poor and needy through service and charitable giving, through our Opportunity Shop run in partnership with the local Catholic and Uniting churches, and by supporting the work of Anglicare, The Brotherhood of St. Laurence and The Anglican Board of Mission. Our clergy regularly baptise new members of the church, preside at weddings and care for the grieving through our funeral ministry. We look forward to resuming weddings and baptisms as soon as possible. If we can be of service to you or your family, please do not hesitate to get in touch. When the church reopens, if you would like to give of your time and talents in the service of others, please also contact the church and we will gladly welcome your contribution.

When we resume services, if you're visiting for the first time please introduce yourself to a welcomer or member of the clergy, and fill out the blue 'Welcome' card found at the end of every pew so we can stay in touch with you.



@stjohnstoorak



Cover Image

Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, stained glass, late 19th-century, Scots' Church, Melbourne.

A video recording of this service, including the sermon by the Vicar, The Revd Dr. Peter French, can be found on the St. John's [YouTube channel](#) on Sunday morning. An audio-only recording of the service can be found on the St. John's [website](#). A music recording by our Director of Music can be heard [here](#) and notes on this are on pp 10 & 11.

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

Sentence for The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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*

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect for The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

O God, without you we are not able to please you: mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading *Exodus 14.19-31*

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. ²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and

threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.' ²⁶Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.'
²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ³⁰Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalter *Psalms 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.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Second Reading *Romans 14.1-12*

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel *Matthew 18.21-35*

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' ²²Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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."

²⁹Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

For the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

A Prayer for after Holy Scripture is Read

Almighty God, we thank you for your holy word. May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths, and strength to our lives, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sermon The Vicar, The Revd Dr. Peter French.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again 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.

We 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 worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. We

believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People (from 'A Prayer Book for Australia')

Specific prayers may be added at appropriate places in each petition, or instead of silence

Let us pray for the preservation of the earth.

Silence

We give thanks for the beauty and abundance of the earth. Give us and all peoples grace to live in harmony with your creation, wisdom and generosity in our use of its bounty.

Let us pray for peace and shared prosperity.

Silence

We give thanks for leaders who serve the common good. Give wisdom to those who have responsibility and authority in every land, that we may share with justice the resources of the world, and work together in trust.

Let us pray for our nation.

Silence

We give thanks for this land and the diversity of its peoples. We pray for our Prime Minister Scott and our Premier Daniel and all those who govern. Grant that we may so honour one another that all may be enriched by our common heritage and freed from despair, poverty and exclusion.

Let us pray for the Church and its mission.

Silence

We give thanks for the good news of salvation for all people. Strengthen us for our work in the world, empower your Church to proclaim the gospel in service, word and sacrament. Unite in the truth all who confess your name, that we may live together in love to your glory.

Let us pray for ourselves and our community.

Silence

We give thanks for the fellowship of the communities in which we live and work. We commend to your keeping ourselves and each other, our families, those with whom we work and learn, our neighbours and our

friends. Enable us by your Spirit to live in love for you and for one another.

Let us pray for those in need.

Silence

We give thanks that you are the God who brings mercy and wholeness. Comfort and heal, we pray, all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or any other trouble. Give to those who care for them wisdom, patience and gentleness and, to us all, especially in these challenging times, your peace.

Let us give thanks for the faithful departed.

Silence

We give you thanks for your servants in every age. Grant that we, with all your saints, may be brought to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of your kingdom.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing & Dismissal

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Order of Service from *A Prayer Book for Australia 1995*. Broughton Books by E.J.Dwyer (Australia) Pty Ltd, Unit 13, Perry Park, 33 Maddox Street, Alexandria, NSW 2015. © 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. With the Liturgical Psalter, Inclusive Language Version English text © 1995 by David L Frost, John A. Emerton, Andrew A. Macintosh. Hymns from *Together in Song Australian Hymn Book II*. © The Australian Hymn Book Pty Ltd 2006. Registered Office 14 Martin Place (Level 17) Sydney 2000. All readings from scripture are taken from The Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

PARISH NOTICES

On Sunday 6 September, the Premier announced that Stage 4 restrictions will continue until 28 September, with minor modifications. The 'roadmap' out of Stage 4 can be found on the Department of Health and Human Services website. In reference to that, St. John's will remain closed for the foreseeable future, however the clergy, Parish Council and Wardens are already considering the best possible steps to take to safely open St. John's when permitted to do so.

We thank God for the reduced numbers of people testing positive for COVID-19 and pray for the bereaved who have lost loved ones due to the virus. Clergy and staff continue to work from home but hold two services weekly: the interactive prayer service via Zoom each Wednesday at midday, and a recorded service which is available on both YouTube and our website (under Sermons).

Staying in Touch with St. John's

During this period of church closure keep up to date via email, our [website](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#) and postal mail. If you are aware of someone who is not receiving information from the church and wishes to do so, please advise the Parish Office on 9826 1765 or enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org

Weekly Pew Sheet

Unfortunately, due to Stage 4 restrictions it is still impossible to produce a hard-copy pew sheet during this period. If you know of anyone who normally receives a printed pew sheet, please encourage them to see our website to read the pew sheet online. The website address is <https://www.saintjohnstoorak.org/>. If this is not possible, you or others may wish to ask a family member or friend to print out a copy and send it via mail. The pew sheet will continue to be emailed. The link to the pew sheet is on our website [here](#).

Puzzle and activity sheets for children

Can now be accessed via <https://sermons4kids.com/>

Recorded Services

Our weekly service of worship, led by the Vicar and the Assistant Curate, will continue to be offered online. Please go to St. John's [YouTube channel](#) on Sunday mornings to view the service. An audio-only recording of the service can also be found on the St. John's [website](#).

Funerals, Memorial Services and Weddings

Funeral and Memorial services are permitted, with a maximum of five people present. Weddings are not permitted unless for compassionate reasons.

A Message from Archbishop Freier #CandlesAtCurfew

Archbishop Freier encourages us all to light a candle at curfew for Melbourne and Victoria, as a symbol of God's light piercing the darkness.



Prayer Service, Wednesdays at Midday

Our Wednesday midday prayer service continues to meet each Wednesday via Zoom for a time of prayer. The service is 12.00pm-12.15pm, with time for fellowship following. There are two scripture readings (a psalm and a reading from the New Testament), set prayers, and time for participants to pray for themselves and others.

You can join this prayer service by emailing our dedicated email address prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org. A Zoom link will be sent to you. If you would like to be a **reader** for one of the services, please email [here](#) with the day you are available. A link to the reading will be sent to you several days before the service. For those unable to participate on Zoom, the Wednesday readings will appear in the weekly pew sheet. You are also welcome, as always, to email prayer requests to prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org

Music for Pentecost 15

Psalm Prelude, based on Psalm 34: 6, (1915) "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Howells is one of the great English musical mystics, following on very much in the pastoral idiom of Ralph Vaughan Williams. I feel the roots of his composition for organ are found in the improvisations prior to Evensong. They are suggestive of a mood, rather than stating it. It is also perhaps an interesting reflection on the more subjective Anglican approach, which has enabled many creative people to find a palatable artistic expression. His daughter Ursula wrote: 'People assume he must have been deeply religious, and I have to tell them he wasn't. He loved the tradition of the church, and the Bible as literature. But he was never more than an agnostic who veered toward belief. In the last year of his life he told me he thought death would be it.' [The Independent]

In the middle of the exuberance of life, there is the spectre of appalling abuses of our systems of government, with their resulting fallout disproportionately arriving at the doorstep of the poor and needy. The sombreness yet inherent positivity of Psalm

34:6 is particularly relevant today: “This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.”

There’s surely a study needed to compare traffic noise over the COVID lockdown period, i.e. how many are taking lockdown seriously! A basic noise reduction filter has been applied to the recording, which has helped the result in a quiet dynamic range. However, unless we record at 2am, it’s very hard to get a clean sound. And in case you’re wondering if wearing a mask during the online Service is a new fad, (or worse, virtue-signalling!) it has the benefit of keeping the dust out of my system, when I’m in for some hours to practise and record!

Mr. Christopher Cook, Director of Music

Pastoral Support

Without doubt, this second lockdown has challenged us all deeply, most especially those who live on their own or have limited opportunity to speak with family or friends. This isolation has been very difficult indeed. The Vicar, Peter French, and the Assistant Curate, Keiron Jones, along with the pastoral care team, are making every effort to stay in touch with parishioners, usually by phone but also by email, cards or letters. If you would like to chat with one of us, please do contact us during office hours. If you are in a position to offer comfort or lend a hand to a parishioner or neighbour (within current restrictions), please reach out. We’re called even more to care for each other and our community through prayer and also support where possible.

Confirmation Service

Please note that the above service scheduled for Sunday 1 November has been postponed until Sunday 1 August, 2021.

Annual Meeting, date to be determined, via Zoom

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners will be held later this year, likely after 23 November, via Zoom. Further details will be included in the pew sheet over the next few weeks as we determine how best to hold this meeting under the current restrictions.

Electoral Roll Review

The Electoral Roll is being revised in advance of the Annual Meeting in line with Diocesan legislative requirements. The review of the roll will be an opportunity for all parishioners to ensure their names appear on the Electoral Roll. Forms for new enrolments are available by emailing enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org. A copy of the Electoral Roll will be made available in the coming weeks, for members to check.

Annual Meeting Reports

Those responsible for producing reports please submit them to the Parish Office by Monday 12 October.

The Book of Memory

Even though the church is currently closed, the Book of Memory is faithfully tended.

The Melbourne Anglican (TMA)

The link to the latest edition of TMA is [here](#). The link to this week's Newstand is [here](#). The link to the September Prayer Diary and prayer resources is [here](#).

Article from *Daily Bulletin*: "Acedia: the lost name for what we're feeling right now"

<https://www.dailybulletin.com.au/news/56446-acedia-the-lost-name-for-the-emotion-we-re-all-feeling-right-now>

Clergy Days Off

Our clergy have one regular day off per week. Our Vicar Peter has Friday and our Assistant Curate Keiron Monday. Please respect their time away from work and unless in an emergency, please refrain from telephoning, texting, visiting the Vicarage, or emailing them on these days. Thank you.

City of Stonnington Women in the Workforce Program

A free online support program will support women whose employment and career have been impacted by COVID-19 to improve their confidence and employment prospects and prepare for when the job market improves. History shows that times of economic downturn have a greater impact on the employment and career prospects of women than men. This program is designed to educate, inform, inspire and support women to re-enter the workforce with tactical and practical advice.

Delivered by experienced mentor, trainer and leader Amanda Blesing, this free seven week program will be provided weekly via Zoom at 7pm every Tuesday night from 8 September until 20 October.

Sessions will be interactive with the opportunity to discuss issues and ask questions. The program will be broken into seven weekly themes:

1. Navigating your career in turbulent times - from frustrated to unflappable
2. Hope and possibility - tactics to remain hopeful despite evidence to the contrary
3. CV preparation - to help you win interviews
4. Creating a compelling LinkedIn profile to win roles and opportunities
5. Confidence versus competence - which is more helpful?
6. How to remain visible and network despite working remotely
7. How to prepare for a job interview - both face to face and via video

To take part in the session you will need an internet enabled computer, tablet or smartphone, a computer or tablet is preferred to follow and engage with onscreen presentations.

This is a free targeted program for women, but bookings are essential and limited – RSVP here. <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=653161&>

To ensure that sessions can remain interactive but controlled, enrolment numbers will be limited to 50 people. The program is open to everyone but preference will be given to people who live or were recently employed at a workplace in Stonnington.

Please call 8290 1439 if you have any questions before booking. Bookings and further information are available on the Stonnington website.

THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY READINGS

Commentary for The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 13, 2020.

These comments present one interpretation of today's readings; other interpretations may be possible. Comments are best read with the readings.

Exodus 14:19-31 NRSV

After suffering from plagues sent by God, the Pharaoh has allowed the Israelites to leave Egypt. While the direct route to Canaan is along the coast of the Red Sea, God has led them towards the Sea of Reeds, out of concern that they may abort their mission if beset by enemies. Finding the Egyptian frontier forts too strong, they have turned back at God's behest. He has fooled the Egyptians into thinking that the Israelites were trapped, and then pursuing them. His plan will show Israel's God to be victor over Egypt and her gods. The Pharaoh has had his chariots prepared for battle. The appearance of the Egyptian army has struck fear in the Israelites – they have complained (for the first of many times in the Exodus saga) about Moses' leadership (and God's): they prefer slavery to certain death. But Moses has calmed his people, by assuring them of rescue – with God fighting with them – if they do not panic. God has commanded Moses to divide the sea. The “pillar of fire and cloud” (v. 24) may have their origins as markers carried at the head of an army or caravan, but from this event on they become symbols of God's presence. The “angel of God” (v. 19) comes between the Israelites and the Egyptians protecting God's people and confusing the Egyptians, as does the “pillar of cloud”. The Sea of Reeds (“the sea”, v. 21) is shallow and surrounded with marshy land. God uses a natural phenomenon to achieve his purpose: east winds strong enough to blow away the water do occur. The battle turns when the Egyptian chariots bog down in the soft earth (v. 25). The story was handed down orally from one generation to the next; that “the waters” (vv. 22, 29) form a “wall” suggest that it grew in the telling. Vv. 30-31 are probably a later editorial comment: God saves; subjugation to the Egyptians is over; the Israelites have seen the marvel which God has done for them, so they hold him in awe and trust in him. We do not know precisely what happened at the Sea of Reeds, but we see the result: God sets his people on his way, led by Moses.

