

Hurt and pain.  
There's much to gain.  
Peace and love.  
It's all the same.  
Confusion and doubt.  
We're not without.  
We weep, we cry.  
We plead, we try.  
We laugh, we smile.  
Only to be hurt  
by one last trial.  
Life is a lesson,  
so learn it well.  
Maybe, one day,  
you can tell its tale.

- Lora

Mass will be on our Parish Web-  
site at [www.culdaffparish.com](http://www.culdaffparish.com)  
and [churchmedia.tv](http://churchmedia.tv)

Monday,  
Tuesday,  
Wednesday



Thursday & Friday, 10  
am. No Mass on Satur-  
day morning..

**Saturday Vigil 8 pm;  
Sunday 10 am.**

Responsorial Psalm

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



*St Mary's Church*

*Bocan*

13th September 2020 No. 43



**Matthew 18:21-35**

**When is Enough Enough?**

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### First Reading

*Sirach 27:30—28:9*

Those who seek God's mercy must be merciful toward others.

### Second Reading

*Romans 14:7-9*

We belong to the Lord.

### Gospel Reading

*Matthew 18:21-35*

Jesus teaches that we must forgive one another as God has forgiven us.

## FIRST COMMUNION

We have our First Communions arranged. St Boden's Culdaff will make their Communion on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 11 am [First Confessions for Culdaff on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> September at 7 pm]; Scoil Mhuire, Gleneely on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> October [First Confessions for Gleneely on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm]. We will keep all the children in our prayers in the weeks ahead.

It is wonderful to see and hear the pupils of our schools returning to their classrooms and playgrounds. We ask God for continued blessing and protection on them, their teachers and all staff as they all begin a new school year in these exceptional times. You are invited to pray this prayer of blessing for children as they return to school:

*As you carry your bag, may you know that Jesus is walking with you and looking after you. May you keep safe in all you do, may you be more aware of others too. May you work and play hard and enjoy your friendships safely. May you keep safe distances and be kind, gentle and understanding. May you know the warmth of God's protecting presence in all you say and do. May the load you carry every day be a light one. May the Lord help you at school to grow daily in confidence, wisdom and knowledge. May He keep you, your family and your friends safe, and may you always walk in His presence.*

*Amen*

## Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading directly follows [last week's Gospel](#) in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

**Scoil Mhuire, Dristernan, Gleneely** invites applications for a panel of substitute cleaners to cover as and when required.

Please send a letter of application by post with your curriculum Vitae including two referees to:-

Chairperson, Board of Management, Scoil Mhuire, Dristernan, Gleneely, Inishowen, Co. Donegal

Candidates will be required to be garda vetted for this position.



## Weekly Offering €805

Development Collection €325

Good as New Shop €825

We are deeply appreciative of the generosity of our parishioners at this difficult time. Envelopes can be left in McGuinness' Shop or brought to the Church at weekend Masses. **N.B.** Would any of counters who are available come along after 10 am Mass. A new rota will be drawn up when we can get a bit more normality again.

**Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September in St Mary's Church at 8 pm. All members are asked to attend.**

Angela's Good as New Shop is now open in aid of Parish Funds. She is in Farren's premises on Pound St Camdonagh. She would greatly appreciate donations of old clothes of Bric a Brac, and if you can help her with this then contact her on 087 9028930 she can collect it if you are unable to leave home at present.