

Poetry Box

Living and Loving

Alive for God in Christ Jesus Rom 6:11

God lives.

In His humanity, risen from the dead,
Christ lives and dies no more.
Christ lives in me. I live for God.

Jesus, on this earth,
Lived and rejoiced to do His Father's will.
I live to seek His will and do it.
God wants me in His community of love,
To love Him first with all my being
And all mankind as I love myself.

No law except His law of love,
Encompassing all others,
Growing all the time in love,
From loving God for self's sake,
Through loving Him for His sake,
To loving self for His sake.

God is all. All is love.

*Francis Buxton
30 Psalms for Lent (2009)*



Parish & Liturgical Calendar 2024

Don't forget to check out the Parish & Liturgical Calendar for 2024 to see what is due to be happening over the coming months, both in the parish and in the Diocese. You'll find a copy on the parish website. Also be sure to pick up a copy of the parish newsletter each week, available on the parish website or at church., to keep yourself well-informed about what's going on. Here are some of the main Parish/Diocesan events coming up during the Summer & Autumn:

- **Saturday, 20th July – Altar Servers' Mass at 11:30 & BBQ at St John's Cathedral, Norwich**
- **Thursday, 15th August – Feast of the Assumption of BVM – Holy Day of Obligation**
- **23rd-30th August – Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes**
- **Saturday, 31st August – Parish Altar Servers' Day Out**
- **Sunday, 8th September – Parish BBQ after 11:00 Mass**
- **Parish General Meeting – Date to be confirmed (September)**
- **Annual Parish Charity Fundraiser – Date to be confirmed (October)**
- **Saturday, 21st December – Parish Christmas Party**

Feedback

We would really like to encourage more contributions, especially from parish groups along with any photos of parish events. Any ideas for regular features would also be welcomed. We look forward to your feedback and articles for future editions.

Next Issue: September 2024.

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The Shack

... from humble beginnings

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The Shepherd's Corner

To Forgive is Human, To Forget is Divine

The profound journey of forgiveness is one that intricately weaves the fabric of our humanity with the divine. In exploring the meaning of the word "forgive," we uncover a rich tapestry of meaning that extends far beyond the simple act of pardoning. The Hebrew word "סלח" (salach), often translated as "forgive," embodies the concept of a pardon—a granting of mercy that precedes the act which necessitates forgiveness. This pre-emptive offering of grace is a testament to the depth of understanding and compassion that forgiveness entails.

In the context of human relationships and the divine narrative, forgiveness operates on a plane that challenges our conventional perceptions. It suggests a forward-giving, a pre-emptive extension of grace that mirrors the unconditional love and mercy at the heart of the divine. This forward-giving is not merely a response to transgression but a foundational stance towards others, anticipating and bridging the gaps that our imperfections inevitably create.

The Levitical law, with its emphasis on atonement through human action, underscores the capacity and responsibility of individuals to mend the breaches they cause. Yet, it is in the Christian understanding, particularly in the light of Jesus's sacrifice on the cross, that the fullness of forgiveness is revealed—not as a mere human endeavour but as a divine gift that envelops and transcends our efforts.

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JOURNEY
OF
Faith

To forgive, then, is an act deeply rooted in our humanity, harnessing our faculties for empathy, understanding, and compassion. It is an outward movement, an extension of self towards another, bridging divides and healing wounds. It is a testament to our ability to see beyond the immediate, to recognize the potential for reconciliation and renewal.

Conversely, to forget is often seen as the divine counterpart to forgiveness, a letting go that seems beyond the grasp of our fallible memories and lingering hurts. Yet, this forgetting is not about erasing memories but about transforming our relationship to them. It is an inward action, a release of the hold that past wrongs exert on us, allowing us to move forward unencumbered by resentment or bitterness. In the divine economy of grace, forgetting is the ultimate liberation from the chains of the past, enabled by a love that covers a multitude of sins.

As we continue on our spiritual journey through Faith, we are invited to embody this dual posture of forgiveness and forgetting. It is a time to extend grace pre-emptively, to "fore-give" in a way that anticipates and overcomes the inevitable shortcomings of our shared humanity. It is also a time to allow the transformative power of divine grace to work within us, enabling us to release the burdens of the past and embrace the freedom of a forgiven and forgiving life.

Our spiritual journey beckons us towards a deeper engagement with the paradoxes of forgiveness and forgetting, challenging us to become people of Light. In doing so, we not only draw closer to the heart of God but also realize our fullest potential as bearers of grace, mercy, and reconciliation in a world in desperate need of all three. Through this sacred practice of forward-giving, we participate in the ongoing work of redemption, weaving threads of light into the tapestry of human experience.

Parish Celebrations

The Parish has had a busy few months! See the picture gallery opposite and don't forget to check out the parish calendar overleaf for the remainder of the year.

- ✚ On 19th May, the Parish International bring and share lunch took place on a sunny day after the 11:00 Mass in the presbytery garden.
- ✚ Saturday, 27th May, saw the Sisters of the Convent of the Divine Will welcome the parish to a convivial garden party.
- ✚ On 28th May, Deacon Martin & Terri Sanderson celebrated their Golden Wedding at a special lunch with the Parish at Aldiss Park, Dereham.
- ✚ Brian & Shirley Liebenhals celebrated their sacramental wedding on Saturday, 6th April.
- ✚ On the Feast of Corpus Christ, 2nd June, seven children made their First Holy Communion and our congratulations go to Francesco, Adelyn, Isla, Lena, Caroline, Emilia and Aiden.
- ✚ On Sunday, 7th July, our Indian brothers and sisters helped the Parish to celebrate the Feast of St Thomas, whose Feast Day was on 3rd July. The Apostle brought the Faith to Asia and is celebrated throughout the Indian Christian Community. A delicious lunch was provided after the 11:00 Mass but due to rain, the meal was moved indoors.

Teach Us to Pray



This is an excellent resource on prayer for families and parishes which can be downloaded from the following link: <https://www.iubilaem2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/verso-il-giubileo/2024-anno-della-preghiera/insegnaci-a-pregare.html>. This prayer resource has been prepared by the Vatican for this Year of Prayer. People can also download the resource in several languages from the Vatican website.

Picture Gallery



Convent Garden Party
27th May 2024



Deacon Martin & Terri's Golden Wedding
28th May 2024

Shirley & Brian Liebenhals Wedding Day
6th April 2024



Parish International Lunch
19th May 2024



First Holy Communion
2nd June 2024



St Thomas Feast Day Parish Celebration
7th July 2024

