

# Bribie Beacon

Sunday 13 September 2020

St Peter's Anglican Church  
Banya Street Bribie Island

Anglican  
Church  
St Peter's Bribie Island

## PARISH NOTICES

**Online Sunday Worship** - A new online service is available each Sunday via [Vimeo](#), [FaceBook](#) or our [Webpage](#). Also, each Sunday at 9.30am you can also join us via [Zoom](#) for a live stream of our services at St Peter's.

**2021 Lectionary & Australian Anglican Church Calendar 2021** - We are now taking orders for both the 2021 Lectionary and the 2021 Calendar. If you would like a copy of either (or both) please email the office by next Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September to order. Cost is \$15 for the lectionary and \$15 for the calendar. Payment may be made to the parish account with either Lectionary or Calendar and your name in the reference. Alternatively a clearly marked envelope with name, Lectionary or Calendar and correct money can be placed in the box in the narthex.

**Bush Ministry Fund and Bush Church Aid** - September is a counting month for Bush Ministry Fund and Bush Church Aid money boxes. BMF funds this year to date are \$454.35. As our annual support is usually about \$1500, which often includes a number of individual and church group donations, we look forward to your continuing support. The need remains significant.

**Roster Help** - We are in urgent need of volunteers to join the cleaning roster which covers the cleaning of the church and Cooina. If you feel you could assist in this important ministry please contact a Churchwarden .

## WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday - 7.30am & 9.30am

Wednesday - 10am

## PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

### PARISH PRIEST / RECTOR

Rev Steven Schwarzrock  
3408 3191

[rector@stpetersbribie.org.au](mailto:rector@stpetersbribie.org.au)

### CHURCHWARDENS

Kay Benson 3408 1058

Margaret Peterson 5497 6978

Greg Rollason 3408 1998

### COVID WARDEN

Lynn Macbeth 5497 5268

### WEBSITE

[www.stpetersbribie.org.au](http://www.stpetersbribie.org.au)

### ONLINE GIVING BY CREDIT CARD OR DEBIT CARD

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/TIM/?BillerCode=1730050>

### ONLINE GIVING BY DIRECT DEPOSIT

Ac Name - Bribie Island Parish  
BSB - 704-901

Account Number - 00000040

### POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 1087 Bongaree 4507

# SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER - ORDINARY SUNDAY 24

Readings - Exodus 14.19-31; Psalm 114; Romans 14.1-14; Matthew 18.21-35.

Sentence - 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 the day - O God, you call your Church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you: help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## QUESTIONS FOR SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

What did it mean in Moses' time to fear the Lord and what might it mean now, after Jesus? (Exodus 14:31)

When in your life has God turned rock into a pool of water and what were the effects in your life? (Psalm 114:8)

When you think of settings when you found it easy and hard to forgive, what are the factors? (Matthew 18:21-22)

## PRAYER POINTS

**Those in Need** - Des Everett, Jean Woodward, Valerie Bowser, Phyl Adams, Bretton Bartlett, Greg Collis, Ian Hillard, Elizabeth Kubler, David Lower, Krista-Liisa Pulkkinen.

*To add someone to the prayer list please email [office@stpetersbribie.org.au](mailto:office@stpetersbribie.org.au)*

**Birthdays this week** - Marjorie Voss (13th), Margaret Peterson (14th), Daphne Franklin (15th), Carol Little (18th), Leila Wiseman (18th), Lorraine Daniels (19th), Ailsa Frost (19th)

**Birthday Celebration** - Congratulations to Lorraine Daniels who celebrates her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on Saturday.



## **SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

Forgive somebody seven times? Peter's proposal suggests that forgiveness might be as simple as taking a pill: once a day for a week and you are good to go.

It is no problem to keep track of the number seven, as if that were all the effort required to forgive a brother or sister who "sins against me." Seven is a measurable number. Seven seas, seven colors of the rainbow, seven days of the week, even seven loaves to feed a crowd with seven baskets full of leftovers to gather at the end, each of these represents an amount that is easy to trace, even if its referent is something great.

However, Jesus' response to Peter's question (including the parable) takes forgiveness out of the "countable" category and places it into the realm of the incalculable. The forgiveness to which Jesus points is beyond one's capacity to keep tabs, beyond one's capacity to offer on their own strength or ability. It is God's compassion and abundant mercy that make forgiveness possible, whether transgressions are large or small.

Like so many of Jesus' parables, the one in today's passage is clearly an exaggeration. A servant of the king owes the monarch 10,000 talents. One talent is about 6,000 denarii (give or take), with each denarius worth a day's wage for a laborer. Thus, the first servant owes about 60 million denarii, an amount so large that it exceeds the national debt of a small country. No person could repay it, even if they were to sell themselves and their family into servitude for several lifetimes. In an outrageous act of generosity and mercy, the king graciously forgives this unforgivable debt.

