

WE
Believe
IN PRAYER
PRAISE
NEWS &
THE BIBLE

WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S ROSEVILLE
19 OCTOBER 2014

ST
ANDREW'S
Believes
IN NEWS

*All that's going on
around St Andrew's*

FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER



REV JOHN DICKSON

☛ Senior Minister

Dear St Andrew's,

I am off to Israel this weekend with the Centre for Public Christianity, taking an educational tour of sites important to the origins of the Christian faith. We are also filming some 'teaser' scenes for a proposed documentary with the working title *How the Church is Better and Worse than You Ever Imagined*—a colourful, six-part travelogue of the horrible and beautiful in the history of Christianity, which will be as honest about the Inquisitions, Crusades, and so on, as it will be forthright in highlighting the extraordinary blessings Christianity has brought into the West.

In the meantime, I wanted to take the opportunity to follow up something from last week's sermon on "... as we forgive others" (it's online if you missed it). Many of you have expressed how helpful you found it. Others of you said you were puzzled by the idea that God does not ask us to 'forgive' those who don't seek our forgiveness. So, let me say more about that.

The notion that we are to 'forgive' everyone who wrongs us, regardless of whether they request it, is a recent idea and probably owes something to the individualisation and internalisation which are characteristic of our culture. 'Forgiveness', within this framework, is about *letting go* of our own negative feelings toward those who have hurt us. It is principally about *us*, our *internal struggle*, rather than the status of the wrongdoer before us.

I don't doubt that there is real validity in dealing with these frames of mind toward those who have wronged us. Christ demands that we love our enemies, just as he does; that we bless those who curse us, just as he did; that we seek the good of the wrongdoer, just as he does; that we hold out the offer of forgiveness to all who want it, just as he does. But none of this should be confused with the more specific act of 'forgiveness'.

The word 'to forgive', *aphiēmi*, literally means to 'release, let go', but it is important to note that this does not refer to *letting go* of our

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inward emotional state; it is about cancelling the guilt, or moral obligation, of another. It is an objective, almost legal, notion: *releasing the wrongdoer from their moral debt toward you*. You can choose to let go of your own ill-feelings toward the wrongdoer, but this is not what forgiveness means. Forgiveness is about responding to the wrongdoer's admission of guilt toward you by freely releasing them from the moral debt. In short, I fear that some modern Christians have inappropriately privatised and psychologised 'forgiveness', when the Bible sees it as an objective and relational act.

Think of God's own forgiveness towards us. He does not forgive the unrepentant, but only those who acknowledge their guilt and look to him for mercy. He loves all; he stands ready to forgive all; but, by definition, he does not pardon those who don't seek it. "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us" reminds us that *our* forgiveness mirrors *God's*. Just as he pardons those who seek mercy, so we are to forgive all who seek 'release'.

The parable in Matthew 18:21-35 is the only explicit teaching of Jesus on human-to-human forgiveness. It is thus a kind of commentary on, "forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us". As I pointed out in the sermon, the first servant-debtor had to ask the King for grace before his lord cancelled the debt—a picture of God forgiving our sins. Likewise, the second servant-debtor, who was

indebted to the first, begged for mercy, and yet he was 'refused'. When the King heard about this, his rebuke of the first servant-debtor makes clear that the assumption of forgiveness is the debtor's plea: "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours *because you begged me to*. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" (Matt 18:32-33). Forgiveness is the gracious response to a debtor's plea. It cannot be otherwise and be called 'forgiveness'.

None of this is to 'let us off the hook'. The challenge is still immense. Praying the Lord's Prayer reminds us that we are to stand ready to forgive all who look to us for 'release'. And, when that moment comes, we must free the wrongdoer from any sense that they remain morally indebted to us. The *hurt* may remain. *Trust* may be difficult (or impossible) to rebuild. But in a real, objective sense we will have chosen to let the wrongdoer know that their guilt toward us is cancelled (of course, their guilt toward God is a matter between them and the Lord).

In a sense, then, there is something *internal* going on as we pray the Lord's Prayer: we are daily preparing our hearts to treat those who have wronged us the way the Lord has dealt with us. May God give us grace to do so.

God bless,
John

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COMMUNITY WATCH

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE

The general offertory received for the 9 months through to the end of September 2014 totals \$621,834. This compares with our budgeted general offertory for the same period totalling \$652,500. We are therefore about \$30,000 behind budget as at the end of September. Please consider if you are able to assist by increasing your regular giving and/or making a one-off additional contribution to the general offertory.

Details of how to support the Parish financially are usually found on the back page of the weekly News.

Philip Bell, Andrew Killen, Craig Taylor
Parish Wardens

THIS WEEK

☛ Time Out – Great North Walk

Fri 25th Oct 9:30am - 12:00pm

Join us as we walk a section of the Great North Walk from Fullers Bridge to Buffalo Creek Reserve. Bring water, a piece of fruit, rain protection, sunscreen and strong shoes.

Meet at 140 River Ave, Chatswood West.

Contact Richard Tress 9416 6416 or email timeout@standrews.net.au

☛ Anglican Aid Festival of Just Ideas

Sat 25th Oct 9:30am - 4pm

Barney's Broadway

Registration \$30, Concession \$20

Brochures are available on the display cupboard. Register at www.anglicanaid.org.au

FOR THE DIARY

☛ Operation Christmas Child

Sun 26th Oct

These simple gift-filled shoeboxes are a warm expression of God's unconditional love and are sent to kids in need around the world.

