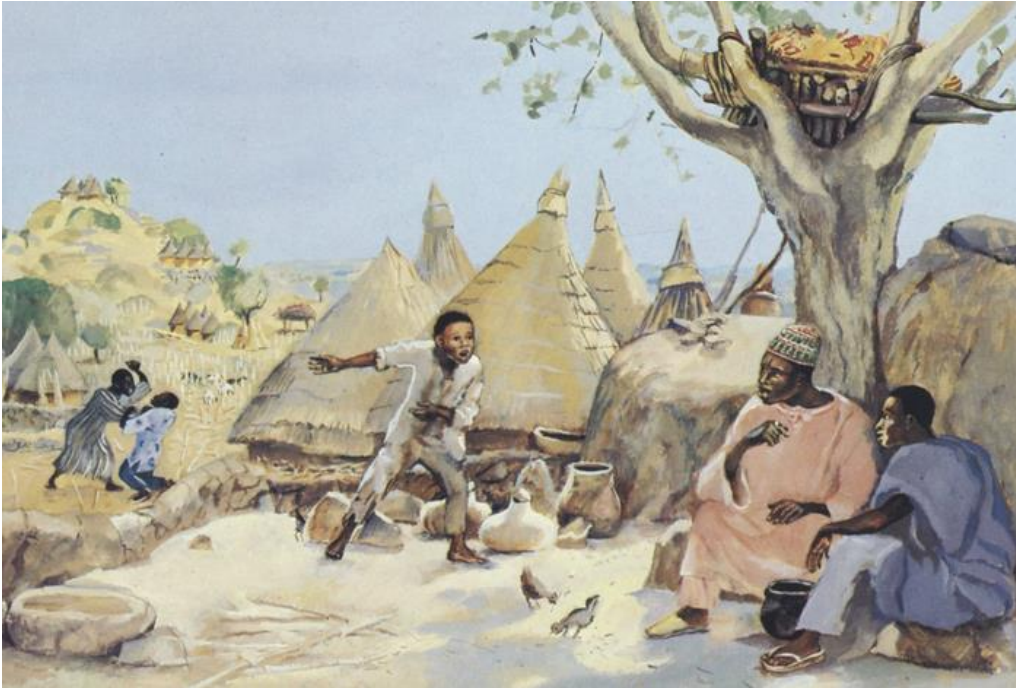




## SAINT JOHN'S MALONE

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**THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT** | In this dramatic depiction of the parable of the unforgiving servant, the viewer is thrust into the middle of the narrative. In the background, we see an unforgiving servant demanding from another a debt he is owed. The forgiving lord is being told of the vengeful nature of one of the servants upon whom he had mercy. The faces of the messenger and lord display shock and anger at the forgiven servant's lack of compassion. Undoubtedly, the viewer is inspired to feel similar levels of indignation. From this parable and painting, we should be reminded that a merciful heart is one that mirrors God's.1973

### **Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity. *Proper 19***

**Welcome to Saint John's** especially all who are visiting today.

An audio loop system is in operation for those with hearing aids. The order of service is available to download from the website and the 10.30am is livestreamed on St John's Malone YouTube channel. Those baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and are communicant members of their own church are welcome to receive Holy Communion, according to conscience.

**Today | Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023**  
**9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel *said***  
**10.30 a.m. Family Eucharist**

**The Eucharist ~See service booklet for 10:30am if available or below for page references in the BCP 2004. 9am pg.201:**

<b>The Gathering</b>	<i>page 201/125</i>
Presiding	The Rector
Opening Hymn	661
Collect of the Day	
<b>Liturgy of the Word</b>	
First Reading	
Psalm	---
Second Reading	---
Gradual Hymn	421
Gospel (stand)	
Sermon	The Revd Dr Brian Crowe
Peace (stand)	<i>page 207 / 131</i>
Offertory Hymn	366
<b>Liturgy of the Sacrament</b>	Great Thanksgiving (1) <i>page 209</i>
The Lord's Prayer	
Communion	
Motet	View me Lord – Richard Lloyd
Great Silence	
<b>Going Out</b>	
Post Communion Prayers	<i>page 220</i>
Blessing	
Dismissal	
Hymn	503
Organ Voluntary	Toccata in Seven - Rutter
Office Setting	Davison



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**Collect**

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: Grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel; that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading **Genesis 50:15-21**

15 Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>"Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Psalm ---

## Second Reading **Romans 14: 1-12**

14 Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord\* is able to make them stand.