The second servant owes 100 denarii. It is a decent amount of money, but like the number seven in Peter's question, it is measurable, miniscule by comparison to the debt that was forgiven by the king. When the forgiven servant refuses to extend compassion, it is no wonder that the king becomes angry. He has granted his servant a level of forgiveness that exceeds imagination and yet, that servant is unwilling to offer even the smallest mercy to another person.

The parable does not explain the servant's refusal to forgive. Perhaps he had suffered harm as a result of the second servant not repaying the debt. Or maybe was he paralyzed by his own greed? Afraid to give up the power he held by virtue of the debt? Distracted by the unexpected change that had just taken place in his life? Too caught up in his newly privileged status to concern himself with the plight of others less fortunate?

What keeps us from offering compassion and mercy to others when we have received so much? Who needs to be forgiven?

It is ironic that Peter is the one who suggests a low cap on the number of times he should forgive, since he is also the one who will need great forgiveness from Jesus.

On the one hand, Matthew and the other Gospel writers portray Peter as a model of faithfulness. He is a leader among the Twelve, the first to follow when called, unafraid to ask questions on behalf of his colleagues. He promises to stick with Jesus no matter what, even if death might be the outcome. On the other hand, he will deny Jesus three times after the arrest and will be nowhere to be found during the crucifixion. At the level of the narrative, of course, Peter is unaware of the magnitude of his imminent failure. Astute readers and listeners, however, will note the irony of his proposal that forgiving someone seven times ought to be sufficient.

Peter's ignorance of his need provides a caveat for Jesus-followers today. Do we recognize the ways that we harm others, either in our interpersonal interactions or through the systems in which we participate? How might we become as aware of our own capacity to sin against others as we are of the capacities of others to sin against us?

When the first servant refuses to forgive the much smaller debt, the king locks him up to be tortured until he extends forgiveness. As it appears in a parable, this "torture" is no more literal than is the precise amount of either servant's debt.

To be sure, many of Matthew's parables conclude with eschatological warnings of punishment for those who accept God's gracious gifts but who refuse to walk in God's ways. Still, this same Gospel is infused with the promise that God's forgiveness, offered through Jesus the Messiah, extends to all, even to the most sinful of persons.

Nonetheless, the parable speaks a truth that is familiar to many who have experienced injury or trauma at the hands of another: one's ability to forgive does not always come easily, nor is it necessarily a quick or simple process. At times it is necessary to forgive from a distance. Some wounds are so deep, some "debts" so large, that human forgiveness is next to impossible.

Indeed, there may be circumstances for which the most faithful response is to seek the assistance of a trained counselor or spiritual director to aid in the process of healing. Peter's question, "How often should I forgive?" and Jesus' answer "Seventy times seven" (or "seventy-seven times") suggest that forgiveness may well be a long and difficult process rather than a week-long project.

Even (and especially) when our own efforts fall short, God's mercy is beyond imagining. This is a truth proclaimed by the parable as well as by the testimony of Jesus' own life and ministry. On the night when Judas will betray him and Peter and the other disciples will abandon him, Jesus announces to all, "This is the blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins".

## **ATTENDING WORSHIP AT ST PETER'S IN PERSON**

**Protecting Vulnerable People** - Government advice for vulnerable people is that you should stay at home and avoid contact with others. Vulnerable people are defined as people 70 years and older, people 65 years and older with a chronic medical condition and people with a compromised immune system.

**Capacity** - As per government guidelines on physical distancing attendance at St Peter's is limited to 50 people per service. If capacity limit was reached at a service, alternate seating will be made available outside.

**Registering for Worship** - Pre-registering for worship is not currently required.

**Physical Distancing** - People should practice physical distancing at a minimum of 1.5 metres at all times. No physical greetings or exchanges such as handshakes or hugs. Sit separately (unless from same household) and per approved seating plan.

**Hygiene** - Hands should be cleaned with hand sanitiser upon entering church, before receiving communion or after contact with any surfaces. People who feel unwell or have cold or flu like symptoms should not attend.

**Record of Attendance** - A record of each attendee's name, address and phone number will be kept by the Rector as per government requirements.

**Cleaning** - The church will be cleaned in line with Safe Work Australia standards.

**COVID Warden** - For more information on our COVID safety plan please speak to Lynn Macbeth (COVID Warden) or a Churchwarden.

## **ATTENDING WORSHIP AT ST PETER'S IN PERSON**

**Online Worship** - Every Sunday morning a new service is uploaded. To watch online worship from St Peter's please follow this link [vimeo.com/user110905450](https://vimeo.com/user110905450). The link is also available from our website and FaceBook page.

**Live Online Worship using ZOOM** - The Wednesday (10am) and Sunday (9.30am) Eucharist will be streamed via ZOOM. Join earlier if you would like to have a chat. To join us follow the Zoom instructions below. To join download and open the ZOOM app and select "Join Meeting" and enter the meeting id **3408319100** and the password is **34083191**. When prompted select join with computer / internet audio. You can also phone in from your home phone by dialling **02 8015 6011**. The meeting id is **3408319100**. Please phone Fr Steven on 3408 3191 if you need assistance.