

Forgiveness arises from our will to do good to others. Question .... isn't that what love is too?

-Bernard Kellet

**Entrance antiphon:** O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 6: 1-8

**Psalm 137: Response:** Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 5: 1-11

**Memorial Acclamation:** When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

*"The good God does not need years to accomplish His work of love in a soul; one ray from His Heart can, in an instant, make His flower bloom for eternity."  
St. Therese of Lisieux*



Raphael, The Miraculous Draught of Fishes (1515)

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday Cycle C, 2022

**Forgiveness:** A central part of Jesus' message is forgiveness. The first part of His message is about gaining God's forgiveness, but He also spoke about

our duty to forgive others. Both Luke and Matthew have versions of the Lord's Prayer including the line "Forgive us as we forgive others" **Luke 11:4** and **Matthew 6:12**. A strong emphasis in Jesus's ethical thought is his insistence upon multiple or unlimited forgiveness writes Donald H Bishop (Forgiveness in Religious Thought). The most conspicuous example of this he says is Jesus' reply to Peter's question about how often he should forgive his brother – seven times seven **Matthew 18: 21-22**.

Usually when Jesus speaks about forgiving others, He associates it with a prior action, that the guilty party first asks for forgiveness as in **Luke 17: 3-4** (if your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him etc). Forgiveness is meant for those who ask for it, Jesus says nothing about forgiving those who don't ask. The proper thing to do to person who sins and doesn't ask for forgiveness is rebuke not forgiveness says Colin Kerr (The Complicated World of Forgiveness).

Forgiving others isn't always easy, is it? It is difficult in part because evolution has endowed us with the psychological motivation to avoid being exploited by others, and one of the easiest ways to prevent exploitation is to hit back or simply avoid the exploiter (Anthony C Lopez – Psychology Today). We may also be anxious that if we forgive, we might be hurt again. We may, of course, feel that the offender deserves to be punished or we feel we cannot trust them anymore. We know what God tells us we should do but it can be difficult can't it?