



Dear Parents and Carers,

Forgiveness is the lifeblood of any family or community.

In this Sunday's Gospel the younger son insults his father; his inheritance is all he thinks about. To make matters worse, his reason for returning is not love or consideration for his father, but simply his own desperate hunger. The father doesn't even question his son's motives. He welcomes his son back with the open heart and the open arms of forgiveness.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025

The message for us is that, whatever we may have done wrong, if we are truly sorry, we can still count on the loving forgiveness of God, who is our Father, and on the freedom that his forgiveness brings.

Enjoy a special time with your child exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **FORGIVENESS**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from Pope Francis

*"May each family rediscover family prayer, which helps to bring about forgiveness."*

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025



Jesus said, "A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, let me have the inheritance that would come to me.' So the father gave him his share and his son then left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of shameless living. When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and he began to be in need and he had to hire himself out to feed pigs. So he decided to go back to his father. When his father saw him, he ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him. Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him and kill the fattened calf. For this son of mine was lost and is now found.' And they began to celebrate."

*Adapted from Luke 15:1-3.11-32  
The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, Year C*

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.  
Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

2025: The Jubilee Year of Hope!

Having Hope  
in our Families

The father in this Sunday's Gospel gives us a glimpse of God the Father's merciful and forgiving nature. If we acknowledge when we have gone wrong, God is always ready to forgive us and to help us to forgive others. We are all part of God's family and no matter how many times we need to forgive or to be forgiven, God is there to help us.



# Good News for Families

## TOGETHER TIME



### Sunday Gospel Gallery

Look at this Sunday's Gospel picture. What can you see? How do you feel? What does it make you think about?

## 1 READ & REFLECT! Listen & Learn with Jesus, the Word!

One day Jesus told this story: "A young man asked his father for his share of the family's money. He went off and quickly spent all he had on selfish living. Then a serious famine spread through the country and, having spent all his money, the son became hungry. He went home to beg for his father's forgiveness and offer to live as a servant. But the father ran out to meet his son. He hugged him and he kissed him and he treated him to a great celebration."

**What did the father do to the son who returned home?**

Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? Spend a few relaxing moments pondering the picture together. Share any thoughts before moving on.

## 2 SHARE & CARE! Growing in Goodness & Love: This Wednesday's Word...

"Pray and forgive. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven." *St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)*

Forgiveness is one of God's greatest gifts to us. We must try to forgive others in the same way that we want God (and others) to forgive us. Ask your child what the word 'forgiveness' means to them. Has your child ever asked for and received forgiveness? How did it feel to be forgiven? It may help your child if you tell them about a time when you forgave someone, especially when it wasn't easy to do, or when you were forgiven.



Each of you say how it feels to forgive someone and make friends again. Ask your child if there is anyone they need to forgive, or if there is anyone whose forgiveness they would like? If so, help each other by sharing ideas about how to do this. During Lent, many parish churches have special Reconciliation Services to help us experience God's forgiveness and to give us the strength to forgive others. All are warmly invited.

## FORGIVENESS



3 Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## FINDING THREE

**WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH**

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

SON  SELFISH   
 FAMINE   
 HUNGRY   
 RETURN   
 HOME   
 FATHER   
 FORGAVE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

Cross out the letters **C P U** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

**pofuferc chopmue secruvapnt ubpecg**

He went \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ for his father's forgiveness and \_\_\_\_\_ to live as a \_\_\_\_\_.



This Sunday (the 4th Sunday of Lent) is traditionally known as 'Laetare Sunday'. 'Laetare' is a Latin word that means 'rejoice'. Let's rejoice for the forgiveness which God our Father gives to us whenever we tell him we are sorry.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley