



Our Lady of Mercy  
Pray for Us

"Lord, how many  
times should I  
forgive?"



***"Not seven times, but  
seventy seven times."***



St. John the Baptist  
Pray for Us

### *The Sunday Gospel Matthew 18:21-35*

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. Here Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of 7 times. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. 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.

We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the same servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison. 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.

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.

### *Collections Last Weekend, September 6*

\$1, 828 - Regular Sunday Offerings

### *Weekday Masses*

Wed Sept 16, 11am Mass- +Souls of *Melchor, Salus, Claro, Sergio*

Thurs Sept 17, 11am Mass- *+all souls*

Friday Sept 18, 11am Mass- *For safety of Covid Frontliners*

### *Weekend Masses*

Sunday Sept 20, 9am- Port Severn - *For the people of the parish*

Sunday Sept 20, 11am- Honey Harbour

### Important Links

<https://youtu.be/fY1 IEpMk1k> - Mass of Bishop Miehm – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time.

<https://www.ladyofmercyhoneyharbour.ca> - Our parish website

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/848623575RR0008-our-lady-of-mercy-church/> - Online Donation to Our Lady of Mercy Honey Harbour

[www.peterboroughdiocese.org](http://www.peterboroughdiocese.org) – Diocese of Peterborough

### Bishop Daniel Miehm

- SINCE APRIL, THE SUNDAY MASS FROM OUR CATHEDRAL was taped and broadcast on Your TV Cogeco, who also provided a link for us to use on our Diocesan You Tube channel. We were very grateful to Your TV for their commitment to that broadcast for five months. That television broadcast has now concluded, but we are getting the equipment in place to be able to continue to broadcast the Mass from St. Peter-in-Chains Cathedral. In the interim, we are going on the road! I celebrated and taped the Mass for this Sunday at St. Joseph's Parish in Bowmanville. You may view the Mass on this link: <https://youtu.be/fY1 IEpMk1k>

- IT IS BACK TO SCHOOL WEEK, although with staggered starts, not all the students are returning right away. Some families have chosen the option of online learning while the pandemic continues. It has been an anxious time for staff, students and parents alike, as everyone does their best to open schools in the safest manner possible. Let's continue to hold each other in prayer that schools may be reopened safely for the wellbeing of all.

- I HAVE PERMITTED the use of a cantor at funerals and weddings, so that those liturgies may be celebrated with more solemnity. This will also allow a greater and more sensitive pastoral response to families as they gather for these liturgies. It is crucial that the musician and cantor should practice safe physical distancing from each other and from the congregation while carrying out their ministry. Since we know that singing projects droplets into the air with greater force than speaking, the restriction on congregational singing remains in force. It would be advisable to announce that at funerals and weddings so that people are reminded that this restriction remains in place for the wellbeing and safety of all.

Pandemic a Time to Rediscover Spirit of Mother Teresa – Her life was totally dedicated to serving the poor amongst the poorest. The example of Mother Teresa of Calcutta never stops attracting people all over the world, believers and non-believers alike. One tangible sign of this “transversal” strength of the “Saint of the Neediest” is the fact that Saturday, the anniversary of her death on 5 September 1997 and the liturgical memorial in her honor, the United Nations celebrates the International Day of Charity. The resolution adopted on 17 December 2012 by the UN General Assembly which established the Day expressly mentions Mother Teresa as a model of love for those in need. Recognizing that charity builds social cohesion and peace, the United Nations intends to sensitize and mobilize people and organizations to help others through philanthropic activities. It is significant for the Church that the UN chose 5 September to hold the International Day of Charity. It marks the date of the death of Mother Teresa of Calcutta – a woman known throughout the world who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, but whose only mission was to serve the Lord through the poor.

Pope Francis – “To love everyone, including enemies, is difficult – I would say it is even an art! But an art that can be learned and improved. True love, that makes us fruitful and free, is always expansive and inclusive. This love cares, heals and does good.” “Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise.”

### Important Reminders During Pandemic

Pray always. Stay at home as much as possible. Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly. Observe physical distance. Wear a face mask or face shield when physical distancing is not possible. Connect with others virtually. Say “thank you” to frontline staff and community workers.

Prayer During Pandemic: “O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.”