Psalm 114 NRSV

Vv. 1-3 speak of the Exodus in the briefest of terms, stating its initial and final events: the people saw the Sea of Reeds and the "Jordan" divided. Perhaps v. 4 speaks of the earth tremors which accompanied God's appearance on Mount Sinai. Why, ask vv. 5-6, did these remarkable phenomena occur? Because the lord of all creation was present. He even commanded the "rock" (v. 8) at Meribah to gush forth water, thus relieving the thirst of the Israelites during the Exodus. As the physical earth responded to God's command then, do so now!

Romans 14:1-12 NRSV

Paul writes about two kinds of Christians: (1) those who being "weak in faith" concern themselves with details and added practices (rather than the main objective) and (2) the strong who concentrate on God's purposes. The "weak" are to be welcomed as full members of the community "for God has welcomed them" (v. 3). The particular practices (of piety) mentioned are not eating meat ("eat only vegetables", v. 2), fasting regularly (vv. 5-6) and abstaining from "wine" (v. 21). In Roman society, it was considered ill-mannered to "pass judgement" (v. 4) on the conduct of another master's servant; he was answerable to his "own lord" or master. Similarly, each Christian is answerable to "the Lord" and should not be criticized. One's own conviction (v. 5) before God is what matters. Living (and dying) for God is our objective (v. 8); we should not judge; God will judge our conduct at the end of time: "each of us will be accountable to God" (v. 12). In 14:13-15:6, Paul writes to the strong, those who see the purpose of life clearly. They should refrain from causing others to lose their faith; and not let their ideas and practices, however good, be misconstrued as evil. Rather they are to "pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding" (v. 19). It is through living in a manner consistent with one's conscience that one achieves a right relationship with God (v. 22). One's actions must be founded in faith (v. 23).

Matthew 18:21-35 NRSV

Jesus has told the disciples how the community is to discipline those who disrupt its harmony by going against God's ways. If such a person fails to respond to private counselling, he or she is to be judged by two of the disciples. What they decide, God will ratify. But they should realize that God forgives many times; however there are limits – as Jesus explains in a parable. The story-line of the parable is straight-forward. There are three episodes: (1) a king decides to "settle accounts with his slaves" (v. 23, or possibly with court officials or even with finance ministers or tax gatherers); one of them owes "ten thousand talents" (v. 24), i.e. millions of dollars (to Jesus' audience, as much as the fabled riches of Egyptian and Persian kings); he, of course, is unable to pay, so (as Mosaic law permitted) he and his family are to be sold; when he seeks forgiveness of the loan, the king grants it. (v. 27); (2) But this slave then demands payment of a loan of three month's wages ("a hundred denarii", v. 28) from a fellow slave, and when forgiveness is sought, refuses to grant it (v. 30); (3) When the king hears about this, he retracts his forgiveness and has the first slave tortured – probably for ever (v. 34). In v. 35, Jesus identifies the figures in

the parable: the king is God, the first slave any Christian, and the second slave any other person. Jesus makes a point in each of the episodes: (1) God loves us so much that he will forgive any sin, however grievous; (2) it is absurd to live in a way contrary to God's love and mercy; and (3) those who accept forgiveness from God but fail to forgive others likewise will be punished eternally.

