

Reflection: How often should I forgive? Peter's proposal to forgive seven times sounds very generous especially when we note that in this passage from the Gospel there is no mention of repentance or any expression of sorrow on the part of the offender. Peter hadn't said, if my brother says he's sorry how often must I forgive. Forgiving someone who expresses sorrow or remorse isn't at all as difficult as forgiving someone who does not. In Genesis we heard the story of Cain and Abel. Cain had killed his brother Abel because he was jealous of him and by way of punishment God banished him but Cain complained that whoever would come across him would kill him. We are told that God put a mark on him - we refer to it as the mark of Cain - as a sign to anyone who might kill him that God would take sevenfold vengeance on him. Peter was aware of this story, so in his effort to be magnanimous he reversed it and sevenfold vengeance became sevenfold forgiveness.

But Jesus wasn't impressed and answered: "Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times." Now, depending on which translation or interpretation you read that is either seventy seven times or seventy times seven which is four hundred and ninety times. Suffice it to say, Jesus was suggesting a much larger number than Peter and in effect was saying; as often as it is necessary.

Then Jesus went on to illustrate his point by telling the story of the king settling his accounts. We are told a man was brought to him who owed ten thousand talents. This was a colossal sum. To give you an idea of just how huge it was, the scripture scholars tell us that at that time, the annual tax income from Herod's territories was nine hundred talents. Ten thousand talents was an unimaginable sum beyond anybody's ability to repay. So the king's forgiveness was beyond generous. Next we are presented with the encounter between the just forgiven servant and his fellow servant. The fellow servant owed him one hundred denarii. A hundred denarii wasn't a trifling sum. It represented a hundred days wages for an ordinary labourer. But it was minuscule compared with the ten thousand talents. In fact it was one six hundred thousandth of it. We're not really meant to concentrate on the numbers so much as the profound contrast between how the king had treated the servant who appealed to him and the treatment of this servant of his fellow servant.

The obvious point is that God's forgiveness of us is infinite and as a consequence we are bound to forgive each other. Jesus thought this so important that he included it in the prayer he taught his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Marantha prayer afternoon **today** at 2.30pm at **St Michael's Church, Denmark St.** Word of God talk by Fr Thomas, Monks of Moyross, laying of hands for healing with beautiful music followed by mass at 4.30pm.

Priests of the Parish
Canon Gerard Garrett
Fr Daniel Tomasik
Fr Peter Claver Emeke Eze
Fr Robert Coffey
In residence Canon John Daly

Cathedral Shop
Mon - Sat, 10:30am - 1pm.
Sympathy Mass cards,
Occasional cards,
candles and other religious
goods for sale.

Mass Times
Mon-Fri 10am, 5.45pm
Sat 10am & 6pm Vigil
Sun 8am, 10.30am, 12 noon

Confessions
Saturday 10.30am

Baptisms
Saturday 4.30pm

Remembering the Deceased
We remember today in our
prayers all our loved ones who
have departed this world.
May they rest in eternal
peace.

Split the Pot Draw
Congratulations to
Declan Jackson
winner of last weekends draw.
Draw envelopes available at
the back of the church.

Scan QR code to donate



Saints of the Week

Tues 15th Our Lady of Sorrows
Wed 16th St Cornelius,
St Cyrian
Thurs 17th St Robert,
St Hildegard



St John's Cathedral
Friday 18th September

at 6.30pm

Starting with a
Brief History of the Cathedral
by George Lee.
Organist Anne Cullen will give a
recital on the 1864 pipe organ

St John's Cathedral Choir

We are looking for new members.
If you can sing in tune and are willing to commit to Thursday night practise and Sundays morning mass, we would like to hear from you.
We sing all sorts of music and you don't need to be able to read music notation to join us.
We are returning from our summer break on **Sunday 20th September** having had 3 months off so we hope this long break makes up for the extra commitment at Christmas and Easter.
Ring 061 414624 to be put in touch with the choir directors for a chat.



ALONE

Would you be willing to provide some companionship to an older person in your local community?
ALONE is seeking volunteers in Limerick city and surrounding areas ALONE provides full support, guidance and training to volunteers If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please apply through www.alone.ie or tel Caroline at 086 059 1399.

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann
Garraí Eoin
EST. 2009

CULTURE NIGHT 2026
GARRYOWEN CCÉ PRESENTS
AN EVENING OF IRISH
TRADITIONAL MUSIC,
SONGS & DANCING

WHERE? ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH,
DENMARK STREET V94 P26V

WHEN?
SEPT 18th @ 7:00pm - 8:30pm

GREAT CRAIC
ALL WELCOME!
Fáilte roimh chách!

FUNDRAISER GALA CONCERT
for St. Saviour's Dominican Church
Restoration Fund

Louise Morrissey
& special guests

Denis Allen
Denis Carey
Marty Daniels

FRIDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER
Doors Open at 7:30pm. Show at 8pm.
RADISSON BLU HOTEL, LIMERICK

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
EVENTBRITE, PARISH OFFICE MON-FRI
€25 ENTRY 10AM-2PM, OR PHONE 085 726 2262
www.stsaviourslimerick.ie

Vocations Holy Hour at the Cathedral

Wednesday, 16 September, 7pm-8pm:

Please join us to pray for vocations This month's holy hour will include music ministry by Sister Krista Marie Hall, OP and a testimony by Canon Derek Leonard.
If you or someone you know is considering a call to the priesthood, . Please WhatsApp 083-364-5818 for details.

Post Primary School Open Nights: Individual schools host open days and publish their exact admissions policies starting in late September and throughout October. See local newspapers for further details.