

24th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Our forgiving Lord.

We cannot celebrate today the Lord of compassion and love, the Lord who died for us and who lives to intercede for us, unless each of us has forgiven his brother from his heart.

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.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING: The book of Ecclesiasticus 27:30 – 28:7.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

PSALM: Ps. 103
RESPONSE: **The Lord is compassion and love.**

SECOND READING: The letter of S. Paul to the Romans 14:7-9.
Alive or dead we belong to the Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35.
I do not tell you to forgive seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Let us pray...

MASS INTENTIONS

Forgiving is a natural result of loving, so it is not an option for us but a command. In the knowledge of all God has done for us, let us bring to him our concerns for the Church and for the world. The response in the prayers to: The Lord is full of compassion, is: **his love lasts for ever.**

Thank you, Father, for the love which forgives again and again, and is prepared to trust us with the care of your people even after we have let you down many times. Teach us to minister to one another's needs with compassion, sensitivity and discipline, so that all are affirmed and encouraged.

Silence The Lord is full of compassion: **his love lasts for ever.**

Thank you, Father, for the order and variety, simplicity and complexity of this universe. Thank you for all that humankind is able to do; may all these gifts be used wisely and well, for the good of all, including those as yet unborn.

Silence The Lord is full of compassion, is: **his love lasts for ever.**

Thank you, Father, for what we have been forgiven and the opportunities we have each day to learn the joy of forgiving others. Smash through our self-righteousness and keep us learning in humility at your feet.

Silence The Lord is full of compassion, is: **his love lasts for ever.**

Thank you, Father, for all those who care for the sick, the unstable, the ungrateful and the difficult. We pray for all who are on the receiving end of hate, deceit, suspicion or abuse, and for those who cause others pain and distress of any kind. We pray for your healing and transforming.

We pray in particular for:

Hester	Christine	Peter	Enzo	Ezekeiel	Norman	Louise
Margaret	Sue	Joan	Guy	Henry	Abigail	
Alan	Bernie	Maureen	Frank	Jack	Herta	

We pray for all those who are suffering from the Covid-19 virus, particularly those in our hospitals and in intensive care, and ask the Lord that we, our families and our community may be brought safely through this pandemic.

Silence The Lord is full of compassion, is: **his love lasts for ever.**

Thank you, Father, for those whose living and dying has taught us much about love.
Freed from their pain and restrictions of age or injury, may they enjoy for ever the life of heaven.

In particular we pray for the members of our own families, the recently departed:
and for all those whose anniversary falls at this time, namely:

- 13th Neville Dowson, Pamela Margaret Drinkwater.
- 15th Beatrice Joan Lunt, Rose Marshall, Henry Boughton.
- 17th Edith Gwenthyn Batt, Joyce Ransome.
- 18th Hendrik Christiaan Kuk, Millicent Maude Parry, Bryan William Parratt.

✦ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord; **and may light perpetual shine upon them.**
May they rest in peace; **and rise in glory.**

We bow our heads and remember in silence our own personal intentions and the intentions of those who have asked for our prayers.

Silence The Lord is full of compassion, is: **his love lasts for ever.**

We are all reliant on the intercessions and prayers of others.
Therefore we join our prayers with those of your saints;
S. Philip and S. James and Mary, the Mother of God, as we say together:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessèd art thou amongst women
and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Thank you, Father, for disturbing our complacency and challenging us to move forward with you,
assured of your company and your love.

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.