

**St. Peter's Hamilton
24th Sunday (A)
13th September 2026**

Our Parish Mission

**All are welcome in this place
Behold Love's amazing grace
All are welcome
Bring your hopes, bring your dreams
Mercy flows and love redeems**

It's 5.33am

Another dark Thursday morning.

How the time is flying in. It won't be long to the September weekend. I use to love this wee break when I was younger. It always mean't a trip to see the Blackpool Illuminations. Great memories!!. I wonder if they are still going things have changed that much.

Yesterday, Wednesday was the feast day of St. Peter Claver a young Jesuit who was sent to Cartagena, Columbia. He was ordained there in 1615. The slave trade had been established by a 100 years at that point. Ten thousand slaves poured in every year, crossing the Atlantic from West Africa under the most inhumane conditions.

St. Peter Claver moved into the infested hold to minister to the ill-treated passengers. When they were taken off the ship, he gave them medicines, food bread and lemons. During 40 years of his ministry, he instructed and baptised around 300,000 slaves.

He just didn't work with the slaves. He preached in the city square, gave missions to sailors, as well as country missions. When he did this he always lived in the slave quarters. St. Peter Claver died on the 8th September 1654 after a four year illness. He was canonised in 1888 by Pope Leo XIII and made him the worldwide patron of missionary work among black slaves.

He reason I am telling you this story is to show how catholics and christians have always looked after all people even away back in the 1600's.

I was shocked that at the weekend when ports where being blocked by people dressed in black and wearing balaclava's. There is a rumour going around that the group where Christian. I hope not. St. Peter Claver pray for our country.

800th Anniversary of the Death of St. Francis:

From Friday 25th September to Sunday 4th October. St. Francis' Peace Prayer will be said at the end of every Mass.

Monday 28th September

A Parish Mass for St. Peter's in St. John Olgivie Church 7pm.

Veneration of Relic of St. Francis' at the End of the Mass.

I will celebrate the Mass.

Bus will be available to take you to St. John Olgivie's if you do not have transport.

List at back of the Church.

Sunday 4th October

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Blessing of Pets

After 11am Mass

Thursday 24th September Morning Mass will be at 9.30am. I have a medical appointment at 10.30am

Coffee Morning Every Tuesday starting from 29th September in the Side Chapel after the 10am Mass. Looking for volunteers to help with this. It is a great way of getting together.

Dates for your Diary

24th October Mass of the Sick 10am Mass

7th November Annual Mass for the Dead 10am Mass

This Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Sirach 27:30—28:9

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

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 103:1-4,9-12

A song of praise to God who is kind and merciful.

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.

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.

Next Weeks Mass Programme

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: 10am Mass

Wednesday: 10am Mass

Thursday: 10am Mass

Friday: 10am Mass

Saturday: 10am Mass

This Week's Rota

Readers

4pm Vigil: B. Cornes

9.30am: T. Kennedy

11am: L. McIntosh

Eucharistic Ministers

4pm Vigil: M. Kilpatrick, S. Boyle & M. Halbert

9.30am: K. O'Neill, M. Devanney & C. Bonnar

11am: K. Flynn, S. Russell & T. McKenzie

Weekday 10am Mass Readers Rota

Tuesday: P. Davies

Wednesday: B. Cornes

Thursday: P. McKeown

Friday: J. McCluskey

Saturday: A. Devlin

Please pray for the following:

Sick:

Margaret Callaghan Doreen Cleary, Neil Boyle,
John Rielly Molly Strang, James Clark,
Fr. Michael McLaughlin, Patricia Henderson,
Joanna Maier (Connecticut USA), Therese Gilgunn Tressy Callaghan,
Suzanne McMurray,
Mary Coyle, Lesley Watson (Spain) Maureen McHugh,
Margaret Burke, Marie White, Kathleen Daly,
John McGuire, Jill Brown, Karen Pritchatt,
Louise Newton, Faith Lyndsey, Jill Brown,
Marie McGuire, James Morton, Paul Kearney,
Thomas Daly, Andrew McCluskey,
Premature Baby Vincent McDowell,
Gudren Berk (Germany), Jaqueline McReynolds,
Mary Morrison, Helen Howarth (Easterhouse), Margaret Loan, Avril
McCluskey, Carol Corr, Thomas Kennedy, Margaret Park, Alana Hepburn,
Michael Ritchie, Hugh O'Donnell, Rosemary Burns and all our sick.

Recently Dead:

Mark Brogan, Vera McKale, Margaret Flynn,

Month Minds & Anniversaries:

Tomasz Klary, Ann & Hugh Rodgers, James, Ruby & Mary McDaide,
Christine Archibald, John Jones, Marion Blair,

Please if you could make sure all month minds and anniversaries are handed in no later than Wednesday Night. If they come in after that they will be read out at Mass on Sunday. If the recently dead come in after the Wednesday deadline they too will be read out at Mass on the Sunday.

Powerpoint Remote Control:

I am also looking for Volunteers to move the power-points on during the Sunday Masses, Vigil 4pm, 9.30am & 11am.

It is very easy to operate, if we get enough volunteers for each Mass we would put a wee rota together. It would take a wee bit of pressure off me.

Gift Aid

If you wish to sign up for Gift Aid. It is a great way to help the parish financially, costing you absolutely nothing. If you wish to sign up contact myself or Doreen Lee and we will give you the form and hand it back as you can and we can get it organised. As I said it costs you nothing, but helps the parish so much.

Baptism/Wedding Meetings: **THURSDAY** 6pm & 7pm. **JUST TURN UP**

The Bulletin is available by email

I can't thank you enough for your generosity to the Parish. I really appreciate it. Please keep it up, Once again Thank You.

Fr. Frank