
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

13 September 2026

Let It Go!

Peter thinks forgiving seven times is generous. Jesus says seventy-seven. Which means: stop counting!

Then Jesus tells a story about a servant who owed a fortune he could never repay. He begged, and the master wiped the whole thing out. Minutes later that same servant found a man who owed him a few months' wages and took him by the throat.

Look at him closely. He has just been handed the gift of a lifetime and he cannot see it. He is so buried in his own materialism, his own rights, his own small world, that the master's mercy has not touched him at all. He walked out of that room exactly the man he walked in. Forgiven, but not free.

That is the danger for every one of us. We can receive God's mercy again and again, in confession, at the altar, and still walk out clutching the old grudge. The neighbour. The sibling. The house. The land. The job promotion. The one who let us down. The First Reading puts it bluntly: resentment is a thing we nurse, and it eats the one holding it. It narrows our vision until, like that servant, we cannot see past the debt.

Jesus ends the parable with one condition: we must forgive from the heart. Not through gritted teeth. Not a cold truce that keeps the old score sheet handy in a drawer. Forgiveness is not pretending the wrong did not matter, but it is a real letting go, deep down from where the grudge lives. And the most powerful thing is that the moment we let it go, we are the one set free. The weight lifts. We can breathe.

So this week, as you receive mercy from God, go and be mercy in action. Name it. Let it go from the heart. Then you will enjoy the freedom God's love has won for us, now and forever.

Announcements

Triduum of Masses for Bishop Michael Router As the diocese and parishes prepare to celebrate the joyous occasion of the Installation of Bishop Michael Router as Bishop of Derry on Sunday 20 September, a Triduum of Masses will be celebrated in parishes throughout the diocese, on Friday 18, Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 September. In our parishes, these Masses will be celebrated in St. Mary's Church at 10.00am on Friday 18 September; St. Theresa's Church at 10.00am on Saturday 19 September and St. Mary's Church at 11.30am on Sunday 20 September. All are welcome to attend as we come together as God's people to pray for Bishop Router and the people of the diocese, that we may walk together in faith and hope, guided by the Holy Spirit.

We welcome into God's Family through the Sacrament of Baptism

Siofra-Mai Ellen Patton

May they Rest in Peace

Deaths

Sr. Rose Ann Mulholland, St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy

Kathleen O'Hagan, Lifford

Albert O'Neill, 15 Sycamore Avenue

David Mullan, Omagh

Mickey McAleer, Woodmount Nursing Home

Anniversaries

Sonny Magee, Bridie Rouse, Mary Gormley

Donna Coulter, Hugh Gallagher, Bridget French

Agnes Walker, Tommy McGlinchey, Jimmy Coyle

Marcella Edginton, Eric Adams, Sarah McGettigan-Porter

Ellen Clarke, Clare McGonigle, Rebecca Coyle

Denis Sweeney, Patsy McElroy, Eileen McBride

Cissie Donaghey, Brian Semple, Willie Falconer

John Hegarty, Eugene Hegarty, Charlie Foley

Elizabeth Molloy, Daniel Molloy, Helen Callaghan

Noel McBride, Jim Patton

Last week's collections amounted to: **Melmount:** £3315.00; **Sion Mills:** £1135.00. Thank you.

Those who pay to the weekly collection or any special collections, including Priest's Collection by cheque are asked that all cheques should be made payable to '*Melmount Parish*' or '*Sion Mills Parish*' depending on the Parish. This is a banking requirement. *Parishioners can still leave their contributions in the Parish Office. If the Office is closed, please use the letterbox.*

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in St. Mary's, Melmount tomorrow, Monday 14 September after 10.00am Mass until 6.30pm. The Blessed Sacrament can be adored in the Adoration Room, St. Theresa's, Sion Mills anytime while the church is open.

Collection for Retired Priests The Annual Collection for Retired Priests will be taken up at all Masses today Sunday 13 September. This is a collection to help assist priests who have retired from active ministry. There is an envelope marked '*Clergy Retirement Fund*' in your box of envelopes for this collection. Anyone contributing to this collection by cheque should make it payable to '*Melmount Parish*' or '*Sion Mills Parish*' depending on the Parish.

Vocations In today's gospel Jesus teaches a powerful lesson on forgiveness. We pray for the men called to priesthood that, as they celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with their people, they will help them to know and experience the Lord who '*...is compassion and love, slow to anger, and rich in mercy.*' (Responsorial Psalm).

Parish Draw Promoters should make their returns for September to the Parish Office on **Monday 21 September from 2.00pm - 4.30pm**. The Draw for September will take place on Thursday 24 September at 10.30am in the Parish Office.

Baptism Dates Melmount

September: Saturday 19.

October: Sunday 4; Saturday 10; Saturday 17; Saturday 24.

November: Sunday 8; Saturday 14; Saturday 21; Saturday 28.

Baptisms will be at 3.30pm on a Saturday and 12.45pm on a Sunday.

The Columban Young Adults are a new group for those aged 18 – 30 in the diocese, who are seeking a community of like-minded young adults who have Christ at the centre of their lives. Our September event will be a Holy Hour and meditation on Thursday 17 September, 7.00pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Steelstown, Derry, delivered by Fr. Declan McGeehan. The meditation will be followed by Solemn Benediction and light refreshments. We are actively seeking new members. Please come along and bring a friend!

Coffee Morning in aid of Foyle Hospice will be held in Murphy's on the Green on Friday 25 September from 9.30am – 12.30pm. Draw tickets £1.00 per line will be available on the day, the Draw will be held at 1.00pm.

Could You Help Share the True Spirit of Christmas? Each year, volunteers in parishes across the north of Ireland set up a small stall after Masses to sell **Trócaire Gifts of Change** – meaningful gifts that make a real difference to families living in poverty around the world. We provide

everything you need including training and support. All we ask is a little time and a big heart. Last Christmas 50 parishes took part – and we'd love to grow that number even more this year! If you would like to find out more about how you can help, please email Mark at **Mark.Mcmahon@Trocaire.Org** or call 028 90808030.

Rise and Shine Trust Easter 2027 Pilgrimage Applications are invited from young people with additional social, emotional, physical and learning needs aged 11 – 30 who are interested in travelling as guests to Lourdes with the Rise and Shine Trust. *The trip is free to guests travelling with the Group.* The application form is available online at riseandshine.ie. Closing date for applications is 15 October 2026. Applications are also sought for carers aged 18+ who would be interested in accompanying guests on the trip. Carers applications at riseandshine.ie. For more information visit **Www.Riseandshine.Ie** or contact Sian 07960211352 or Maurice 07711504821.

Michael English Church Concert An evening of Faith, Hope and Inspiration. The concert takes place on Friday 2 October at 7.15 pm in St. Patrick's Church, Keenaught, Desertmartin. Tickets are £30.00 and available to buy at Heron's Gift Shop, Draperstown, Moneyneena Post Office, Ballinascreen and Deresrtmartin Parish Office or online with Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/michael-english-band-fundraising-concert-tickets-1996641829460>.

Sion Mills Buildings Preservation Trust Heritage Open Day at The Stables, Sion Mills Sunday 13 September Museum open 2.00pm – 5.00pm. Heritage Trial at 2.00pm.

Safeguarding Notice If you have any concerns with regard to the Safeguarding of children within the church please contact Marie O'Kane, the Diocesan Designated Liaison Person (DLP) on +447596500793 or email@

Dlp@Derrydiocese.Org

Social Work Services 0800 1979 995.