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**Awaken**  
 TOGETHER IN CHRIST  
 Every Tuesday at 7pm  
 St Francis' Hall.  
 47 Dornoch Tce., West End.  
 Come and join us for prayer, meditation, praise, worship, and enjoying the presence of Christ.  
 All are welcome!  
 Hosted by  
 St Mary's & Dutton Park Parishes  
 Parishioners have been receiving amazing healings, re-igniting their faith and discovering a deeper relationship with God. Come along & receive God's Graces in your life and circumstances this week

**MASS TIMES**  
**St Ita's Church**  
 (Pope St., Dutton Park)  
 Monday to Friday: 6.15am  
 Saturday (Vigil): 5pm  
 Sunday: 8.00am  
 10.30am (Indonesian)  
**St Francis' Church**  
 (47 Dornoch Tce., West End)  
 Sunday: 9am  
**Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour**  
 (Victoria St., Fairfield)  
 Sunday: 7am  
 (Anointing of the sick: 1st Sunday and upon request.)  
**BAPTISMS**  
**Saturday 9.30am monthly**  
 1st Saturday St Francis'  
 2nd Saturday St Mary's  
 3rd Saturday St Ita's  
 Family preparation sessions are held at St Ita's church on the first Thursday night of each month at 6.30pm  
**CONFESSION TIMES**  
**Saturday**  
 St Ita's: 4-4.50pm  
 (or upon request 30 mins before or after mass)  
**MASS TIMES AT ST MARY'S**  
 (20 Merivale St., South Brisbane)  
 Monday to Friday: 7am  
 Saturday: 8am (Rosary after Mass)  
 Sunday: 9am and 5pm  
 Confession: Sat 8.30-9.30am;  
 Sun 4-4.45pm  
**ST ITA'S SCHOOL**  
 Phone: (07)3838 8400  
 Email: [pductonpark@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pductonpark@bne.catholic.edu.au)  
 Web: [www.stitasduttonpark.qld.edu.au](http://www.stitasduttonpark.qld.edu.au)

**NEWSLETTER**  
 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)  
 17th September 2017

**Dear Parishioners**  
 Peter asked Jesus, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.' (Mt 18:22). In the Jewish idiom, this means without restriction. In addition to this answer, Jesus tells the parable of the man with an excessively great debt, an amount surpassing all imaginable proportions. Deborah Morris in her book called *Forgiving the Dead Man Walking*, tells a beautiful story about her forgiveness to a dead man named Robert Willie, who raped her.  
 "It was many years after Willie had died in the electric chair that Morris could finally bring herself to forgive this man who had violated her. She wrote of her personal soul-searching journey where she finally arrived at the point of forgiving. While being interviewed on the talk show circuit, she was often asked how she could possibly forgive this man who apparently never showed any remorse for his actions. Morris' response is a challenge to all Christians. Like Nelson Mandela, who declared at his inauguration as President of South Africa that if he did not forgive he would still be in prison, Morris offered similar wisdom. She declared that what she surrendered in the decision to forgive was "all her Robert Willie stuff," her shame, her guilt, her lowered self-esteem. Forgiveness is a gift to oneself. Morris' forgiveness had no effect on Willie. He was dead. Her decision to forgive was a choice for life for herself. It meant that she would no longer be his victim. She would be free on his emotional control over her life. Not to forgive allows the person toward whom we are angry to live rent-free in our mind, heart, and soul. Forgiveness is about freedom. It is the gift of life that one gives oneself.  
 For too long our culture has propagated the myth that when one truly forgives, one will forget. There is nothing further from the truth. Deborah Morris will never forget what Robert Willie did to her. Christian forgiveness is all about remembering, not forgetting. The Christian is called to forgive seventy times seven. In other words, the Christian is called to recall the hurt and to continually choose to forgive. As intelligent human beings, we do not forget the pain of situations, nor do we forget the one who has caused the pain. I remember receiving a little gift one day that had three by five index card attached. On it was a pencil eraser and under it was written, "God erases our sins." Is that actually true? God forgives our sins, but to erase something is to pretend that it never existed or that the offense never took place. God chooses to forgive us while acknowledging what we have done wrong. To forgive and forget is neither a healthy nor a mature response. What is truly healthy and holy is to begin by acknowledging the reality of what has happened. Then, with God's help and compassion, we may choose over and over to forgive those who have sinned against us." (Louglan Sofield and etc, *Facing Forgiveness*, pp36-38). **Pax et bonum Fr Lam**

