

Prayer & Reflection



**The Parable
Of The
Unmerciful
Servant**

**Matthew
18:23-35**

Week beginning: **Monday 14th September**

Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows

Catholic Social Teaching – Option for the poor & vulnerable

Battle of Britain memorial

24th Sunday Ordinary Time

15th September, is the feast of 'Our Lady of Sorrows', a title given to Mary which focuses on her intense suffering and grief during her Seven Sorrows.

These Seven Sorrows include:

- the prophecy of Simeon*
- the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt
- the loss and finding of the child Jesus in the Temple
- meeting Jesus on His way to Calvary
- standing at the foot of the cross when He was crucified
- holding Jesus when He was taken down from the cross
- Jesus' burial.

*The prophecy of Simeon, that a sword would pierce Mary's heart was fulfilled in these events. For this reason, Mary is sometimes depicted with her heart exposed and with seven swords piercing it.



"A woman clothed in the sun, with the moon under her feet."
This is Pope Francis's beautiful meditation from *Laudato Si'* (care for our common home) in praise of the Virgin Mary as protector of the poor and Queen of creation, set to music with inspirational images from CAFOD's work.

CAFOD stands for the Catholic Agency For Overseas Development.

CAFOD is an international development charity and the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. CAFOD stands beside people living in poverty – **whatever their religion or culture**. Through local Church partners, we help people directly in their own communities, and campaign for global justice, so that everyone can reach their full potential. CAFOD works in communities across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Catholic Social Teaching: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable



CAFOD
Just one world

Watch this very short video made by CAFOD called 'Queen of all Creation'.

Look carefully at the images – all taken by CAFOD when dealing with emergencies, or on the various projects they have carried out around the world

Some of the images in the video show suffering and pain. Others show new creation and joy.

Why do you think CAFOD made this film?



[CLICK FOR CAFOD FILM Queen of all creation](#)

Reflections

- Think about what the world might be like if charities like CAFOD, Red Cross and Oxfam did not exist to help the vulnerable and poor across the world.
- Reflect on, and think about actions you can make to support the poor and vulnerable in our local communities/and across the world.
- Raising money and participating in charity events is a key feature in the Catholic Life and Mission of our school.

REMEMBER = PRAYER ALWAYS HELPS!

- **Always keep the poor and the vulnerable in your prayers.**



Prayer Before an Image of the Mother of Sorrows

O most compassionate Mother, what bitterness filled your heart when you embraced the lacerated Body of your Son with your virginal arms, pressed Him lovingly to your maternal heart, and covered Him with the tenderest kisses. I remind you of your inexpressible sorrow, and in virtue of it I beseech you to intercede for me for the forgiveness of my sins.

O Mary, my hope, have pity on me. Pray for me, a poor sinner. Carrying the wounded Body of your Son Jesus, offer Him in this condition to the Heavenly Father for me. Offer His pierced Heart, His Passion and Death, and your own immeasurable sorrows to obtain grace and mercy for me, particularly for (mention your request).

Holy Mother, pierced through, intercede for me with my Savior Crucified. Amen.



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon
them. May their souls and all the souls
of the faithful departed, through the
mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time



The Parable Of The Unmerciful Servant

**Matthew
18:23-35**

THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL READING – 24th Sunday Ordinary Time

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 18: 21-35

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt.

At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.’ Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan.

When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, ‘Pay back what you owe.’

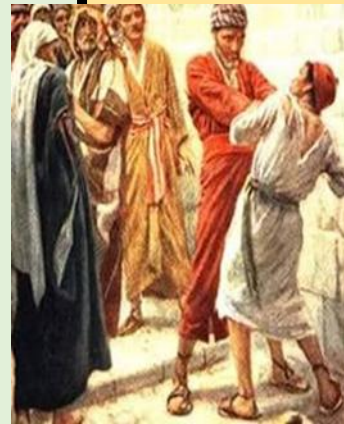
Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’

But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debts.

Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair.

His master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?’

Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.”



Reader = the Gospel of the Lord.

RESPONSE = Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

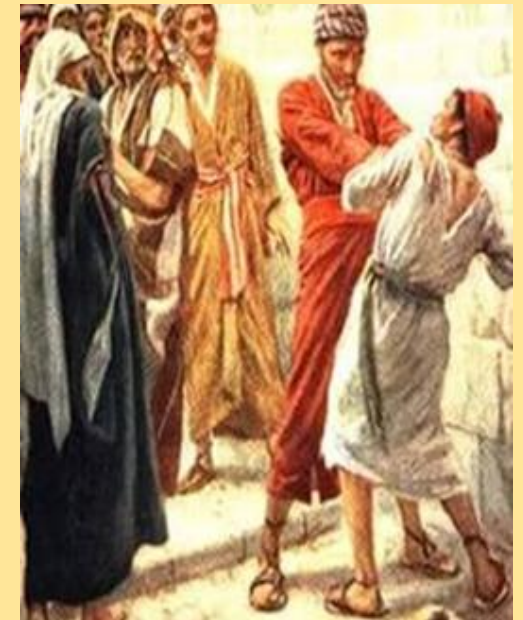
Explanation of this week's Gospel reading

In this Gospel, Jesus tells the story of a servant who is forgiven a huge debt by his master. However, after receiving this mercy, the servant refuses to forgive someone who owes him a much smaller amount.

Jesus uses this parable to teach that God's forgiveness is generous and limitless, and that we are called to show the same forgiveness to others.

The message is clear: if we have received God's love and mercy, we should extend that same mercy to those around us.

Forgiveness can be difficult, but it brings healing, restores relationships and helps communities to grow in peace.



Reflection – Thought for the Day

As a school community, we are not expected to be perfect. We all make mistakes, say the wrong thing, or sometimes let others down. Today's Gospel reminds us that being Inspired by Christ means choosing forgiveness over resentment and kindness over anger.

When we forgive, we reflect the mercy that God shows us every day.

Forgiveness does not mean forgetting what happened, but it means giving others the opportunity to learn, grow and make a fresh start.

Living this Gospel helps us fulfil our mission:

Inspired by Christ by following Jesus' example of mercy.

Service to Others by showing compassion and understanding.

Excellence for All by creating a community where everyone can learn, flourish and belong.

Today's challenge: Is there someone I can forgive, encourage or offer a fresh start to today?



PRAYER – to be Forgiving

Loving Father, we thank you for the endless mercy and forgiveness that you show us each day.

Help us to be **Inspired by Christ**, following his example of compassion, patience and love.

When others hurt or disappoint us, give us the courage to forgive as you forgive us.

May our **Service to Others** be shown through kindness, understanding and a willingness to offer second chances.

As we strive for **Excellence for All**, help us to build a community where every person feels valued, supported and able to flourish.

May our words and actions bring peace, strengthen relationships and reflect your love in all that we do.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



inspirati a christo
Go Forth Today and
Be Inspired by Christ

St John the Apostle & Evangelist – pray for us. Amen.