5 Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

7 We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we

die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.'

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading *Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Matthew chapter eighteen beginning at verse 21. **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

**Matthew 18: 21-35**

21 Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy

on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister\* from your heart.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal God,

we have received these tokens of your promise.

May we who have been nourished with holy things

live as faithful heirs of your promised kingdom.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **NOTICES & ACTIVITIES |**

**Tuesday** Toddler Café 10am-11:30am **Starting 19<sup>th</sup> September**

*Laura Walker Ballet Class from 2-6:30pm [laurawalker@hotmail.com](mailto:laurawalker@hotmail.com)*

*Evening: Guiding Organisations from 6:30pm*

**Wednesday Zoom Compline** 7:30pm details in the email Update. Please email the office if you'd like added to the email Update list [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com)

**Wednesday** 9:15am Reader Ministry Prep. - Edward Darling Room.

*Scottish Country Dancing: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month 8-10pm Lynn Rankin 90812249*

**Thursday St Matthew** 10.30am Eucharist with intercessions for those in need. A cup of coffee is available after this service.

*Laura Walker Ballet Class from 2-6:30pm [laurawalker@hotmail.com](mailto:laurawalker@hotmail.com)*

Parish Choir: 7:30pm contact Mr Richard Campbell [organist.stjohns.malone@gmail.com](mailto:organist.stjohns.malone@gmail.com)

*Pilates in Seaver Hall 7:30-8:30pm contact Catherine [catbutler4@yahoo.com](mailto:catbutler4@yahoo.com)*

**Friday Tango** 7:30-10pm [petermacauley@talktalk.net](mailto:petermacauley@talktalk.net) -not meeting until the new year.

**Saturday** Visit your mosque trip 23/9. Please sign up at in the vestibule if you are interested in attending and where you'll find more details.

### **Next Sunday: Trinity XVI 24<sup>th</sup> September**

9:00 Eucharist; 10:30am Parish Eucharist; 6:30pm Choral Evensong

### **Notices:**

- Bible Reading Fellowship BRF Notes are available each quarter for the year. **THIS QUARTER IS AVAILABLE NOW** Please consider taking some. Please speak to or email Rev. Brian Cadden if you are interested in having the quarterly BRF Notes.
- **Welcome** to all our visitors whether you're joining us in the building or online. If you need assistance with anything, please ask one of the Churchwardens.

Under GDPR guidance we need to tell you that we will be recording the service and/or livestreaming today. The cameras will point towards the nave altar and pulpit and only on occasion, towards the entrance doors. Those coming to and from the side areas and exiting will be in the camera view for a short time.