OFFERTORY GIVING WHILST ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IS CLOSED

St. John's is a busy, active parish. Even - perhaps especially - in unusual times, we have a number of significant financial obligations, including additional costs to keep the church clean and safe. The church is enormously grateful for each and every person's contributions. As a member of this church family, each of us is encouraged to keep giving as normal, whether it is through:

- a. ADF (Anglican Development Fund)
- b. Electronic transfer of funds to:
St. John's Anglican Church General Account
Westpac, 509 Toorak Road, Toorak, Victoria, 3142, Australia
Account Name: St. John's Anglican Church
BSB: 033 086. Account No: 871931
(For international transfers please include SWIFT code
WPACAU2S)
- c. Cash / envelope offertory: If you normally make an offertory contribution via the collection plate on Sundays, please do consider contributing through the ADF. Details can be found at <https://www.melbourneanglican.org.au/agencies-anglican-development-fund/>.

Every person's offering contributes to the fabric and wellbeing of St. John's. When we recommence services, let us be in a strong position to get on with the mission of sharing God's love in Christ to each other and to the wider community.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

From the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Anglican Church of South America (Bp Gregory James Venables); Theological Colleges, Church Schools & Church Kindergartens; Camberwell Girls' Grammar School (Debbie Dunwoody, Principal; Helen Creed, Chaplain); Holy Trinity Hastings (Tim Anderson).

For all those who lead us in the Anglican Church, especially: Our Primate The Most Revd Geoffrey Smith, Our Archbishop The Most Revd Philip Freier, and our Bishop, The Right Revd Genieve Blackwell.

For those who lead us in Government: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; Governor General David Hurley AC; Prime Minister Scott Morrison; Federal Member of Parliament for Division of Higgins, Dr. Katie Allen; Premier of Victoria Daniel Andrews; Member for Malvern and Leader of the Opposition, Michael O'Brien.

For Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians: For Aboriginal Anglican clergy and lay-leaders around Australia, their spiritual health and physical well-being, and the people they care for. For Aboriginal and Government leaders and their work together.

The Toorak Ecumenical Movement: Our partner churches, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Toorak Uniting Church, and The Swedish Church.

For The Anglican Board of Mission, The Brotherhood of St. Laurence, and Anglicare

For those celebrating birthdays: Trevor Craddock on Thursday.

For schools in our parish: Geelong Grammar School Toorak Campus, Head of Campus Rachel George; St Catherine's School, Principal Michelle Carroll; and Toorak Primary School, Principal Julie Manallack.

For the sick and all in need: Rosemary Griffith; Maggie Perkins; Rosie Creswell; Gwen; Sohaib; Audrey Leeton; Jean James; Lachie Sullivan; James Griffith; Philip and Becky Newman; Mary.

For those in aged care and those who are housebound: Teri Lawrence; Janet Field; Beverley Joyce; Val Hurst; Marcia Larsson; Gordon Kennett; Anne Myers; Billee Edwards; Elizabeth Johnson.

Give thanks for those whose Anniversary of Death is this week: Bruce Gandy; Keela Hughes; David Mattingly; Robert Gardiner; Ian Holyman; Ethel Loughrey; Daphne Machin; Walter Pollock; Joyce Newman.

The prayer petitions above closely follow the daily prayer regimen of the Anglican Church of Australia, which you can follow everyday [here](#).

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer requests can be sent to prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org. The Vicar and Assistant Curate check emails for prayer requests daily, and pray in solidarity with anyone who would like prayers said for them.



ST. JOHN'S
ANGLICAN
CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859

86 Clendon Rd, Toorak 3142

Vicar The Reverend Dr Peter French

vicar@saintjohnstoorak.org

Wardens Ms Helen Ballantyne, Mrs Amanda Bagot, Mr Anthony Mannering

Parish Council

Mr Dougal Colhoun, Ms Vivienne Crompton, Ms Diana Dunlop, Ms Jessica Hall,
Mrs Claire Morgan, Mr Harrison Young

Assistant Curate The Revd Keiron Jones

curate@saintjohnstoorak.org

Director of Music/Organist

Mr Christopher Cook

accook2001@yahoo.com.au

Parish Administrator/Child Safe Compliance Mrs Sally Robertson

enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org

Child Safe Officer Ms Vivienne Crompton

Family Safety Officer Dr Esther Schroeder Goh, esther.schroedergoh@gmail.com

Covid-Safe Officer Mr Dougal Colhoun

Sunday School Teachers Mr Clive Wright, Ms Shierly & Miss Jo-Jo Patterson

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