

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Services

8am traditional

10:30am family contemporary

Wednesday Services 10am

Wooli Services TBA. Currently on hold



INSPIRED BY GOD'S GRACE -WE SEEK TO SHARE HIS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2020

In a quick online search for why its hard to forgive, I found the following reasons why one author believes we struggle:

- ◆ they don't deserve to be forgiven
- ◆ Revenge is sweet
- ◆ I can't forgive or I'll be unsafe
- ◆ Forgiving them means giving permission to keep doing it.

These are all reactions on how we perceive the reactions of the other person. But that isn't what forgiving is about.

In the Bible, the Greek word translated "forgiveness" literally means "to let go," as when a person does not demand payment for a debt. Jesus used this comparison when he taught his followers to pray:

"Forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is in debt to us." (Luke 11:4)

Likewise, in his parable of the unmerciful slave from today's gospel reading, Jesus equated forgiveness with cancelling a debt.

To let go isn't always as easy as simply saying it. To let go is an action. Actions take time to unfold, which gives us time to reflect on what and who we are forgiving.

Jesus tells us that when God forgives our sins, He forgets about them, flinging them far from His presence, never to revisit it. How does that make us feel when we say sorry to Him?

In a similar context, that's how He wants us to forgive others. We learn to accept an apology from another as being genuine and without strings attached. There should be no conditions attached to an apology as there should be none attached to forgiveness.



OUR MINISTRY UNIT CONTACT PERSONS FOR INITIATING THE GRIEVANCE PROCESS ARE:

Francis Kean and Revd Jenny Parker

The **Director of Professional Standards** Number is: **1800 370 757** for matters of a sexual nature. E-mail dps@graftondiocese.org.au

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OPENING SENTENCE & READINGS

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

READINGS:

Exodus 14.19-31

Romans 14.1-14

Psalm 114

Matthew 18.21-35



Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?'

THIS WEEK WE PRAY FOR:

Our Nation:

That our nation will work together, to encourage the economy to bring life to our communities. We pray for wisdom in border openings and fairness to all who need to move around our country

Prayer points:

- Constructive peace in the newly formed UAE-Israel deal
- The health and wellbeing of hundreds of thousands of people hit by flooding in Sudan
- For an easing of tension between Greece and Turkey
- That the Mozambique Government forces will end torturing suspected fighters in the country's Cabo Delgado province
- For Venezuela nurses who are struggling to survive as inflation and covid virus rage
- For an easing of tension between China and India

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

KIDS MUSICAL PLAYTIME:

Picnic in the park this coming week, as recent rains last Friday have put it back one week. It will happen!

NOTICES IN BRIEF



Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is a project of Samaritan's Purse. It partners with local churches in developing nations to reach out to children by providing gift-filled shoeboxes and bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR BOXES TO THE CHURCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THANK YOU.**

Synod will be taking place this month on the 26th and 27th September in Tweed Heads. Esther Clancy and Dianne Grinter will be attending with Revd Tim for this annual gathering of the diocese.

On Sunday 27th September there will be only the 8am service, with Revd Jenny taking the service.

Each month BCA produces a short video highlighting the prayer needs in one of their regions. This month's focus is Queensland/Northern New South Wales, which includes Revd Simon Reeves and his family down in Woolgoolga. Here is the Facebook link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bcaprayer>

BCA boxes are to be returned to Joyce as soon as possible.

And Revd. Tim has just been licensed as Rector of South Grafton Anglican

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

Exodus 16.2-15

Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1.21-30

Matthew 20.1-16