- **Welcome** if you are disabled, unwell, have experiences of cognitive or mental health issues. There is a hearing loop installed in the church for those who need it. Step-free access to church is available through the north porch door and to the halls via the Seaver Hall main door.
- **Welcome** to babies, children and young people. We understand that young children make noise. If your baby becomes upset during the service, you are welcome to go to the back of the church if you need to settle – or to Sunday School in the halls where there is lots of space. Our toilets have baby change facilities.
- **Welcome** to all experiences of race, colour or language. At the Lord's Prayer all are invited to bring the gift of your first language to our worship. You are also welcome if you are LGBTQIA+
- **Welcome** if you are unsure about faith, **Welcome** if you are exploring, **Welcome** if you are here for someone else. We run study courses through the year. These are notified here, in the parish magazine or on Facebook or on our parish website.
- If you need to reach out to our **Safeguarding** team please contact Stephen, Patricia or Tony [malone@connor.anglican.org](mailto:malone@connor.anglican.org) (Rector's email) or see the info posters in the halls.
- We are collecting for **South Belfast Food Bank** again. Please leave your contributions in the vestibule on the way in.
- Prayers for the sick and all those in need are offered on Thursday morning at the Eucharist. You can send names for the list to the Rector via his email or add the name(s) on the list in the side chapel.
- If you're **new to the parish** please ask the Churchwardens or a member of the clergy about the following: GDPR, Free Will Offering Scheme, Gift Aid Magazine, organisations or wanting to know more about life at St John's. We'd be delighted to help and to get to know you.
- **Giving and Stewardship** in St Johns' much of our income received is through the Free Will Offering Scheme using either envelopes or increasingly, by Standing Order. Standing order forms are available by asking the Churchwardens or contacting the Office [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com). Alternatively if you wish to make a donation then the account details for St John's are also available from the Wardens. Thank you. Your donations help us maintain our buildings and support ministry and outreach here in St John's and more widely.
- **Coffee/tea** will follow this service and all are welcome.
- **Parents & Toddlers** meets in Seaver Hall Tuesday 10am-11:30am. All are welcome.

## **READINGS:**

**Genesis 50:15-21**: When Jacob dies, Joseph's brothers, afraid that he might now exact retribution from them, tell him that Jacob asked him to forgive them. Joseph, weeping, assures them that he does not hold their actions against them, and that God brought good out of their sinful acts.

**Romans 14:1-12**: Each believer works out how faith is to be lived for themselves and must decide between them and God how to practice their faith. Therefore, as people of faith we are not to judge one another, but to celebrate each one's commitment to living out their faith before God.

**Matthew 18:21-35**: Jesus tells a story about a man who is forgiven a huge debt, but then refuses a small debt which is owed to him. When the master, to whom he owed his debt, hears about it, he is angry that the man did not show others the same mercy he received, and he instructs that the man be imprisoned until he has paid back his debt in full.

## **REFLECTIONS ON THEME:**

After last week's confrontation with evil, this week's emphasis is both surprising and elegant – the focus on forgiveness is clear in the readings and is the only appropriate response to evil if we are not to become what we oppose. The parable of the unforgiving servant is the centre around which all of the other readings rotate. The related Old Testament reading moves into territory that the continuous readings were covering a few weeks ago – the story of Joseph and his brothers. In this case, though, the focus is on Joseph's forgiveness of them. Psalm 103 picks up this theme with a celebration of God's forgiveness and grace, while in Romans we approach the subject from a different angle – that of not judging those who express their faith and live out the daily ramifications of faith differently from us. The connections in these readings are all very clear. Jesus invites us to a different response to those who hurt us – the response of forgiveness and relinquishing of judgement, and of ending the cycle of violence and retribution and choosing to actively seek peace through the tough, but healing act of forgiveness.



*Please take this booklet home with you for the readings, notices and reference during the week and recycle.*

You can either pop the items directly into the basket at Tesco Newtownbreda or donate directly to the foodbank. Or *please place in the baskets in the entrance vestibule/porch.* We are open for donations every Wednesday 1-3pm and every Thursday 10am-12pm. Our warehouse is Unit 4, 23 Sunwich Street, Belfast, BT6 8HR  
Any questions regarding donating please call us on 07743332489 or email us on [info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk)



St John's Malone  
[@malonestjohns](https://www.facebook.com/malonestjohns)



[stjohnsmalone](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsmalone)



[www.malone.connor.anglican.org](http://www.malone.connor.anglican.org)

**The Church of Saint John the Evangelist, Parish of Malone**

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The Parish Office for administrative matters, or for information about organisations connected with St John's (90667861) e-mail: [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com)

The Rector, Rev. Canon Stephen Fielding can be contacted on pastoral matters (90666644) e-mail : [malone@connor.anglican.org](mailto:malone@connor.anglican.org)

