

# GOD WILL FORGIVE AS WE ...



## Does God have feelings? The Bible is clear that God does, and in today's parable we have two emotions described.

The story sets out to tell us how God reacts to the same person, and God's attitude, that of the king, is determined by that of the individual portrayed in the character of the servant.

First of all, the king does not simply feel sorry for the servant who has accumulated a debt of such astronomical proportions that he has absolutely no hope of ever repaying it. After initially imposing a severe punishment of slavery on the whole family, the king's heart goes out to the servant when he appeals to him. He revokes the sentence and cancels the debt, which is now referred to as a *loan*.

However, the servant has learned nothing from his experience, and treats one of his colleagues in the way in which the master had treated him at first, and this over a paltry debt which the other could have repaid given time and patience. This attitude and behaviour causes the king to grow angry and to punish the servant severely.

*Social justice and personal righteousness* are themes running through the teaching of the prophets, John the Baptist and Jesus. If a person claims to be a member of the people of Israel or a disciple of Jesus, then their attitude must be that of the Lord they worship. The Lord is infuriated in the Hebrew Bible because the behaviour of the people of Israel does not reveal to others the God in whom they claim to believe. The Lord's name is profaned among the heathen nations, which is another way of saying that the Lord's reputation is brought into disrepute and made fun of because of people whose conduct does not suggest a God who is interested in right conduct towards others. The same can be said of Jesus and his followers, those who claim to be his disciples.

The lesson of our parable is that forgiveness should be the hallmark of the Christian, both as individuals and as a community. It is the refusal to forgive others, ignoring the fact that we ourselves have been forgiven, which will bring the wrath of God down on us. We have been warned. ■

### DO

Harbouring resentment poisons the spirit. Is there some offence (real or imagined) which rankles at the back of your mind? Ask the Lord for the courage either to sort it out with the other person or to let it go. Remember the prayer, *forgive us our debts as we forgive those in debt to us*.

### SAY

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

## REFLECT

**F**orgive us our trespasses ... : if we were to take this to mean forgive us our debts in the same measure as we forgive those who are in debt to us, we might appreciate better the seriousness of what we are actually saying each time we use the Lord's Prayer. We are actually asking the Lord to use our own attitude to others to determine the Lord's attitude to ourselves. Scary stuff, is it not? Jesus' answer to Peter's question tells us that there should be no limit to our forgiving others, and the parable goes on to illustrate this. The sign of peace declares that we are indeed at peace with those with whom we celebrate the eucharist. ■

## LEARN

The mention of seventy (or seven times seventy) recalls the boast of Lamech that he has been avenged disproportionately for an injury (Gen 4:24).

Matthew presents Jesus as reversing the boast of Lamech by saying that there should be no proportion or limit as far as forgiveness is concerned.

A talent is a very large amount of money, worth between six and ten thousand times a day's wages.

Under Jewish law, a wife could not be sold into slavery: by the time of Jesus neither could children.

## PARISH OF DROMORE

Very Rev Conor McConville PP, Tel: 02892-611347  
Parochial House Dromore Tel: 02892-692218

Rev Dr Frank Rice, Permanent Deacon  
Mobile: 07746-842977

Parish website: [www.stcolmans.org](http://www.stcolmans.org)  
St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07738838187

Parish email address: [office@stcolmans.org](mailto:office@stcolmans.org)  
Diocesan Safeguarding Officer: Patricia Carville 07789 917741

### Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017

#### Sunday Mass Times

**St Colman's Dromore**                      **All Saints Ballela**  
Sunday 11.00am                              Sunday 9.45am

#### Weekday Mass Times: St Colman's

**Mon, Wed, & Fri:** 9.30am: Liturgy of the Word  
with Eucharist

**Tues & Thur:** 9.30am Mass

**Sat: 10-11am:** Exposition of The Blessed sacrament

#### Ballela Anniversaries

**Sun 17:** None

**Sun 24:** Sr Bronagh Meehan  
Mabel Cunningham

#### Dromore Anniversaries

**Sun 17:** Kathleen Burns

Patsy Mallon  
Josephine Rainey

**Sun 24:** Rosalind Rooney

Rose, Dan & Lissie Brennan  
Robert Guy & deceased members of  
The Kelly & Brennan Family  
Vincent Mallon

**Offertory Promise Collection** £1218.94

#### Readers - Dromore

**Sun 24:** Ciara Cunningham

#### Recently Baptised

Ella Louise McCrory

#### Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI

Ann Mallon invites you to come along and support "**The Big Red Afternoon Tea Party**" on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September in St Colmans Hall Dromore after 11am Mass – 3pm. Admission £10. Proceeds go to Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI research.

#### Whist

Whist will take place on Sun 17<sup>th</sup> September in St Colmans Hall Dromore. Ladies to supply pastry:  
Ann Mallon & Deirdre Cunningham

#### National Novena DROMANTINE

In honour of St Therese of the Child Jesus 2017  
Mass and Novena prayers twice daily  
at 10.00am & 7.30pm from  
Saturday 23rd September – Sunday 1st October

#### Parish Draw Winners Week 21

|      |                 |     |
|------|-----------------|-----|
| £100 | Bill O'Loughlin | 079 |
| £50  | Mrs Tom Mackin  | 159 |
| £30  | Melissa Eadie   | 282 |
| £20  | Hugh Mulgrew    | 465 |

#### Ballela GAC Lotto

**Lotto Numbers:** 4 14 18 24

£10 winner's: Leona Burns & Cairan Greenan

Seller's Draw: Anglers. Next week's Jackpot £950  
The Seniors had an unfortunate draw in the  
Championship Final against Clonduff, score 1-11 to  
0-14, replay time and date is yet to be confirmed.

#### Ballela GAC Presents "A Night at the Races"

on Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Sept at 8.30pm in The Anglers Rest. Entry  
ticket £10 (Includes hot meal) can be bought in  
advance. Contact Gary 07709814562 or any  
committee member for sponsorship. Proceeds in aid  
of "Ball Wall Development"

#### An Adult Safeguarding Training session

Has been organised in Newry Parish Centre on  
Saturday 14th October from 10:00am - 1pm. This  
training is specifically for Eucharistic Ministers to the  
Housebound. There are 25 places available and more  
training will be offered later in the year. To book a  
place leave your Name, address and telephone  
number with your Parish Priest / Secretary.

#### Adoption

Family Care Adoption Services is presently seeking to  
recruit adoptive families for babies and young  
children. For a free information pack please contact  
Tel: 02871368592/02890691133 Mon – Fri, 9-5pm.  
Email: [anne.ohagan@familycare.org](mailto:anne.ohagan@familycare.org)

#### Anam Cara

The organisation that supports bereaved parents, is  
holding a Bereavement Information Evening on  
Wednesday 27th September at 7:30pm in the Armagh  
City Hotel, 2 Friary Road, Armagh, BT60 4FR. This is a  
free event and open to all bereaved parents. As Anam  
Cara will need to confirm numbers for teas, coffees,  
etc, please RSVP to [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie) before Tuesday  
26th September or call the Information Line  
Tel: 085 2888 888.