

## Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 17th September 2017

**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.



**First Reading from the Book of Sirach 27: 30-28;7**

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord is kind and merciful;  
slow to anger and rich in compassion.

**Second Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 14: 7-9**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment;  
love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia

**GOSPEL: According to Matthew 18: 21-35**

**Communion Antiphon:** How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men  
seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

### *Saints of the Week*

St Januarius (Tues 19/9)

Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gön, Paul Chöng Ha-sang & companions, martyrs (Wed 20/9)

St Matthew (Thurs 21/9)

St Pius of Pietrelcina (Sat 23/9)

### Devotions to Honour Our Lady of Lourdes

Mass and Blessing of the Sick will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, Earlwood, on Sunday the 8 October (behind Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Earlwood), entrance via St. James Avenue, Earlwood, commencing with recitation of the Rosary at 2:30 p.m. followed by Mass and the Blessing of the Sick at 3:00 p.m. The Principal celebrant will be Bishop Terry Brady.

Disabled Parking will be limited to the main drive entrance to the Grotto. Parking is also available in the surrounding streets and Council car park.

*Society of Our Lady of Lourdes*

### SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE NEWS:

**Marriage Plebiscite:** As survey forms begin arriving in letterboxes across Australia, it is important that we are fully equipped with information about the consequences of changing the definition of marriage and the impacts this will have on individuals, families, education and churches. The Coalition for Marriage has released a comprehensive guide to some of the key consequences and questions around this important conversation. Go to [www.coalitionformarriage.com.au/handbook](http://www.coalitionformarriage.com.au/handbook) to download your free copy.

**Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill NSW:** This assisted suicide bill will be tabled in the NSW Legislative Council on September 14. Please act now to inform MPs in both the Upper house (Legislative Council) and the Lower House (Legislative Assembly) of your views. Please write letters to you local MLA and to some of the MLCs.

For MP contact details and points to use in letters go to: [www.no euthanasia.org.au](http://www.no euthanasia.org.au)

## St Christopher's Parish Holsworthy

*We are a community striving for growth, unity, equality, love and commitment*

<b>Administrator:</b>	Rev. Andrew James
<b>Assistant Priest:</b>	Rev Thomas Alukka Varghese
<b>Assistant Priest:</b>	Rev Nicholas Rynne
<b>Permanent Deacon:</b>	Rev. Mr. Al Salu
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mrs. Anne Bennell
<b>Parish Office Hours</b>	Mon 10.00am—3.30pm Thurs, Fri 10.00am—3.30pm
<b>Address:</b>	195 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173
<b>All correspondence to:</b>	<u>PO Box 389, Moorebank 1875</u>
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.stchristophers.org.au">www.stchristophers.org.au</a>
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**St Christopher's Catholic School**—*Through faith and love we serve*

<b>Principal:</b>	Mr. Tony Boyd
<b>School Tel:</b>	(02) 9825 3251
<b>School Mail:</b>	205 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173

## Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year A Sunday 17th September 2017

This gospel passage follows directly from last week's passage. It concludes the whole of Matthew Chapter 18 that deals with sin, forgiveness and reconciliation. Peter's question to Jesus and suggested answer is a reflection of the view that there is a limit to the number of times we should forgive someone. Seven is a significant number in scripture and implies a 'perfect' amount. Even though by his use of seven, Peter is suggesting that he should forgive someone many, many times, Jesus quickly corrects Peter and says not seven, but seventy-seven times (or seventy times seven). Jesus plays on the use of the number seven and multiplies it to indicate that one should forgive as many times as is required – without keeping count; without keeping score.

The story of the unforgiving servant is a familiar one of forgiveness and mercy being shown but not passed on. The sting in the tail of this parable is Jesus' final warning that, 'So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.' This is an unsettling statement, as we believe God's forgiveness to be without measure and without end. Jesus warns that unless we seek to imitate God's forgiveness and forgive others 'from our heart' (with compassion) then we are not going to recognise the forgiveness of God and will cut ourselves off from it.

