

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – 23rd February 2025

	Gospel (Luke 6:27-38)	First Reading (1 Samuel 26:2.7-9.12-13.22-23)	Second Reading (1 Corinthians 15:45-49)
Context	Luke's gospel describes Jesus' birth, childhood and development. Jesus was the ideal human and lived the perfect human life.	King David, an ancestor of Jesus, is often referred to as the greatest king of Israel. David was described by God himself as a man after his own heart.	Paul wrote to the Corinthians to identify problems, offer solutions, and to teach believers how to live in Christ.
Key verses	<i>"Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate."</i>	<i>"Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed."</i>	<i>"And we who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man."</i>
Key themes/ messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus loves the whole world, even though most people do not believe in him. In this passage, he is calling upon us to follow his example. • Jesus tells us that we should love our enemies and be good to them, just as we are good to ourselves. • The type of love we are called upon to deliver continuously requires us to make a conscious effort to please God. In return, God will reward us with countless blessings. • Loving our enemies also means that we should have great respect for them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abishai wanted to kill Saul, David's enemy, in order to protect him. This was because Saul, who was very jealous of David, had relentlessly pursued David and tried to kill him on several occasions. • David restrained Abishai and did not allow him to kill Saul. Although Abishai may have disagreed with David, he respected his authority. Abishai went on to become the greatest warrior in David's army. • David recognised that Saul had been anointed by God. He also knew that God would hold Saul accountable for his actions, including his violent intentions towards David. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ is the "last Adam". Through his death and resurrection, Christ has forgiven our sins. • Christ is also a "life-giving spirit" who has entered into a new form of existence. • Christ provides us with a spiritual life in him. Our spiritual lives will one day result in the resurrection of our bodies. • When we our resurrected, we will be given new bodies for life in heaven. • Adam, like all mankind, was modelled in the image of God. In eternity, we will be modelled in the image of Christ.
Questions/ application to our lives	<p>In what ways can we help our enemies, including people we don't typically get along well with?</p> <p>Can you think of a time when it felt good to "bury the hatchet" with someone you previously disagreed with or felt anger towards? Are there opportunities for repeating this type of action with other people in your life?</p>	<p>How would you describe the connection between this passage and the section of Luke's gospel in which Jesus calls upon us to love our enemies?</p> <p>When we believe we have been wronged by others, do we consider the option of revenge? If so, does David's attitude towards Saul teach us the right thing to do? Should we put aside any animosity that we may feel?</p>	<p>Does this passage encourage you to refresh your familiarity with the Book of Genesis, which includes the story of Adam and Eve?</p> <p>Why would it not be possible for flesh and blood to enter the eternal kingdom of God?</p> <p>How should we thank Christ for his glorious victory over death and sin?</p>
Further reading	Catechism 210-211	Catechism 1825, 1935, 1968, 2303, 2647, 2842-2845	Catechism 359, 504