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# SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST'S UDDINGSTON

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**TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**  
**17 SEPTEMBER 2017**

## **FORGIVING THE DEBTS OF OTHERS**

Our First Reading this weekend comes from the Book of Sirach. In the verses read today, Sirach tells us that we must forgive our neighbour if we want God to forgive us our own sins. We must be merciful if we hope to obtain mercy from God. We must not seek revenge on a neighbour lest God should take vengeance on us. If we remember our ultimate goal and destiny in life we will keep God's commandments and we will not be angry with a neighbour who offends us.

The Second Reading is from the St. Paul to the Romans Chapter Fourteen. In these three verses St. Paul emphasizes the fact that through our baptism we have been made members of Christ's mystical body, we have become brothers of Christ, intimately united with him in his death and resurrection. Whether living or dead we belong to Christ. It was for this purpose, to unite all closely to himself not only in this life but especially in the next, that Christ became man and "dwelt among us."



The Gospel today, with the parable of the forgiving King, reminds us that mercy and forgiveness should be at the heart of the Christian life. Yet, as today's First Reading wisely reminds us, often we cherish our wrath, nourish our anger, refuse mercy to those who have done us wrong. Jesus, too, strikes close to home in today's Gospel, with His realistic portrayal of the wicked servant - who won't forgive a fellow servant's debt, even though his own slate has just been wiped clean by their Master.

It can't be this way in the kingdom, the Church. In the Old Testament, "seven" is frequently a number associated with mercy and the forgiveness of sins. The just man sins seven times daily; there is a seven-fold sprinkling of blood for atonement of sins (see Proverbs 24:6; Leviticus 16). But Jesus tells Peter today that we must forgive not seven times, but seventy times seven times. That means: every time. We are to be merciful as our Father in heaven is merciful (see Luke 6:36; Matthew 5:48). But why? Why does Jesus repeatedly warn that we can't expect forgiveness for our trespasses unless we're willing to forgive others their trespasses against us?

It's precisely because, as Paul reminds us in today's Second Reading, we belong to the Lord. Each of us has been purchased by the blood of Christ shed for us on the cross (see Revelation 5:9). As we sing in today's Psalm, though we deserved to die for our sins, the Lord does not deal with us according to our crimes. The mercy and forgiveness we show to others should be the heartfelt expression of our gratitude for the mercy and forgiveness shown to us.

This is why we should set our enmities aside and stop judging others. We must judge actions, good or evil, but not people. We know that one day we will stand before the judgment seat and give account for what we've done with the new life given to us by Christ (see Romans 14:10,12). So we forgive each other from the heart, overlook each other's faults, and await the crown of His kindness and compassion.

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### **THIS SUNDAY'S MASS READINGS**

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9    Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Psalm 102 (103) Response: **The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.**

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

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# PARISH NEWS

## RCIA

The initial enquiry period has begun. Any new Enquirer interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith is warmly invited to come along on Tues 19 Sept at 7.30 pm in small hall.

## MARY'S MEALS COFFEE MORNING

Next coffee morning will take place next Sunday 24 September, which will coincide with the pastoral visit from Bishop Toal.

## SPUC SCOTLAND

A growing number of organisations are working together to propose the most radical abortion policy. The ultimate aim of the campaign is to permit abortion to birth for any reason. The view is completely at odds with public opinion. A recent opinion poll showed 99% of people were opposed to this idea and in fact 70% of women want the abortion time-limit reduced. Say 'NO' Abortion Forms are available in the porch of the church for anyone wishing to oppose the campaign.

## SVDP

Those requiring assistance from the SVDP please contact 07856346890.

## READERS

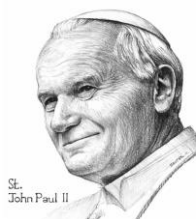
October rotas available outside Sacristy.

## BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

The loss of a loved one through Separation, Divorce or Death, is one of life's most traumatic experiences. It can result in unbearable feelings of grief and loneliness. A week-end away for a lifetime change is to be held at Conforti Centre, Coatbridge 6 - 8 October 2017. For further details see poster on notice board in porch.

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

A marriage preparation course for all couples marrying in 2018 and early 2019 will take place this Tuesday 19 September 2017 at 7.30 pm in the hall. All couples marrying in the Catholic Church must have a period of preparation. If you are unable to do it here, you must have a certificate for a recognised course.



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
**SAINT POPE JOHN PAUL II ORATORY**  
*See opening hours on the following page.*

## PARISH RELIGIOUS SHOP

Angels Magazine now on sale in parish shop. There is also a large selection of religious objects.

## BAPTISMAL TALK

Next Baptismal Talk for parents and sponsors will be on Monday 9 October at 7.30 pm in small hall.

