

## Reflection and Prayers 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time



*This parable is about the mercy of God, which is one of the strongest divine qualities, if we may put it like that. Nothing except mercy born of compassion cancels a debt like the one referred to in the Gospel. It further ends by calling us to be merciful as we have received mercy. Mercy is deeper than forgiveness; it sees into the heart of the other and walks around for a while in the others shoes. It includes compassion and active*

*healing. Shakespeare's description still resounds, 'Mercy is twice bless'd - it blesseth him that gives and him that takes.' To live in an environment of mercy is to live in an atmosphere of peace, healing and growth.*

*As Jesus continues to emphasise forgiveness, let us humbly bring ourselves before God who forgives everything, who loves beyond any sin. The forgiveness that God gives is often difficult for us to receive. Let us think about how generously it is given to us, so that we may give it freely to others.*

*Let us pray for those who have caused us hurt and, even if we can't wish them well now, may we pray that one day we may. Excerpt from Sacred Space*

**Dear Parishioners, with hearts free from anger and hatred let us humbly bring our petitions before the God of mercy.**

That the Lord's faithful Word will sustain our Holy Father, the bishops and all who minister to God's people, **let us pray to the Lord:**

We pray for families, that they may grow stronger and more resilient in their love and care for one another so that children are raised in safe and nurturing environments, **let us pray to the Lord:**

That the Lord's guiding hand will direct our public servants along the paths of justice and peace, **let us pray to the Lord:**

That the Lord's mercy for all people will lead nationalities and families to share the gift of mutual forgiveness and healing, **let us pray to the Lord:**

That the Lord's salvation will speedily deliver the peoples of the world from poverty, unemployment, starvation and disease, **let us pray to the Lord:**

**Gracious and loving God, source of all truth, justice and healing, we implore you to hear our prayers and we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen**