

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Today Interment of Ashes of Willem & Marian Morskate @ 8.15am  
Monday Patchwork Group meet @ 12.30pm  
Tuesday Friendship Group meet @ 10am  
Parish Council meeting @ 7pm  
Wednesday Golf Group meet @ 6.30am  
Thursday Woodlake Service @ 11am  
Funeral for Gordon Schofield @ 2pm @ 401 Wanneroo Rd,  
Balcatta. Refreshments afterwards @ 3.30pm @ Woodlake  
Retirement

**SAMARITANS PURSE Operation Christmas Child** – The shoe boxes will be blessed on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October. Bobbie will not be here for about 4 weeks. The boxes may be brought in and left at the front of the church until then. If you want information or help for boxes Bobbie can be reached on mobile 0428 371 885.

**THANK YOU** to Liz for organizing the Travel Talks yesterday. It was fabulous to hear what each person had to say about their adventures. Makes you want to start planning your next holiday.

**THANK YOU** so much to Val, Peg, Sue, and Nick for weeding the Memorial Garden in time for an interment of ashes this morning.

**Please pray for:** Paul; Monica; Isla; Keena; Charlotte; Cameron; Deidre; David & Lyn; Andrew; Dave; Janet; Don & Gazza



*Happy birthday to Leigh Ryding on 20<sup>th</sup>;  
Sue Edwick on 21<sup>st</sup>*

<b>Wardens -</b>	Phil Goulding	Phone: 9247 4978
	Judith Smith	Phone: 9246 3745
<b>Parish Priest –</b>	the Reverend Josie Steytler	Phone: 0421 115 438

**Electronic giving: Account Name** - Anglican Parish Greenwood  
**BSB** - 706 001 **Account Number** - 3000 3969

**Website:** <https://greenwoodanglican.com>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/greenwoodanglican>

**Email address:** [greenwoodanglican@gmail.com](mailto:greenwoodanglican@gmail.com)

**Phone Number:** 9447 9243

## Welcome to Worship



## Pentecost 16

17<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**We are a warm-hearted community who are delighted to have you worshipping with us today ...**

### Our Mission is to

- Know God personally
- Love and respect one another deeply
- Disciple and serve those around us

**Sentence:** 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.

Ps 130:3-4

### Collect of the Day

O God,  
you call your Church to witness  
that in Christ we are reconciled to you:  
help us so to proclaim the good news of your love  
that all who hear it may turn to you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Today's readings:

Exodus 14:19-31  
Psalm 114  
Romans 14:1-14  
Matthew 18:21-35

### Next Week:

Exodus 16:2-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
Philippians 1  
Matthew 20:1-16



### **Pentecost 16 – Matthew 18:21-35**

*The parable of the unforgiving debtor: “Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?” “So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives one another from your heart.”*

The cutting edge of Jesus’ teaching on love is that nothing is unforgivable, nor should there be limits to forgiveness.

It is ironic that Peter should ask the question about forgiveness that introduces the parable of the merciless steward, since Peter himself will be so generously forgiven by Jesus for his denial of Jesus on Good Friday. It was common rabbinical teaching that one must forgive another three times; the fourth time, the offender was not to be forgiven. Perhaps Peter was anticipating Jesus’ response to his question by suggesting seven rather than the conventional three times; but Jesus responds there should be no limit to the number of times we must be ready to forgive those who wrong us (“seventy times seven times”), just as there is no limit to the Father’s forgiveness of us.

As the king in the parable withdraws his forgiveness of his servant because of the servant’s failure to forgive another, so will God withdraw his forgiveness of the unforgiving and merciless among us. God’s forgiveness is not entirely unconditional: if we do not share it, we will lose it. What is going on within our own heart? Is it rigid or open? Is it full of resentment or compassion?

To forgive as God forgives means to intentionally act to purge the wrong that exists between us and those who harm us, to take the first, second and last steps

toward bridging divisions, to work to mend broken relationships and to welcome and accept the forgiven back into our lives. It also means recognising those times when this is not possible because the other party is not willing to budge.

Forgiveness requires empathy, the ability to place ourselves in the place of the other to see the situation from their perspective. To realise the reconciling peace of Jesus begins with overcoming our own anger and discontent at the injustice waged against us and focusing our attention, instead, on the person who has wronged us. Is there something I’ve missed? Is there something I could do differently? Do I have the humility to face the hurt I have inflicted on others as a result of my insensitivity and self-centredness?

Before our merciful Father in heaven, every one of us is an insolvent debtor – but the great mystery of our faith is God continues to love us, continues to call us back to him, continues to seek not retribution but reconciliation with us. All God asks of us is that we forgive one another as he forgives us, to help one another back up when we stumble just as God lifts us back up.

The Risen Christ calls us to seek reconciliation that transforms and re-creates: forgiveness that is joyfully offered and humbly but confidently sought; forgiveness that transforms the estranged and separated into family and community; forgiveness that overcomes our own anger at the injustice waged against us and focuses on healing the relationship with the person who wronged us and broke that relationship. Christ-like reconciliation also means possessing the humility to face the hurt we have inflicted on others as a result of our insensitivity and self-centredness.

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