**Administrator:** Fr. Lam Vu OFM Cap  
**Ass. Administrator:** Fr John Nguyen OFM Cap  
**Parish Secretary:** Bernadette Maguire  
**Sacramental Administrator:** Kate Dart  
**Email:** [stitaspar@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:stitaspar@bne.catholic.net.au)  
**Telephone:** (07) 3844 2744  
**Mail:** PO Box 3857, West End, Qld 4101  
**Parish Office:** 47 Dornoch Terrace  
 West End Qld 4102  
**Office Hours:** 9am - 1pm, Mon-Fri  
**Website:** [www.duttonparkcatholic.org.au](http://www.duttonparkcatholic.org.au)

**Entrance Antiphon** Cf. **Ecclus 36: 18**

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

**First reading** **Ecc 27:30-28:7**  
*Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.*

**Responsorial Psalm** **Psalms 102:1-4,9-12**  
Response: The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

**Second reading** **Romans 14:7-9**  
*Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.*

**Gospel Acclamation** **John 13:34**  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

**Gospel** **Matthew 18:21-35**  
Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

**Communion Antiphon** Cf. **Ps 35: 8**  
How precious is your mercy, O God!  
The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

**Next Sunday's readings:** **1<sup>st</sup> reading:** Is 55:6-9; **2<sup>nd</sup> reading:** Phil 1:20-24, 27; **Gospel:** Mt 20:1-16

Excerpts from the *Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) and "Excerpts from the *Lectio for Mass* © 1981, ICEL

**Want to become Catholic?**  
Join our RCIA Program  
Every **Saturday at 2.30pm** in the **St Ita's Church**.  
Contact the Parish Office for more information.

**TWO MINUTE CATECHISM**  
**What are Mass intentions?**

**And why do we have to pay for them?**

One part of Catholic culture that is sometimes hard to understand and very often misunderstood is the custom of offering Mass intentions.

When a priest celebrates Mass each day, he offers each celebration of the Eucharist for a particular person, or intention. By doing so he applies special graces from God upon that person or intention.

Similar to how we are able to intercede for others by our personal prayers, the Church is able to intercede for us through the celebration of the Mass. However, since the Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Christian life" the Mass possess a power that our personal prayers do not.

The practice of offering Mass for particular intentions is an ancient one, dating back to the early Church. Fr. William Saunders explains, "Inscriptions discovered on tombs in Roman catacombs of the second century [give] evidence [for] this practice: for example, the epitaph on the tomb of Abercius (d. 180), Bishop of Hieropolis in Phrygia, begs for prayers for the repose of his soul. Tertullian (c. 200) attested to observing the anniversary of a spouse with prayers and sacrifices, i.e. the Mass."

This tradition is also seen in St. Augustine's Confessions (c. 397), where Monica asks Augustine, "One thing only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord." Canon Law confirms this practice and states, "In accord with the approved practice of the Church, any priest celebrating or concelebrating is permitted to receive an offering to apply the Mass for a specific intention" (Can. 945 §1).

Furthermore, it continues by saying, "The Christian faithful who give an offering to apply the Mass for their intention contribute to the good of the Church and by that offering share its concern to support its ministers and works" (945 §2).

What this refers to is a longstanding practice in the Church of offering a specified amount of money to the Church for a particular intention offered by the priest. Upon hearing this practice many people might be tempted to think it is "simony," the selling of sacred things for money. However, the Baltimore Catechism explains, "It is not simony, or the buying of a sacred thing, to offer the priest money for saying Mass for our intention, because the priest does not take the money for the Mass itself, but for the purpose of supplying the things necessary for Mass and for his own support."

While it is true that this custom has been abused in the past, the Church lays out specific rules regarding the money paid for Mass intentions. Each council of bishops determines the amount acceptable for the region, but the priest will offer a Mass for an intention even if someone doesn't have the money for it. In many places the cost of a Mass intention is \$10.

The important part is to remember that you are not paying for the graces from God (which are of infinite value and cannot be paid for), but for the material things that are involved with celebrating that particular Mass. With that in mind it makes much more sense and is not something that should cause scandal.

Pope Paul VI said, "The Mass is the most perfect form of prayer!" It has immense power and countless miracles and conversions have occurred throughout the centuries by offering Masses for a specific intention or person. Mass intentions are a great treasure of the Church and have a spiritual weight that is incalculable.

Source: <https://aleteia.org/2017/09/02/what-are-mass-intentions/>

**This Week's Liturgical Calendar (Psalm Responses)**  
**24th Week in Ordinary Time**

**Monday 18th:**  
R/ Blest be the Lord for he has heard my prayer.

**Tuesday 19th:**  
R/ I will walk with blameless heart.

**Wednesday 20th: Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gön (Memorial)**  
R/ How great are the works of the Lord!