The whole idea of forgiving from the heart is a powerful contradiction of a popular concept: 'I can forgive, but not forget.' Is it really possible to forgive but refuse to forget? Surely holding on to a memory of hurt is holding on to the hurt itself and does not display that any forgiveness has occurred at all. To forgive but not forget is to keep count. How many times should I forgive the one who has hurt me? As many times as it takes!

*Fr. Greg Sunter*

**Parish Collections**

**10/9/2017 First:** \$1,055.20      **Second:** \$1,012.75  
**Priests Retirement Foundation Appeal** \$890.40

**Parish News:**

**ST CHRISTOPHER'S PARISH FETE      Saturday 16th September 2017**

We *Thank* everyone who supported the fete, from volunteering and to coming on the day.

**Sacrament of Baptism** is held on the 2nd & 3rd Sunday of the Month following the 9.30am Mass. Godparents are examples of faith to the child. They must be confirmed and practicing Catholics, at least sixteen years old. There must be at least one Catholic Godparent, a non-Catholic may act as a Christian witness. Parents must attend a pre-baptismal instruction, which is held on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month at 11.00am in the Parish Hall. Please contact the parish office 9825 1679 regarding the Baptismal form.



**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** A reminder to parents who have enrolled their child in the Reconciliation Program-the Information session for Parent/s **ONLY** is on Sunday 15th October at 4pm in the church.

A **parent only** needs to attend.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PHOTOS** Parents of First Holy Communion candidates, all official photos can be downloaded from this site. The coupon code system has now been activated and ready.

<http://giovanniportelliphotography.zenfolio.com/f127206437>

**MASS & ADORATION of the  
BLESSED SACRAMENT  
First Friday of the month  
Friday 6th October 7.00pm**



**OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP**

The next monthly Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help will be on

**TUESDAY** 3rd October at **7:00pm** ...

Please notice the **change from Wednesday to Tuesday evening.**

**Mass Intentions**

Saturday 16th Sept 5.30pm.....Sue Morris RIP)  
Sunday 17th Sept 8.00am ..... Amparo P. Yap (RIP)  
Sunday 17th Sept 9.30am.....Parish Intentions  
Monday 18th Sept 9.15am.....For the Sick  
Tuesday 19th Sept 9.15am.....Joan Bruszewski (RIP)  
Wednesday 20th Sept 9.15am.....Vocations  
Thursday 21st Sept 9.15am.....Souls in Purgatory  
Friday 22nd Sept 9.15am .....Australian troupes serving overseas  
Saturday 23rd Sept.....**Reconciliation : 4:30 PM // Vigil Mass :5:30PM**

**Syro-Malabar Liturgies:**

Wednesday Mass at 7.00pm  
Thursday Mass at 7.00pm followed by Adoration (in English)  
Friday Mass at 7.00pm **except on the First Friday of the Month**  
Saturday Mass at 9.30am  
Every Sunday Mass at 11.30am **on the Third Sunday of the Month** this will be conducted in the School Hall.

**The Samoan Community** celebrates a **Sunday Mass** in the Church on the **Third Sunday of the Month at 11.30am.**

**SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE NEWS:**

**CATHOLIC CARE..... Supporting the people of Sydney to live and thrive**

**“Fostering has brought us more hugs, more laughter; we’ve found the board games again and we’ve found them so much fun.”**

To celebrate Foster Care Week, we acknowledge the wonderful carers we support who bring safety and love to children.

If you could care for a child please call Catholic Care’s CCareline Team on **13 18 19** or email [connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)

**Grief to Grace – Healing the Wounds of Abuse** – is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held April 8th – 13th 2018. To request an application contact Anne by emailing [info@griegtograces.org.au](mailto:info@griegtograces.org.au) or phone 0407704539. For more information visit [www.griegtograces.org](http://www.griegtograces.org)

*We Pray For The Sick* : Brian Cooney , Cyril Ferriere, Arthur Aguilar, Mark Cronin and Kerry Stark

*Recently deceased:* Sue Morris

*Anniversaries:* Amparo P. Yap

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them  
May they rest in peace. Amen.*

