



The Debt We Have in Common

THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

As we hear today's Gospel of the servant whose enormous debt is forgiven, yet who refuses mercy to a fellow servant owing far less, we cannot help but ask: how can this be? This is the first question that comes to mind. How could a person be forgiven so much and then, just a few minutes later, refuse to forgive something inconsequential in comparison? Selfishness doesn't really explain it. Being so full of oneself doesn't explain it. Being completely dense and obtuse is perhaps closer to the truth, but even that explanation comes up short.

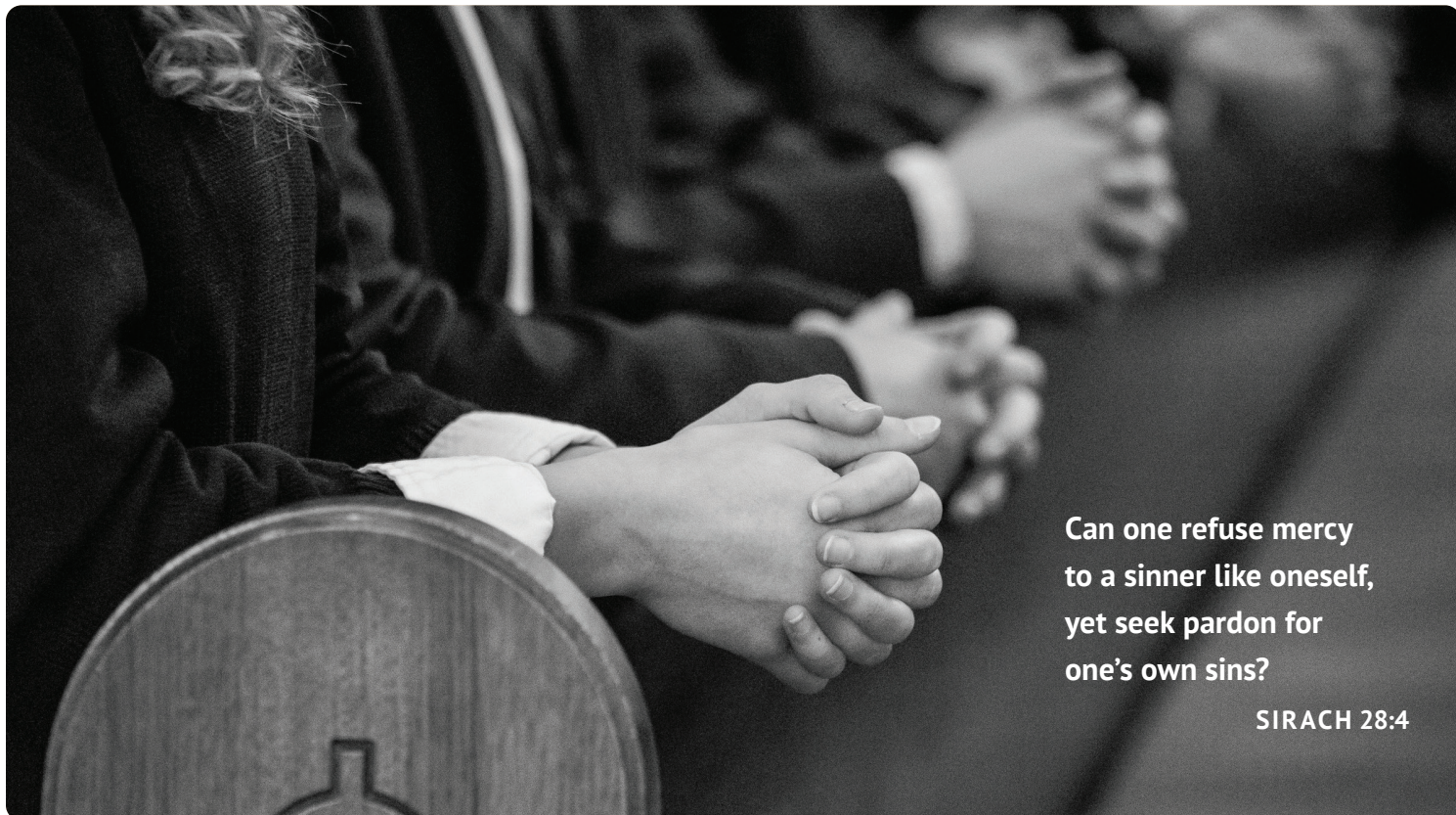
The truth is that the exaggeration of the debt is secondary to the story. What is essential to the story is the invitation to reflect on what it means to be a human being. It is to acknowledge that, when all is said and done, everyone owes a huge debt. No one is exempt from gratitude. An honest acceptance of who we are—completely and totally dependent on God who created us—is the core truth. To be so disconnected from this truth as to not recognize one's own dependence and be completely unaware of the need to be grateful—that is the real challenge the story considers. ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

How am I at forgiveness—with others and with myself?



Can one refuse mercy
to a sinner like oneself,
yet seek pardon for
one's own sins?

