

**St Clement's Church,  
King Square  
Fifteenth Sunday after  
Trinity**

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Collect Prayer**

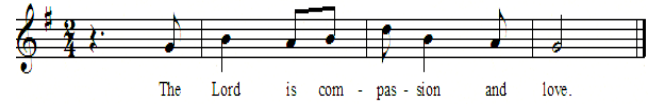
God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**First Reading (Genesis 50.15-21)**

A reading from the Book of Genesis.  
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?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, "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. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? 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. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

**Psalm (Psalm 103)**



**Response: The Lord is compassion and love.**

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
All my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
And never forget all his blessings. /R

The Lord is compassion and love,  
Slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins,  
Nor repay us according to our faults. /R

As far as the east is from the west  
So far does he remove our sins.  
As a father has compassion on his sons,  
The Lord has pity on those who fear him. /R

**Second Reading (Romans 14:1-12)**

A reading from the Letter to the Romans.  
Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment 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.  
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. 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. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."  
So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

## **Gospel (Matthew 18:21-35)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 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. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 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.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 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. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **For your prayers**

**In our Prayers:** Hugh, Josh, Diane Rankin, Lloyd Whitney, Diane, Trevor, Vera, Chris Hall, Tommy Lacken, Christine & Tony, Sue, Margie Ives, Kathy, Maria Amparo Garcia, Maria, Nicky Young, Lenny Shaw, Roger Shaw, Matthew and Lucy and family, Fr Peter Rabin, Adele Skinner, Nigel Fletcher,

Pat, Martin Fletcher, Mary-Rose Sinn, Vanessa, Wendy Allen, Catherine Weir

**Recently departed:** Brenda Skinner

**Anniversaries of Death:** Ruth Allen, Alfred Bailey, Annie Stanton, Kate de Graft Johnson

**In the Parish:** We pray our local schools, especially St Luke's And Moreland Street Schools, for the staff, students, governors and volunteers at the start of a new school year.

**In the wider world:** We pray for the people Morocco, especially those affected by last week's terrible earthquake and for the people of Libya especially those affected by the devastating floods, and for all those coming to their help.

## **Notices**

### **This week in church...**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>** 10am-2pm Open Church  
11am Tea and Talk  
(with plenty of tea, coffee, juice, biscuits and cake)  
12.30pm Mass  
1pm Singing practice

**Next Sunday Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
**10.30am Sung Mass**

### **St Clement's Shopping Basket**

The basket provides the chance week by week to donate to a collection of dried and tinned food and toiletries which can be passed directly to the **Dunloe Centre at St Saviour's Priory, Haggerston.**  
***Please give what you can!***

**St. Clement's Church is very grateful for all donations to our work. To donate now please scan the QR code below. You can use debit or credit card, Apple Pay or Google Pay. Many thanks!**

