



# Sharing Sunday's Gospel with Parents & Families

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.

To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word: [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org) - Parents' Pages - Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

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*



Adapted from  
**THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH**  
SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022



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."

*Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
Luke 15:1-3.11-32 (the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, Year C)*

Everyone can learn more about this Gospel  
in Church - all are warmly invited.

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





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.



**1 Enjoy reading the Gospel**

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 Gospel, and why? See the picture opposite. What does it make you think about?

**2 Wednesday's Word is ...**

**FORGIVENESS**

**3 Loving God & Each Other**

**"Pray and forgive."**

*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.

**"It is by forgiving that one is forgiven."**

*St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)*

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.



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.

**Gospel Gallery**

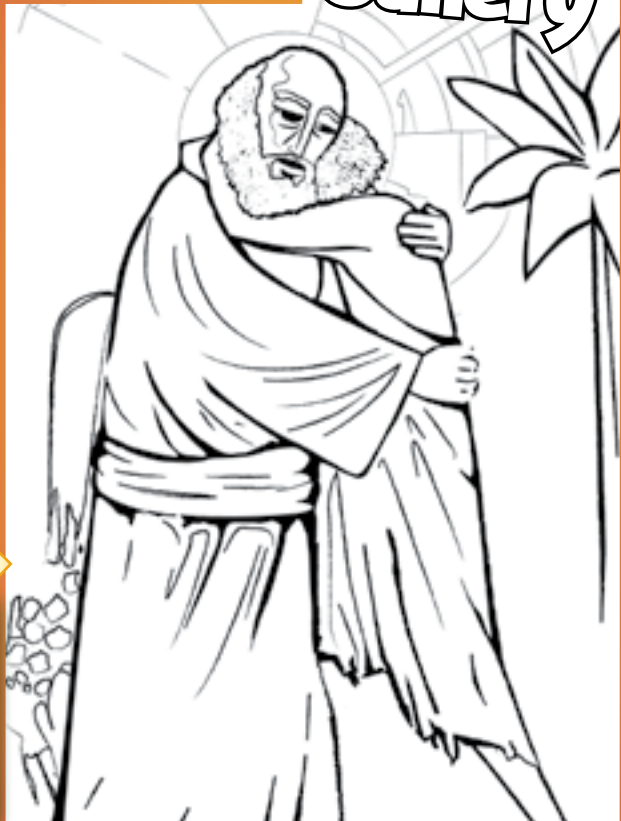
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**WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH**

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE 8 WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- SON
- SELFISH
- FAMINE
- HUNGRY
- RETURN
- HOME
- FATHER
- FORGAVE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Whilst thinking about this week's Gospel, search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

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 ...**

.....  
 .....