**Thursday 21st: St Matthew (Feast)**  
R/ Their message goes out through all the earth.

**Friday 22nd:**  
R/ Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

**Saturday 23rd: St Pius of Pietrelcina (Memorial)**  
R/ Come with joy into the presence of the Lord.

 **St Ita's Church Cleaning Bee**  
In preparation for the St Ita's 100th Celebration  
**Saturday 7th October - 8am**  
Volunteers needed please  
All cleaning products provided

**Please remember...**  
Cecily McPartland in your prayers. She died last week. Cecily looked after the sacristy in St Ita's sacristy for many years after the Ursuline sisters moved. She was one of the first pupils to attend St Ita's school. May she rest in peace.

**DATE CLAIMER:**  
**Friday, 24 November (6.30 pm for 7 pm start)**  
**ST MARY'S FUNDRAISING CONCERT**

**Towards the Marriage Vote**  
**Archbishop Mark Coleridge** clarifies a few points that can be unclear in the debate on same-sex marriage, in his letter. Pastoral letters are at the back of the church or you can view this letter at:  
<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/articles/towards-marriage-vote/>

**Australian Christian Lobby spoke out this week—**  
Survey forms will begin to be distributed to all Australians this week. This survey is a referendum on whether we want radical LGBTIQ sex and gender education programs in our schools, it is about free speech and freedom of religion.

**The Honourable John Howard OM, AC** spoke out about the direct threat to the Christian presence in the public sphere—"Changing the definition of marriage ... is not an exercise in human rights and equality, it is an exercise in de-authorising the Judaeo-Christian influence in our society" what this by clicking on the following link: [http://www.acl.org.au/watch\\_john\\_howard\\_speak\\_about\\_marriage](http://www.acl.org.au/watch_john_howard_speak_about_marriage)

**Coalition For Marriage** Know the Facts and Know the Consequences—it is vitally important that all Australians are aware of the serious consequences that changing the marriage law will have on both individuals and institutions. For more information visit <https://www.coalitionformarriage.com.au/> and select the 'CONSEQUENCES' tab.

**Parish Activities**

**ST FRANCIS' TABLE**  
Every Monday 10-1pm at St Francis' Hall, West End.  
All welcome!

 **This Tuesday 19th September at 7pm Meditation**  
Come and join us for prayer, meditation, praise, worship, and enjoying the presence of Christ.  
St Francis' Hall 47 Dornoch Terrace, West End.  
**All are welcome!**  
**Hosted by St Mary's and Dutton Park Parishes**

 **St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day**  
A mass dedicated to the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi will be celebrated on Sunday 8th October at St. Francis Church at 9:00am. A picnic at Orleigh Park, Hill End Terrace will follow along with a **'Blessing of the Animals'**. Please bring a picnic morning tea/lunch and your pets for this community gathering. Dogs must be on a leash at all times, cats and chickens need to be in crates or cages.

St Mary's Church has been invited to participate in the **2017 Brisbane Open House weekend 7-8 October**. This is a free public event which acknowledges Brisbane's architecture and St Mary's provides an early example of a church built in a style derived from Italian Romanesque and Renaissance architecture in inner-City Brisbane. The Fundraising Team will be holding a Sausage Sizzle at the event to raise much needed funds for our maintenance and renovation projects.

**Centenary Mass Celebration of St. Ita's Church**  
**10am, Sunday 15th October 2017**  
**Please note there is no 8am mass on this day.**

**Congratulations to Lawrence and Dorothy Birgan 60th Wedding Anniversary on 17th September**  
**Marriage vow renewal at 9am Mass St Francis**  
A lovely story of parishioners with a very long association with St Francis Church celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary by renewing their marriage vows this weekend. Laurence and Dorothy were married at St Francis, all their children were baptised there too. In his younger years Lawrence caught the ferry from St Lucia to attend mass by Mons. Keating. Dorothy's mother was baptised at St Francis. Congratulations!!!

**Important Sacramental Dates Coming Up...**

**St Mary's - South Brisbane**  
*First Reconciliation:* Wednesday 19th Oct. - 6.00pm  
*First Holy Communion:* Sunday 22nd Oct. - 9.00am

**St Francis - West End**  
*First Reconciliation:* Wednesday 25th Oct. - 6.00pm  
*First Holy Communion:* Sunday 29th Oct. - 9.00am

*Please keep these children in your prayers.*

**Dutton Park, West End & Fairfield Collections Last Weekend**

1st Collection: \$915.80 + \$70.77 (Direct Debit)=\$986.57  
2nd Collection: \$695.90 + \$96.15 (Direct Debit)=\$792.05