## SACRAMENTS OF FIRST CONFESSION / FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

Parents of children for the above Sacraments should return the forms TODAY if they wish their child to be enrolled for the Sacraments. ONLY CHILDREN, whose forms have been returned will be enrolled and receive the Sacraments in 2018. Forms were given out through the school about three weeks ago.

## CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice will resume next Sunday 24 September at 11.00 am. New members will be made very welcome.

## UDDINGSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Incinerator proposal by Clean Power Properties - meeting to discuss the impact of this planning proposal on our locality in David Milne Centre, [opposite Scotmid, Old Mill Road], Uddingston, this Wednesday 20 September at 6.30 pm. All welcome.

## UDDINGSTON & TANNOCHSIDE HISTORY SOCIETY

A public lecture on 'The Life of General Wilkie of Knowehead 1817 - 1882', at the Nazarene Church, Old Mill Road, Uddingston, next Wednesday 27 September at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

## MONTHLY MEDJUGORJE MASS

Our monthly Medjugorje Mass will be held next Monday 25 September at 7.30 pm.

## SPECIAL COLLECTION

Please note that the Second Collection at all Masses this weekend will be taken-up for students studying for the priesthood.

**Parish Religious Shop**

*Open daily after each Mass*

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## PARISH TIMETABLE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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| <b>Sunday 17 September</b><br>Twenty fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  | 10.00 am Holy Mass<br>12 noon Mass<br>6.00pm Evening Mass   |
| <b>Monday 18 September</b><br>Twenty fourth week in Ordinary Time    | 9.30am Mass<br>St John Paul II Adoration Chapel open 6.00 am - 7.00 pm<br>Padre Pio Group meet after morning Mass<br>Silent Prayer Vigil for Life 8.00 pm - 9.00 pm                       |
| <b>Tuesday 19 September</b><br>Twenty fourth week in Ordinary Time   | 9.30 am Mass<br>St John Paul II Adoration Chapel open 6.00 am - 11.00 pm<br>S.V.D.P. meet 6.30 pm<br>RCIA meet 7.30 pm in small hall  |
| <b>Wednesday 20 September</b><br>Twenty fourth week in Ordinary Time | Mass 9.30 am<br>St John Paul II Adoration Chapel open 6.00 am - 9.00pm<br>Divine Mercy Group 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm<br>Prayer & Praise Group 8.00 pm - 9.00 pm<br>A.A. meeting 8.00 pm in hall |
| <b>Thursday 21 September</b><br>Twenty fourth week in Ordinary Time  | Mass 9.30 am<br>St John Paul II Adoration Chapel open 8.00 am - 9.00 pm<br>Line Dancing 7.00 pm   |
| <b>Friday 22 September</b><br>Twenty fourth week in Ordinary Time    | Mass 9.30 am<br>St John Paul II Adoration Chapel open 7.00 am - 7.00 pm   |
| <b>Saturday 23 September</b><br>Twenty fourth week in Ordinary Time  | Confessions 9.00 am - 9.25 am<br>Mass 9.30 am<br>St John Paul II Adoration Chapel open 10.00 am - 11.00 am<br>Vigil Mass 4.30 pm - Confessions after Vigil Mass                           |
| <b>Sunday 24 September</b><br>Twenty fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time   | Masses 10.00 am, 12 noon & 6.00 pm  |

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Maureen Connelly, Robert Henderson, Mrs Mary Doyle, Mary Strutt, Isobel Grant, Anne Darcy, Kay Davies, John Watters, Phil Swift, Robert Fall, Robert Sanders, Jean Nellis, Priscilla Joeadigwe, Greta Mitchell, John Hastie.

### ANNIVERSARIES / MONTHS MINDS / BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES

Father Robert Curley, Jim Bradley, Danny Stirling, Charles Stevenson, John Cummins, John & Agnes Jolly, James Barrow, Charles Barrow, Mary Mulraney, John McCormack, James Gillan, Billy McKenna, Esther Magee.

### SICK

Ian Munnoch, Helen McGonnell, Cathy Cochrane, Barbara Chevallier, Willie Goldie, Rose Canning, Bernadette Bradley, Cara Bremer, Jenny McGuire, Vincent Ferrier, Hass Morrison, Robert Goodwin, Paul O'Neil, Kathleen Irwin, Edward Asken.

*(Please alert the clergy when a name is to be removed from the sick list)*

**Parish Priest** Rev. Fr. Dominic M. Towey

**Deacon** Rev. Richard Haggarty

**Safeguarding:** Mrs. Catherine-Anne Houston



**SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST'S PARISH HALLS**

To book any of the halls for parties etc contact:

**Catherine-Anne Houston**  
**Tel: 07821638885**

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST'S PARISH HOUSE**  
 136 Lower Millgate, Uddingston, G71 7AH

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## **BULLETIN ADVERTISING**

We still have advertising space available on this back page of our Parish Bulletin for business wishing to advertise their services on a regular basis. For more information please contact the Chapel House on 01698 813156.

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