

Pastor's Message



Peace and Love!

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and

conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times.

The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness. The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison. A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king.

Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another. There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about

quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

Mercy means to give to another what they do not deserve. That means that we have to give something that is not theirs — something of us has to die in the act of mercy.

The mercy of God, lived out in the forgiveness of the Christian heart, is the circulating life blood of the Church. It makes possible the impossible — the ever-expansive and entirely unlimited communion of broken human beings that transcends the tragedy of their world existence. It is the life of heaven but one that rests conditionally on mercy, on our decision for or against the brother whose debt is already forgiven by God.

The First Reading, from Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 27:30-28:7, sets the tone, especially in the way it links divine and human forgiveness. What one will receive from the Lord depends on how one is prepared to treat others: whether with compassion or with desire for vengeance, as the case may be. The text almost gives the impression that human readiness to forgive determines whether one receives forgiveness from God, as if God waits to see how things are on the human side before moving to forgive. This would be contrary to the overall

... *For the complete homily, please visit our website at:-*
<http://strichardsjamaica.com/information/homily>

September Birthdays!

Erica	Bancroft-Wilson
Dannielle	Bardowell
Tanza	Bowen
Peter	Brammer
Katherine	Brown-Thompson
Carlton	Carey
Marcia	Chin-See
Paulette	Duncan
Nicholas	Dunn
Paul	Dunn
Gregory	Dunn
Alex	Fraser
Sheryl	Garriques-Lloyd
Abrianna	Gayle
Kimani	Gilchrist
Ballen	Gonzales
Zayna	Goodison
Christina	Grant
Sandra	Hart
Britanny	Hart
James	Ho-On
Khloe	Lee
Gary	Lewis
Rosemarie	McHugh-Thomas
Ralston	McKenzie
Peggy	Parkes
Debbie-Ann	Pryce-Hoo Fung
Donovan	Reid
Michelle	Robinson-Lewis
Marcele	Sawyers
Beryl	Whiteman

Happy anniversary to Deacon Lloyd and Lois Saunders celebrating 56 years of marriage

Virtual Conference

The International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC) will host a Virtual Conference which is scheduled between 28th September and 9th October, 2020.

Persons who are interested should submit their names to Mrs. Carine Bennett at the Chancery (876 927 9915)

The conference registration form is available from the St. Richard's rectory.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Nominations for new members will be taken on 18th October. Have you considered your nominee?

PASSING



We note with sadness and regret, the passing of St. Richard's parishioner, Mr. **Calvin Chin Yee** on Saturday 12th September 2020. Let us continue to keep his family members in our prayers and to intercede for the reception of his soul into the loving arms of our Lord.

Family Life Commission: Pre-Cana Sessions

The next scheduled Pre Cana sessions are

October 30, 31; November 1, 2020
and

November 27, 28 and 29, 2020.

Parishioners with weddings slated for January through to April 2021 are encouraged to apply for one of these sessions as the first Pre Cana of a new calendar year is usually scheduled for the first weekend in March.

Laity Training Programme

St. Michael's Theological College Invites you to participate in a 14 week Hebrew Scripture/ Old Testament course on Tuesday September 8, 2020 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 via the Zoom platform Persons continuing the course, it will begin Systematic Theology on Wednesday September 9 at 10:00 am or Thursday September 10 at 6:00 pm via the **Zoom** platform.

Please contact St. Michael's at 876-977-4206 or email stmtc2909@gmail.com

PAVING PROJECT

Parishioners are advised that a project has started to rehabilitate the road and parking surfaces of the property at St. Richard. The work may eventually introduce some inconvenience beginning this week and should take approximately two weeks to be completed. The areas targeted include behind the church building, currently being used by the Infant school, the main church yard and the open area across from St. Thomas Aquinas Hall.

MASS ATTENDANCE

SATURDAY MASS - Suspended due to new Curfew Hours

MORNING MASS – Suspended (You may call Fr. Xavier for special needs)

SUNDAY – Mass begins at St. Richard's at 8:00AM

and Our Lady of Lourdes at 11:00AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Children) will restart in October on a date to be announced

This WEEK's SCHEDULE – September 2020

THURSDAY 17th

- Church Council Meeting at 7pm via (via Zoom)

SUNDAY 20th

- St. Richard's Mass – 8:00AM (Live Streamed)
- Divine Mercy Prayer – 9:45AM – 10AM
- Sunday School – **On Summer Break**
- OLL Mass – 11:00AM

St Richard of Chichester & Our Lady of Lourdes Communities

St. Richard's

Sunday Mass: 8:00AM

Sunday School: 10:30am – 11:30AM

Adoration: Tuesdays 6:30PM

Prayer Meetings: Tuesdays 7:00PM

Our Lady of Lourdes Sunday Mass: 11:00AM

24th Sunday of Year A

Sirach 27:30-28-7

“Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you ..”

PS 103:1-2,3-4,9-10,11-12

“**The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy**”

ROM 14:7-9,

“Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord...”

Mt 18:21-35

“... forgive seventy-seven times”



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