

Thought for the week
5th May 2019
Third Sunday of Easter

In this Sunday's gospel we hear of the events by the Sea of Tiberius, as Jesus shows himself to the assembled disciples.

On this occasion Peter is given the chance to make reparation for his failure; that of denying the very knowledge of his beloved master not once or twice but three times. Poignantly, through Jesus' repeated question "*Do you love me?*" and his response; "*Yes Lord you know that I love you*"

Peter's atonement mirrored this threefold pattern. All was not lost for Peter and through this reading we realise that he had the opportunity to recover from his mistakes and learn one of Jesus' greatest lessons - that of forgiveness.

We all have both the capacity to forgive others and be forgiven ourselves, but as many find, in life, this is not always as straightforward as it seems.

Through faith and acceptance of God's boundless love and care we should all be able to accept this great gift, but perhaps Peter was the lucky one who was able to witness at first hand the blessing of God's forgiveness.

Often the hardest aspect of forgiveness can be forgiving oneself, but ultimately, we should strive to put our trust in God's example and be generous in our forgiveness both of ourselves and others; not once, twice or even three times, but as Jesus himself suggested seventy-seven times!

A Parishioner