SIRACH 28:4



St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29th of January 1928.
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

Address: 45 Somerset Road, Sandys MA 03, Bermuda
or
P.O. Box MA 05, Mangrove Bay, Sandys MABX, Bermuda.
Telephone: (441) 234-2321
Email: stjosephbermuda@gmail.com

PASTOR: FR. JACOB SWAPAN GOMES
(441) 292-0607 Ext. 5 or (441) 704-1874 (cell)



Mass Schedule

Saturday Afternoon - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday morning - 9:00 a.m.

Baptism	By appointment: one month in advance
Weddings	1 year in advance (approx.)
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Sunday morning: 8:30 a.m.
Filipino Mass – Saturday	19 th September 2026: 11:00 a.m.
Youth Ministry & FHC	4 th October 2026
Youth/Family Mass	25 th October 2026
Pastoral & Finance Council	TBA
Coffee Social	Resumes in September
Second Collection	12 th /13 th September 2026

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA

Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiwak
www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Parish Team Leaders

Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral Council Chairperson	Mrs. Annette Barclay St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative
Walette Cross Stewardship Representative	Natalia Walker & Justin Tavares Religious Education - Youth Ministry
Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader	Mrs. Jane Farge - Music Ministry



Today's Hymns

Entrance:	Blest Be the Lord	#677
Offertory:	Loving and Forgiving	#532
Communion:	Bread of Life	#805
Recessional:	Though the Mountains May Fall	#682

Leader of Song: Justin Tavares



The St. Joseph's Parish family takes this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship with us today. May the loving Lord always be with you, and with your families.



Sunday – 20th September 2026

Proclaimer of God's Word
Opening/Closing of the Church
Eucharistic Minister
Collection Counters
Altar Server
Music

Cassie Tavares
Elizabeth Card
Joanne Smith
Annette Barclay
Liam/Seamus Stones
Jane Farge

Prayers: Please keep our **sick and shut-ins** in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Andrew Card, Eleanor Correia, Peter Farge, Mary Maybury.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday, 12th September – For the people of St. Josephs
Sunday, 13th September – For the people of St. Josephs

BIRTHDAY

Kristy Azoifeifa Villanova 15th September

ANNIVERSARIES

Walette & Anthony Cross 16th September

May God, our loving heavenly Father, bless you all with many more special days

ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

MASS	Attendees	Collection
Saturday, 5 th Sept. – 4:00 p.m. (Reg)	9	73
Sunday, 6 th Sept. – 9:00a.m. (Reg)	46	403
		\$476

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated.
Banking information: St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number:
20006060757062100



This weekend is the second weekend of the month, therefore, there will be a second collection designated for maintenance.



THE FALL SUPPER will be held on Saturday, 24th October, in the Parish Centre.
Available Tickets: 40 Dine-In and 70 Take-out.

Take-outs **must** be picked up between 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

The Dine-in supper starts at 7:00 p.m. (served)

Tickets: Adults \$40 - Children (12 and under) \$15.
Menu: Soup: Chicken, fish, pasta, vegetable stir-fry, spring rolls, cakes/cookies.

Tickets should be available next weekend
RAFFLES (Dine-In only)



YOUTH MINISTRY & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
2026/2027 sessions will commence on Sunday, 4th October
in the Parish Centre; they directly follow the Sunday Mass
(10:00 a.m.)

NOTE: A strong religious education programme is highly valued by those, who, truly, believe in the Good News of Christ's gospel message, ***but to be successful, it needs the full support of the parents.***

SAVE THE DATE:

MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD RALLY

100th Anniversary of World Mission Sunday
"One in Christ, united in Mission"
For children ages 5 to 14

Saturday, 17th October 2026, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
in St. Theresa's Hall. Please RSVP to Liz Card
(lizziewhitney2015@gmail.com or WhatsApp
3352077) by Monday, 21st September 2026.

BISHOP's CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

On the 17th of September every year, the Franciscan Family celebrates the feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis, commemorating the marks and the manifestation of the wounds of the Passion of Jesus on the body of St. Francis. The Saint of Assisi is known for great devotion and love for the Passion of Christ. He spent many hours contemplating the immense, merciful love of Christ who for the love of us accepted to live and die in extreme poverty in order to redeem us. The mountains were always his favourite spots for prayer, away from the noise of the city, alone, contemplating "Love is not loved" for days and hours on end.

The Saint of Assisi received the stigmata — the bodily wounds of Jesus Christ — on the 17th of September 1224, during a retreat of prayer on Mount La Verna in Tuscany, Italy. As the biographer describes, "Francis saw a six-winged seraphic angel that held the figure of a crucified man. He felt a sudden, burning pain as marks resembling nails appeared on his hands and feet, along with a deep gash on his right side. He is the first person in recorded history to officially receive the stigmata.

This commemoration will provide our Diocese with the third community occasion of the community celebration of the Plenary Indulgence in the Jubilee Year of St. Francis. There will be a special Mass at St. Anthony's Church in Warwick at 7:00 p.m. There will be priests available for confession from 6:15 p.m.

May your weekend be peaceful and your week good!

Bishop Wes

The Portuguese Mass has resumed at St. Patrick's on Wednesdays and will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m.

FORGIVENESS WITHOUT LIMITS

The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us that forgiveness is at the center of our faith. The readings show how anger and resentment can harm us, but mercy brings healing. God's love is full of patience, and he asks us to treat others with the same care.

Sirach teaches that clinging to wrath only leads to trouble. We are told to remember our short lives and let go of grudges. Paul reminds the Romans that whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. This means our choices should show mercy and unity, not judgment.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells a story about a servant who was forgiven but would not forgive. This parable shows that mercy must flow both ways. The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A is a call to forgive as we have been forgiven. It is about living in God's mercy every day.

Reflection:

- Why is it sometimes hard to forgive others?
- How has forgiveness brought peace into your life?
- What happens when people hold onto anger?
- How does the parable of the Unforgiving Servant challenge you?
- Why does God expect people to forgive?
- Have you ever experienced the freedom that comes from letting go of a grudge?
- How can you show mercy in your daily life?
- What does it mean to forgive someone without limits?
- How can prayer help when forgiveness is difficult?
- What do the readings for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A teach about God's mercy?

Prayer

Lord, you are full of mercy and love. Teach me to forgive as you forgive. Help me let go of anger and resentment. Fill my heart with peace so I can show kindness to others. Strengthen me when forgiveness is difficult. Let my actions reflect Your love each day. Amen.

Source: *Young Catholics* 2026



Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."
Romans 14:7-8

The message is clear; we belong to God alone. All that a steward does is therefore done for the Lord. Whenever we assist others, we are God's own messenger, bringing His presence to those we serve.



24th Sunday

in Ordinary Time



Main Message

- God forgives us with mercy
- Let go of anger and grudges
- Forgive others from the heart
- We belong to the Lord



The Readings



First Reading:
Sirach 27:30-28:7 —
Let go of wrath



Psalm:
Psalm 103 —
The Lord is kind
and merciful



Second Reading:
Romans 14:7-9 —
We belong to
the Lord



Gospel:
Matthew 18:21-35 —
Forgive as God
forgives



Try This



Choose one grudge
to release. Pray for
that person today.



Key Scripture

“

“How often must
I forgive?”

(Matthew 18:21)

”

Themes To Know



Mercy



Forgiveness



Letting go



Compassion



Belonging to God

What This Means For Us

- ♥ Do not keep score
- ♥ Speak calmly after conflict
- ♥ Pray for someone who hurt you
- ♥ Ask forgiveness when you are wrong



Reflection Questions

- ? Why is forgiveness difficult?
- ? How has God shown me mercy?
- ? Who needs my forgiveness?



Dear Padre,

If Catholics say the Confiteor at Mass, then why do we still need to go to confession?

Recall when Jesus told Simon and his fishing companions to lower their nets after they had caught nothing. (See Luke 5:1–11.) When their boats began to sink with so many fish, Simon fell at Jesus’ feet and said, “Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” Likewise, at Mass, we’re so filled with awe upon entering the presence of God that we become aware of our own sinfulness.

The penitential act prepares the assembly to enter the celebration in a proper spirit of humility. The priest and the faithful observe a period of silence to acknowledge their sinfulness and confess their awe of Christ’s love and mercy. This is expressed in different forms, one of which is the Confiteor, a general confession that invokes the support of the communion of saints and the specific community gathered at Mass. It includes the instruction to strike one’s breast, an ancient gesture of humility and penitence. (See Luke 18:13; 23:48.) The rite concludes with the priest’s absolution, but it “lacks the efficacy of the sacrament of penance” (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 51). Thus, the penitential act isn’t a substitute for absolution from sins confessed in the sacrament of penance, particularly serious, mortal sins. Rather, it prepares the faithful as a unified community to properly listen to God’s word and celebrate the Eucharist worthily (*GIRM* 46). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



ZULFUGAR KARIMOV / UNSPLASH

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In the Church there is...a place for everyone, and... every Christian is called to proclaim the gospel and bear witness in every environment.... Thus,



this people shows its catholicity, welcoming the wealth and resources of different cultures and, at the same time, offering them the newness of the gospel to purify them and to raise them up.

**GENERAL AUDIENCE,
ROME, MARCH 11, 2026**

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday

September 14
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Nm 21:4b–9
Phil 2:6–11
Jn 3:13–17

Tuesday

September 15
Our Lady of Sorrows
1 Cor 12:12–14, 27–31a
Jn 19:25–27 or
Lk 2:33–35

Wednesday

September 16
Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
1 Cor 12:31–13:13
Lk 7:31–35

Thursday

September 17
Weekday
1 Cor 15:1–11
Lk 7:36–50

Friday

September 18
Weekday
1 Cor 15:12–20
Lk 8:1–3

Saturday

September 19
Weekday
1 Cor 15:35–37, 42–49
Lk 8:4–15

Sunday

September 20
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 55:6–9
Phil 1:20c–24, 27a
Mt 20:1–16a