













Good Shepherd Catholic Parish

88 South Circular Road, Gladstone Park | PO Box 2400 | (03) 9338 2840
gladstonepark@cam.org.au

CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Dishan Candappa
Assistant Priest: Fr Samuel Pearson
Deacon: Rev Poukesi Vaka'uta

OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday: 10:00 – 1:00pm
Wednesday - Friday: 10:00am– 2:00pm

PARISH SCHOOLS
School of the Good Shepherd
88 South Circular Road
Gladstone Park Vic 3043
Principal: Laura Petrie
Tel: 9338 7686
E. principal@sogsgpark.catholic.edu.au

St Carlo Borromeo
5 – 9 Drummond Street
Greenvale Vic 3059
Principal: Kevin Gleeson
Tel: 9333 2572
E: principal@scgreenvale.catholic.edu.au

Mary Queen of Heaven
75 French Road
Greenvale Vic 3059
Principal: Renae Gentile
Tel: 7379 5600
E: principal@mqhgvale.catholic.edu.au

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES
Monday – Saturday:
9:15am - Good Shepherd
WEEKEND MASS TIMES
Saturday: 6:00pm - Good Shepherd
Sunday: 9:00am - St Carlo Borromeo
11:00am - Good Shepherd
5:00pm - Good Shepherd

ADORATION & BENEDICTION
At Good Shepherd Church on the first Friday of the month after morning Mass & Wednesday at 6:00pm.

MARIAN NOVENA
Wednesday at 6:30pm preceded by Adoration/Confession at 6:00pm

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION
Wed-Fri: 8:45am - 9:05am
Wed: 6:00pm - 6:30pm
Saturday: 9:45am - 10:15am
5:15pm - 5:50pm

BAPTISM PREPARATION
2ND & 4TH Tuesdays of the month at 6:00pm. Bookings essential.

WEDDING PREPARATION
Bookings to be made 6 months prior to wedding date. Bookings made through Parish Office.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

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