Pick up a box and leaflet today and return the box on 19th or 26th October to the church porch, or drop on the verandah of 7 Addison Ave Roseville. If you would prefer to have the shopping done for you, please feel free to give money by placing an envelope, clearly labelled 'Operation Christmas Child', in the gifts and offerings box attached to the rear pew.

☛ Foundation Day

Sun 2nd Nov

2 services only: 10am and 5pm

Both services include a children's program and will be followed by a BBQ-style meal

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COMMUNITY WATCH

🕒 **Safe Ministry Training Day**

Sat 8th Nov 9am - 2:30pm

In the St Andrew's Church Hall

Parts A & B and Refresher course for those who haven't done a course in the last 3 years.

Cost: \$50 for first timers, \$25 refresher

All participants need to register at:

www.youthworks.net/events/SMEvent

PLEASE PRAY

🕒 **Churchwide Prayer**

Pray for HSC students in the second week of exams; that God strengthens them to be diligent and effective as they study and sit their exams. Pray that they will know God's presence with them and be led into His loving plans for their lives.

Pray for the Zimbabwean students who have completed studies with Matt Stedman and his co-lecturer Luke; that God will use all they've learned to mature His people in their faith and to grow the church as others come to Christ.

🕒 **10am Prayer**

Praise God that Brad and Dee Williams are blessed with a new daughter Jocelyn Anne and pray for the family as she settles into home. Pray that God will sustain Brad, and especially

Dee, with strength and grace to meet the added demands of a newborn.

Pray for God's continued comfort for Andy and Pip Loel and their family in their grief following the death of Andy's aunt Yvonne. Thank God for her life of faith and devotion to Christ.

Pray for Angela Tong and Paul Do as they begin marriage preparation before their wedding in November. Pray that God will bless their marriage with deepening understanding of his grace towards them and with love and commitment to one another.

🕒 **5pm Prayer**

Pray for God's comfort and assurance for Adrian and Cath Ahern and their family as they grieve the death of Adrian's father Ronnie.

🕒 **7pm Prayer**

Pray for Yeeseum Lo's cousin Lillian who has recently been diagnosed with lung cancer. Pray that she, her husband Pete and 3 year old daughter Jess, and their families will know relief and comfort in God's love. Pray that he will grant healing to Lillian and wisdom to her doctors.

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COMMUNITY WATCH

☛ St Andrew's Ministries

Thank God for the privilege and opportunity to run Scripture classes at Roseville Public School. Pray for Cath as she co-ordinates the classes and for those who willingly give of their time to teach. Pray for good relationships with the students; that they will listen to the message and be engaged week by week, and that many will be brought into a relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Pray for Cath as she also heads up the Children's Ministry each week. Pray for guidance as she works out the activities and pray for those who help to make it a great time for the children. Pray that the children will come to know and love the Lord.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord, give your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

MISSION & AID

STEPHANIE AND ANDREW BROWNING

☛ Tanzania

Pray for Stephanie and Andrew Browning with children William and Christopher in Arusha, Tanzania.

Give thanks for the school which Stephanie has been able to start which has now grown to 30 students. Please pray for more teachers and for the acquisition of more land near the present buildings so that the school can expand. Please pray for the Diocese as they negotiate with the owners.

Pray for the Hoopers as they and their children settle into a new culture and learn a new language; that they will soon feel at home.

Pray for Andrew working as a surgeon at the Lutheran Hospital. Pray for him as he operates and teaches about healing women who have been injured in childbirth.

Pray also as he travels on difficult roads and also other countries to carry out his work. Pray for his safety and also freedom from back problems.

Pray for them as a family in daily living with relationships and friendships with the local community.

*Words you'll need for
today's contemporary services*

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE PRAYERS

CONFESSION

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have strayed from your ways
like lost sheep,
We have left undone
what we ought to have done,
and we have done
what we ought not to have done.
We have followed our own ways
and the desires of our own hearts.
We have broken your holy laws.
Yet, good Lord, have mercy on us;
restore those who turn to you,
according to your promises declared
to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
And grant, merciful Father,
for his sake,
that we may live a godly
and obedient life,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

KEY CONTACTS

➤ Senior Leadership Team

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Cath Ahern – Children's Minister (*Honorary*)
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➤ Pastoral

Suz Gorham – Assoc. Women's Minister (*Part Time*)
10am and 7pm Congregations
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Mike Hastie – Assist. Minister (7pm Congregation & Youth)
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Meredith Hatcher – Assoc. Women's Minister (*Part Time*)
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Jean Rixon – Senior's Ministry Worker (*Honorary*)
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James Smith – Assist. Minister (10am Congregation)
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➤ Children's Ministry

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➤ Community Service Project

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FINANCIAL SUPPORT DETAILS

➤ Supporting the General Ministry

To support the general work of St Andrew's, electronic banking details for regular direct credit are:

Anglican Parish St Andrew's
BSB 704 998
A/C 100 005 413

This is our preferred method to receive your regular support.

If you prefer to make cash/cheque contributions, there is a gifts and donations box attached to the church's rear pew.

➤ Supporting the Property Redevelopment

To support the St Andrew's Property Redevelopment, **tax-deductible** contributions can be made to the following account:

St Andrew's Anglican Church Roseville Donation Fund
BSB 704 998
A/C 100 010 195

Please include your surname and the initials "PV" (for Property Vision) in the reference field.

Donations by cheque should be made to St Andrew's Roseville Donation Fund.

Please mark the envelope with your surname and "PV".

A receipt for tax purposes will be forwarded to you upon receiving your electronic or cheque donation.

If you would like to support the Property Redevelopment but **do not** require a tax deduction, please contact Santino Dimarco for specific instructions:
santino.dimarco@standrews.net.au

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